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Elections & Registration

# CATOOSA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY 2023-2025 RULES

## ARTICLE I

### SECTION I : QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN PARTY AFFAIRS

Membership in the Catoosa County Republican Party is open to all qualified voters under the laws of the State of Georgia who are in accord with the principles of the Catoosa County Republican Party, believe in the declaration of policy and are in sympathy with its aims and purposes, and who are residents of Catoosa County. Any person thus eligible shall be admitted to membership in the Republican Party of Catoosa County upon submission of a membership application, approval of membership by the Catoosa County Republican Executive Committee, signature of the membership oath in person, and payment of annual dues in amounts to be recommended by Catoosa County Republican Executive Committee and approved by the Catoosa County Republican Committee.

Membership shall be based on a 12-month period beginning upon payment of member dues and ending at midnight on the anniversary date. In order to participate in meetings of the Catoosa County Republican Committee and meetings of the Catoosa County Republican Executive Committee, a member must be placed on such boards by procedural due process contained in Article II, Sections IV, V and VI, and furthermore the person must remain a registered voter in Catoosa County. Catoosa County Republican Committee members and Catoosa County Republican Executive Committee members must be dues-paying members of the Catoosa County Republican Party. Precinct chairmen and Executive Committee officers elected at a Precinct Caucus or County Convention must become dues-paying members before the first Catoosa County Republican Committee meeting held after their election. Visitors are always welcome at

general meetings.

Membership dues are not required to participate in Catoosa County Republican Party Precinct Caucuses or County Conventions. All qualified voters under the laws of the State of Georgia who are in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, believe in the declaration of policy and are in sympathy with its aims and purposes, and who are residents of Catoosa County, may participate in the Catoosa County Republican Party Conventions or Precinct Caucuses in the respective jurisdictions.

## **SECTION II: PUBLICATIONS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRECINCT CAUCUSES AND COUNTY CONVENTIONS**

The qualifications for participation in Catoosa county Republican Party Conventions or Precinct Caucuses shall be published in all official Calls for such meetings, as stated herein, and as may be hereafter prescribed by the State Committee, and pursuant to the rules of the Republican National Committee.

## **SECTION III: PURPOSE OF PARTY**

### **1. Electing Republican Candidates**

In accordance with the rules of the 14 District Republican Party of Georgia, the Catoosa County Republican Party shall provide support in electing the Republican nominee for all National, Statewide, Districtwide, Countywide, and local elections taking place within the boundaries of Catoosa County.

### **2. Candidate Signature of Republican Oath**

Any candidate who wishes to qualify as a Republican in Catoosa County must sign the following oath: "I do hereby swear or affirm my allegiance to the Georgia Republican Party."

### **3. Supporting Republican Candidates During the Primary**

County Committee members shall not use their official title in any manner in connection with their support of any candidate for any public office in the State of Georgia in either a special election or for the Republican nomination in a primary where there is at least one other announced Republican candidate.

This section shall not stop any member of the committee from personally supporting a particular Republican candidate in a contested primary, but he/she shall not do so using his or her official Republican Party title. This rule shall not conflict with any District or State prohibition on county officers working on political campaigns and those rules shall govern if the officer must resign his position within the Catoosa County Republican Party.

Anything in this section shall not prohibit duly qualified Republican candidates from having access to resources of the Catoosa County Republican Party such as voter's lists and access to meetings. The Catoosa County Republican Party is not obligated to provide any of the aforementioned resources unless requested by the candidate or representative of the qualified candidate, but the Catoosa County Republican Party shall use all attempts to ensure once provided, equal access and resources are given to all qualified Republican Candidates.

### **SECTION IV: CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION PROCEDURAL RULES**

1 The Catoosa County Republican Party, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-153, shall be the exclusive body to conduct qualifying for a Republican primary in Catoosa County or, more broadly, for seeking office as a publicly elected official as a Republican in Catoosa County.

2 In order to qualify for office as a Republican, a potential candidate must be approved by the Catoosa County Republican Party County Committee by a majority vote within twelve (12) months prior to the date he or she attempts to qualify.

3 In order to qualify for office as a Republican in Catoosa County, a potential candidate

must present, at the time of qualifying, a signed and notarized affidavit from the Catoosa County Republican Party Chairman or Secretary, stating the date and location of the meeting that the Catoosa County Republican Party County Committee voted to allow the proposed candidate to qualify for office as a Republican.

4 Any Catoosa County Republican Party officer, volunteer, committee member, or employee who takes any step toward qualifying someone not approved to do so by a majority vote of the Catoosa Republican Party County Committee or assists them in doing so through action or inaction, shall be deemed to have automatically and immediately resigned from the Catoosa GOP, and their actions shall be considered void and without authority.

5 These rules shall be included in the published notification for candidate qualifying.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **SECTION I: COUNTY COMMITTEE**

1 There shall be a committee officially known as the "Catoosa County Republican Committee" hereinafter designated as the "County Committee," which shall be the governing body of the Catoosa County Republican Party and shall act as the Republican Party of and for Catoosa County in the interim between County Conventions.

2 There shall be an "Executive Committee of the County Committee" which shall hold the power to transact the administrative business of the Catoosa County Republican Party pursuant to these Rules and the direction of the County Committee. This Committee shall consist of the Officers, in Section 2 of this Article.

### **SECTION II: MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The County Committee shall consist of the following officers and members:

## **OFFICERS**

1 The Chairman of the Catoosa County Republican Party who shall be the chairman of the Catoosa County Committee

2 First Vice-Chairman of the Catoosa County Republican Party

3 Second Vice-Chairman of the Catoosa County Republican Party

4 Secretary of the Catoosa County Republican Party

5 Treasurer of the Catoosa County Republican Party

## **MEMBERS**

1 The Officers designated above

2 Parliamentarian (appointed by current Chairman)

3 Sergeant At Arms (appointed by current Chairman)

4 Communications Director (appointed by current Chairman)

5 Precinct Chairmen from all Precincts which have been organized by the governing election board of Catoosa County. As of the passage of these rules are: Boynton Precinct; Chambers Precinct; Ft. Oglethorpe Precinct; Catoosa-Keith Precinct; Lakeview Precinct; Poplar Springs Precinct; Westside Precinct; Ringgold Precinct; Woodstation Precinct; Graysville Precinct; and Blackstock Precinct.

## **SECTION III : MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall consist of all the Officers designated in Article II,

Section II

**SECTION IV: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

1 The officers of the Catoosa County Republican Committee shall be elected by a simple majority of the Delegates to the County Convention. Precinct Chairmen shall be elected by a majority of the participants in attendance at the Precinct Mass Meeting, or shall be selected as provided for below in Article II, Section V.

2 To be eligible for election to the office of Chairman, a candidate shall be in good standing with the Executive Committee and shall have served on the County Committee of the Catoosa County Republican Party at any time during the two terms immediately preceding his or her election as Chairman. (Each term beginning on the date of the regular county convention during an officer election cycle and lasting approximately two years.)

3 All candidates for executive committee offices shall interview with the nominations committee prior to the county convention by such deadline as set by the county committee.

4 The Officers of the Catoosa County Republican Committee and the Precinct Chairmen shall hold office for (2) years and until their successors are qualified and duly elected, unless unable to perform their duties, no longer qualify for membership, resignation, or sooner removed from office in accordance with these Rules.

5 No person shall ever hold more than (1) vote at a Precinct Mass Meeting, and/or at the County Convention. No person shall ever hold more than (1) vote at a Catoosa County Party meeting unless aided by a proxy in accordance with these Rules.

**SECTION V: PRECINCT CHAIRMEN**

In the event a Precinct was not organized at the time of the Precinct Mass Meeting held prior to the County Convention or its Chairman leave office per Article II, Section IV,

paragraph 2; the County Chairman may appoint a Chairman for that Precinct until the next County Committee meeting where an election shall be held and the winner shall be declared by a simple majority vote. The written notice of such meeting shall disclose the purpose of the meeting.

#### **SECTION VI: VACANCIES**

In the event of death, resignation, or removal of any officer or member according to Article II, Section VII, the County Committee shall fill such vacancy by a simple majority vote at any properly constituted meeting of said County Committee within sixty (60) days of the occurrence of such vacancy. The First Vice-Chairman shall immediately fill the office of Chairman. Other offices may be temporarily filled by appointment by the Chairman, until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The written notice of such meeting shall disclose the existence of such vacancy and the purpose of the meeting to fill such vacancy by a simple majority vote.

#### **SECTION VII: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

1 Any Officer or Member may be removed from office for cause by the County Committee subject to the same terms and conditions as prescribed in Rule 6 of the State Rules for removal of Officers and Members of the State Committee. (Or subsequent rule) A 2/3 (two thirds) vote of the county committee is required for removal unless State, District, or these rules call for an immediate removal from office.

2 Members shall automatically lose their Committee membership if they miss three (3) consecutive meetings without sending a proxy and shall be notified of such by the County Secretary.

3 Anyone removed from office shall not hold any position in the Catoosa County Republican Party for a period of one (1) year.

## **SECTION VIII: MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1 Official meetings of the County Committee and the County Executive Committee shall be held on notification not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting on the call of the Chairman or the call of one-third (1/3) of the members thereof. A majority of the voting members of the (respective) Committee in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

2 When a Local, State or National emergency is declared by the appropriate government official, the Georgia Election Code or the Rules of the Republican National Committee, or other immediate and urgent situation shall require action by the County Committee or the County Executive Committee in a time frame shorter than the notice period specified in Article II, Section VIII(1), the County Committee or County Executive Committee, as the case may be, shall be authorized to suspend the time period for notice or a meeting required under Article II, Section VIII(1) upon a two-thirds vote.

3 Attendance at a meeting of the County Committee or County Executive Committee by a member shall constitute a waiver by that person of any notice required for such meeting.

4 The County Executive Committee shall meet at least once every calendar quarter. The County Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

5 Written minutes of all business transacted at the County Committee meetings and County Executive Committee meetings shall be mailed or emailed upon request to every Member of the County Committee within ten (10) days after each meeting.

6 Notification used within this section shall be done via any of these methods;

a. Mailed via United States Post Office (post mark shall be considered date of notification)

b. Emailed to the email address provided by Committee Officer or Member (Date email

is sent shall be considered date of notification)

c. Text (or equivalent) message sent to the number of record for the Committee Officer or Member, however, Text message notification shall not be permitted unless ALL members of that particular group have the ability to receive text messages. The Secretary shall ensure the ability of members to receive text messages once a member takes his/her position as a member.

#### **SECTION IX: PROXIES**

The members of the County Committee may be represented in all official matters by proxies, subject to the condition that any officer or member may direct his or her proxy only to another member of the County Committee and no committee member may vote more than two (2) proxies at a meeting. At meetings of the County Executive Committee, proxies may be directed only to another member of the Executive Committee. Proxies may only be cast on behalf of committee members who attended one of the previous (2) meetings.

#### **SECTION X: ATTENDANCE AND VOTING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS**

1. Meetings of the County Committee and the County Executive Committee may be attended in person, by proxy as provided in Article II, Section IX, or by audio or video conference call.

2. Except as to votes requiring a secret ballot, any action required or permitted to be taken by the County committee or the County Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting by written consent as follows:

- a. The action must be evidenced by one or more consents in writing or by electronic transmission describing the action taken, signed (including electronically) by no fewer than the required number of Committee members, and delivered to the Catoosa County Republican Party Secretary.
- b. Action taken by written consent shall be effective when the last Committee member required for approval signs and delivers the consent, unless the consent specifies a different effective date.

- c. The Secretary of the Catoosa County Republican Party shall report to the members of the applicable Committee, the results of any matter as to which action is proposed to be taken by consent within eight (8) business days of submission to the Committee Members.
- d. A consent signed and delivered by a Committee Member has the same force and effect as a vote cast by a Member at a meeting.

3. Votes cast and taken by audio or video conference call shall be taken pursuant to roll call vote, which roll call may be conducted electronically.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **SECTION I: DUTIES OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1 The County Committee shall, in the interim between County Conventions, be vested with all the duties, powers, and privileges possessed by the County Convention and shall act for the Catoosa County Republican Party during such periods.

2 The County Committee shall call all County Conventions and Mass Meetings and the time and place for said meetings, and fix the basis of representation by delegates to the County Conventions in accordance with State GOP rules. The County Committee shall also call all primaries in accordance with State GOP rules as well as state and local laws.

3 Calls for County Conventions shall state the purpose of the convention, as well as the time and place of such convention, and shall notify each Precinct Chairman of the number of delegates and alternates to which each Precinct is entitled.

4 The County Committee shall cooperate with the State Committee and the GOP 14th District Committee in conducting all elections within the County.

5 The County Committee shall decide all controversies and contests within its jurisdiction, with the right of appeal to the District Committee. Appeals shall be taken to the District Committee within thirty (30) days after the decision appealed from by petition signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified Republican voters of the Political unit affected.

6 The Executive Committee shall have the power to transact the administrative business and policy of the County Committee, and make recommendations to the County Committee for its consideration. Purchases may be made without calling an Executive Committee meeting so long as (1) at least two executive committee members agree to each purchase and have documentation of that agreement; (2) at least one of the two Executive Committee members agreeing to the purchase is either the Chairman or the Treasurer; and (3) the total amount spent does not exceed \$500 within a thirty-day period.

7 The County Committee may alter its Rules or Platform with the following provisions: Notice of the change shall be mailed or emailed to each County Committee Member ten (10) days before a meeting. The rules may be amended by the County Committee by a 2/3rds (two-thirds) vote of a quorum present. Upon a vote to change the rule or platform, it shall be passed and the rule(s) or platform will have been changed, and must be filed with the county authority responsible for keeping the party rules on file.

## **SECTION II: DUTIES OF THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN**

The County Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer and spokesman of the Catoosa County Republican Party and shall perform the duties required by these Rules, the County Convention, the County Committee and the County Executive Committee. He or she shall issue calls for the County Conventions at least ten (10) days prior thereto, and shall preside until a temporary organization is elected. The County Chairman shall convene the County Committee when the needs of the Party may so demand, and shall preside at all meetings of said committee. He or she shall also appoint interim convention committees prior to the County Conventions, and shall provide for the timely

distribution of all Convention related notices required by these Rules and the Rules of the Republican Party of Georgia. He or she shall ensure that the process of elections are monitored and protected by appointing poll watchers as available to all elections of a partisan nature in the county.

### **SECTION III: DUTIES OF THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The First Vice-Chairman shall act for the County Chairman in his or her absence. He or she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Committee or the County Chairman.

### **SECTION IV: DUTIES OF THE SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Second Vice-Chairman shall act for the First Vice-Chairman in his or her absence. He or she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Committee or the County Chairman.

### **SECTION V: DUTIES OF PRECINCT CHAIRMEN**

Precinct Chairmen shall assist in selecting poll watchers for each election, compile lists of volunteers to work in the Precinct and cooperate with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in promoting interest in the Republican Party its platform, and its Candidates within the Precinct.

### **SECTION VI: DUTIES OF THE COUNTY SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall take minutes of the County Committee meetings and County Executive Committee meetings and shall be the custodian of all records, which are the property of the County Committee. The County Secretary shall also serve as secretary to all County Conventions until temporary organization of the convention is completed. He or she shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County Committee or Chairman.

**SECTION VII: DUTIES OF THE COUNTY TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall be custodian of the County party funds and shall deposit said funds in a bank selected by the County Executive Committee, which funds may be drawn against as prescribed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer will also make a Treasurers Report to the County Committee at each and every meeting, and prepare and submit at any and all times when requested by the Chairman.

**ARTICLE IV**

**SECTION I : COUNTY CONVENTIONS**

There shall be held during each odd numbered year a County Convention for the purpose of reorganizing the Republican party of Catoosa County and for the purpose of transacting all necessary and proper business of the Party pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Convention, including the election of Officers and election of Delegates and Alternates to the Fourteenth Congressional District and State Conventions

**SECTION II : CONVENTION BUSINESS DURING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

No official business shall be transacted at any Convention while any of its committees are in session.

**SECTION III: REPRESENTATION AT COUNTY CONVENTIONS**

Representation at County Conventions shall be in accordance with Rule 4.3 of the State Rules, or its Successor Rule.

#### **SECTION IV: RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The County Committee shall prepare the Rules and Order of Business for the conduct of each County Convention in advance thereof

#### **SECTION V: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS**

The election of Officers (see Article II, Section II) shall be conducted in the following manner:

- 1 The entire report of the Nominating Committee shall be made.
- 2 The Nominating Committee shall present all their nominations of Officers of the County Committee as a single slate.
- 3 Nominations shall be accepted from the floor for specific positions.
- 4 For positions wherein there is no challenge from the floor, the Nominating Committee's unchallenged nominees may be accepted or rejected as a slate.
- 5 For contested positions, individual elections of the Officers shall be conducted.
- 6 If more than two candidates are nominated for the same position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.
- 7 In each contested election for an Officer, speeches shall be permitted, but limited in the following manner:
  - a. A total of (5) minutes shall be allotted to each nominee.
  - b. A maximum of (2) persons shall speak on behalf of each nominee, with each such speech being limited to (1) minute.

## **SECTION VI: ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTIONS**

1 The entire report of the Nominating Committee shall be made.

2 The Nominating Committee shall present all Delegates and Alternates to the District Convention as a single slate. After electing Delegates and Alternates to the District Convention, per the rules contained herein, the Nominating Committee shall present all Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention as a single slate.

3 Nominations shall be accepted from the floor for specific Delegate and Alternate slots.

4 For Delegate and Alternate slots wherein there is no challenge from the floor, the Nominating Committee's unchallenged nominees may be accepted or rejected as a slate.

5 For contested slots, individual elections of the Delegates shall be conducted, followed by individual elections of the Alternates.

6 If more than two candidates are nominated for the same position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

7 In each contested election, speeches shall be permitted, but limited in the following manner:

8 In each contested election for a delegate or alternate, speeches shall be permitted, but limited in the following manner:

a. A total of 2 (two) minutes shall be allotted to each nominee.

b. No speeches shall be allowed by anyone other than the nominee unless the nominee is not present or otherwise chooses not to speak in which case the person nominating the candidate may speak with the same time limit in subsection (a) of this paragraph.

**ARTICLE V**

**SECTION 1: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

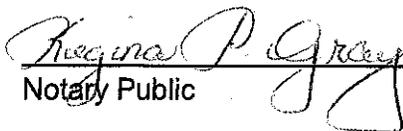
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition, shall govern meetings of the County Committee, the Executive Committee and the County Convention, except where inconsistent with the Rules of The Catoosa County Republican Party, the Fourteenth Congressional District Republican Party, or the Georgia Republican Party.

We certify that these are the true and correct rules of the Catoosa County Republican Party as adopted on February 6, 2025, by the County Committee of the Catoosa County Republican Party.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherre Bales, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanna Hildreth, Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
22 day of February, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

*My commission expires 4/28/2028*

