

# Butler County Republican Party Constitution

## PREAMBLE

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. We the Republicans of Butler County Nebraska, in order to promote the principles that form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for The Republican Party of Butler County, Nebraska.

## ARTICLE I

### *Name, Objectives, and Membership*

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be **THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA.**

**Section 2.** The objectives of the Party shall be the maintenance of government of, by and for the people, according to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Nebraska, the expansion of membership, and the recruitment of individuals for elective and appointive office.

**Section 3.** The membership of the Party shall be composed of all registered Republican voters of Butler County, Nebraska, who desire to support the objectives and platform of the Party.

## ARTICLE II

### *Conventions*

**Section 1.** A Convention shall be held at the time and place designated by the County Chairman pursuant to law and shall conduct any business which may properly come before it, including the election of a County Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary. In even numbered years, the Party will conduct a County Convention between March 1st and April 10th at an hour and place to be designated by the County Chairman. The Party shall cause a notice to be published at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the Convention setting forth the date, time, and place of the Convention. Members desiring to become delegates and planning to attend the County Convention shall register with the Butler County Clerk between January 1st and March 1st.

**Section 2.** A Special Convention shall be called if a majority of registered county delegates submit a request for a Special Convention. Once requests by a majority of county delegates calling for a Special Convention have been received, the County Chairman shall convene such Special Convention within 30 days and give notice as provided herein. The Special Convention shall conduct any business which may properly come before it, including the removal and election of County Officers.

**Section 3.** At all conventions, each delegate thereto, shall be entitled to register his or her individual vote, and it shall be unlawful to attempt to bind any delegate by any party or convention rules requiring the delegates, from any political subdivision to such County Convention, to vote as a unit. The authority held by delegates to the County Convention, by reason of their registration, shall be deemed personal in its nature and no such delegate may, by power of attorney, proxy or in any other way, authorize any other person in his or her name or on his or her behalf to appear at such County Convention and cast ballots therein or participate in the organization and transaction of any business at such Convention.

**Section 4.** The Convention of the duly registered delegates, when in session, shall be the governing body of the Party and when such Convention is not in session, the County Central Committee shall be the governing body.

**Section 5.** At all conventions and meetings provided for herein, the rules of order shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Any proposed bylaws and resolutions shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### *Party Administration*

**Section 1. General Management.** The general management of the affairs and governance of the Party shall be fixed in the County Central Committee, subject to the direction of the County Convention.

**Section 2. County Central Committee.** The Central Committee shall have the power to approve the allocation, budgeting, and disbursement of County Party funds. The County Central Committee shall consist of one person from each of the seven county supervisor districts within the County to be selected at delegate caucuses from each county supervisor district held at the County Convention or in such other manner as may be authorized by the Convention. State Central Committee members residing in the County and Executive Committee members shall serve on the County Central Committee and have full voting rights.

**Section 3. Officers.** The officers of the County Party organization shall be a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, herein referred to the Executive Committee. They shall have the powers and duties usually incident to their respective offices, subject to the direction of the Central Committee and the County Convention. They shall be elected by the County Convention delegates. The County Chairman shall convene a County Convention pursuant to

Article II for the purpose of holding elections for State Convention delegates, State Convention alternates, and County Officers. The policies, affairs and business of the Party shall be administered by the Executive Committee. The terms of office of the County Party officers and the members of the County Central Committee shall be approximately two years, or until their respective successors have been selected. The County Chairman shall have power, with the approval of the County Central Committee, to appoint such additional committees and committee chairs, from time to time, as circumstances may warrant.

**Section 4. Meetings of County Central Committee.** Meetings of the County Central Committee, in addition to meetings herein before prescribed, may be called by the County Chairman or by written request of not less than one-half of the Central Committee members. County Parties shall meet regularly at least once every three months. Notice of each meeting shall be published in a medium or media of choice seven days in advance of each meeting. A record of the published notice shall be maintained by the County Secretary for a period of two years and made available upon request to the District Chairman or State Chairman.

**Section 5. Meeting Notices.** The County Chairman or another person designated by the chairman, shall provide notice of the time, place, and agenda of a meeting to each member of the Central Committee at least five (5) days prior to the meeting by a mutually agreed upon method of communication.

**Section 6. County Officer Succession Plan and Unfilled Vacancy.** Whenever there is a County Party elected officer vacancy, it shall be immediately filled as follows: A vacant Chairman position shall be filled temporarily by the Vice Chairman with a Central Committee election held within 45 days to fill the Chairman position. A vacancy in the county Secretary or Treasurer position shall be filled temporarily by a vote of the remaining officers. If an unfilled Chairman vacancy exists for 30 days and there are no remaining officers, the State Party Congressional District Chair, with the approval of the State Chair, shall name an acting Chairman who shall convene a County Central Committee meeting within 45 days for the purpose of holding officer elections. The acting Chairman shall cause a notice to be published at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting announcing the officer elections and setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting.

**Section 7. Duty to Provide County Party Candidate Access to Electorate.** A Party member seeking candidacy to a County Party Office shall, upon a request made by the candidate, be provided contact information held by the County Party enabling the candidate to contact all members, whether they be County Central Committee members or County Party delegates, who will be voting in the County Party election to which the candidate is seeking office. Such contact information shall be transmitted by the County Party to the candidate within 48 hours of such request.

**Section 8. Quorum.** At committee meetings, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of total committee members.

**Section 9. Vacancy on the County Central Committee.** Whenever a position on the County Central Committee becomes vacant between County Conventions, the Executive Committee shall call a caucus of the county delegates which reside in the county supervisor district to which the vacancy has occurred. The caucus shall be held within 60 days. If there is no one elected to fill this position, it shall remain vacant until the next County Convention.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

##### *Nominations for Candidates and Vacancy on Ballot*

**Section 1.** All nominations for Republican candidates in any Butler County office to be filled at a special election, or any other office to be filled by the electors of Butler County, which are required by the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, shall be made by a majority vote of a quorum of the County Central Committee in the manner provided by law. The County Chairman shall call a meeting of the County Central Committee to be held at a place designated by the County Chairman within such time and in the manner provided by law. The County Chairman shall cause the certificates of such nominations to be properly filed.

**Section 2.** Unless otherwise provided for by law, should a vacancy occur for any Republican candidate in any Butler County office for any cause before any election, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of a quorum of the County Central Committee. The County Chairman shall call a meeting of the County Central Committee to be held at a place designated by the County Chairman within such time as to allow filing of the necessary certificates with the proper officers in the manner provided by law, and the County Chairman shall cause such certificates to be properly filed.

#### **ARTICLE V**

##### *Endorsement of Candidates*

**Section 1.** The County Party, including its officers and staff, may endorse a Republican candidate seeking a federal, statewide, legislative, multi-county, county, or local political office for political subdivisions geographically connected to the county in a contested election if a request for endorsement is made by the candidate seeking endorsement and the endorsement is approved by a two-thirds vote of the County Central Committee. In the absence of a request for endorsement and a two-thirds vote of the County Central Committee, the County Party including its officers and staff shall be prohibited from endorsing and financially supporting said candidate in a contested election. Contested Election shall mean an election in which two or more Republicans are seeking the same political office in either a primary, special, or general election.

**Section 2.** The County Party including its officers and staff shall not endorse a non-Republican candidate in an election in which a Republican is a candidate. Any officer or member found to have violated this provision may be removed from their office or committee and a vacancy shall exist if a majority of the County Central Committee members vote to remove said officer or member.

**Section 3.** Endorsement shall mean: (1) a public display or statement of support either by print, electronic media, or a written statement; or (2) a reported campaign contribution. Materials created and distributed for the purpose of increasing voter turnout including but not limited to door-to-door distribution of Republican candidate literature, shall not be a prohibited endorsement. Financially supporting shall not include resources made available from the Republican National Committee through the State Party and the County Party to all Republican candidates including but not limited to mobile canvassing applications, walk lists, call lists, or data.

**Section 4.** Nothing in these sections shall restrict the County Party including its officers and staff from endorsing a Republican candidate in an election at any level when he or she is the only declared Republican candidate seeking that office.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### *Amendments*

This Constitution may be amended by any County Convention with a majority vote of those present and voting. This Constitution may also be amended by the Central Committee but only if a quorum is present and at least two-thirds of those present and voting vote in favor of the proposed amendment. Such vote by the County Central Committee shall be taken at a County Central Committee meeting called specifically to consider such amendments, and a written copy of the proposed amendments together with any section proposed to be deleted, shall accompany the notice of such meeting. The next subsequent County Convention may suspend such amendment if a motion is made and adopted by a majority of the delegates present.