

Constitution of the Republican Party of Iowa

- Adopted July 20, 1974
- Amended July 17, 1976
- Amended June 24, 1978
- Amended June 26, 1982
- Amended June 16, 1984
- Amended June 25, 1988
- Amended June 23, 1990
- Amended June 15, 1996

ARTICLE I

NAME

1. The name of the organization shall be "The Republican Party of Iowa".

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the organization shall be to conduct the activities of the Republican Party of Iowa, to promote Republican principles and policies, and to cooperate and assist in the conduct of national, state and local elections.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Republican Party shall consist of all voters of the State of Iowa who desire to support the objectives of the Republican Party and register to vote as Republicans.
2. It shall be the duty of each County Central Committee to register eligible voters residing within its county as members of the Republican Party.

ARTICLE IV

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. The Republican State Central Committee shall be composed of the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman and three (3) members from each Congressional District who shall be elected by the District Caucus.

2. The general management of the affairs of the Republican Party in Iowa is vested in the Republican State Central Committee with appropriate direction by state conventions of the Republican Party.

3. The Republican State Central Committee shall have such officers and administrative personnel as it may determine and shall organize its operations to attain the objectives of the Republican Party, and shall have power to adopt Bylaws to carry out its duties and the purposes of the Constitution, provided such Bylaws are not in conflict with the provision of this Constitution or the rules of the Republican National Convention.

4. The Republican State Central Committee shall elect a Chair and Co-Chair who shall be the Chief Executive Officers of the Republican Party of Iowa. The Chair and Co-Chair need not be elected from the membership of the Republican State Central Committee.

5. The State Chair, and Co-Chair, State Finance Chair and Co-Chair shall be advisory members of the Republican State Central Committee but shall have no vote in official business transactions of the Committee except the State Chair or Co-Chair while presiding at a meeting of the Committee may vote to make or break a tie vote.

ARTICLE V

DEFINITION OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Republican State Central Committee may designate in its Bylaws official auxiliaries of the Republican Party, and shall provide for the governing of Republican Party auxiliary bodies.

2. The activities of such organizations at the state and local level shall be coordinated with authorized Party activities and shall be subject to the direction of the regularly constituted Party authorities. Each auxiliary shall elect its own officers.

3. The State Chair of each Party auxiliary shall be an advisory member of the Republican State Central Committee, but shall have no vote in official business transacted by the Committee.

ARTICLE VI

COUNTY COMMITTEES

1. County Central Committees shall consist of two precinct committee members elected from each precinct. Every County Central Committee shall adopt a Constitution and Bylaws which shall govern the operation of the Committee, and which may contain a provision for the election of additional Central Committee members from each precinct in a number proportionate to the Republican vote cast in that precinct at the last preceding general election for President of the United States or for Governor of Iowa, as the case may be.

2. The County Central Committee shall organize following each general election, but no later than the following April 1. The Committee shall elect either from its membership or otherwise, a chair, co-chair, secretary, treasurer and other officers as it may determine. The chair and co-chair shall be empowered to name such other officers as is determined necessary to carry out the aims and purposes of the organization subject to approval of the County Central Committee. Each member of the County Central Committee shall be given written notice at least five days in advance of the time and place of any meeting scheduled for the election of officers. The term of office of an officer begins upon his or her election and continues until the organizational meeting two years later and until the officer's successor is elected and qualified, unless the officer dies, resigns, or is sooner removed by the County Central Committee for any cause.

3. Any County chair or co-chair may also be removed by the Republican State Central Committee upon recommendation of the appropriate District Executive Committee for failure to fulfill the duties of the office. When a District Executive Committee recommends removal of a County Officer, that Officer shall be entitled to a hearing before the Republican State Central Committee before that Committee votes on the removal question.

4. The term of office of a member of the County Central Committee shall begin on the day following the precinct caucus and shall continue until the next precinct caucus and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. A member may be sooner removed by the County Central Committee for inattention to duty, incompetence, or active support of an opponent of a Republican nominee.

5. The chair or co-chair or thirty percent (30%) of the duly elected and serving members of the County Central Committee may call a meeting of the Committee, and there shall be no less than two (2) meetings each year.

6. When elected, a member of the County Central Committee must be a resident of the precinct from which elected.

7. Vacancies on the County Central Committee may be filled by majority vote of the County Central Committee, or at a special precinct caucus called by the County Central Committee.

8. The County Central Committee in each county in the State may recognize the same recognized auxiliaries within the counties as are recognized by the Republican State Central Committee and may permit representatives from such recognized auxiliaries to serve as advisory members of the County Central Committee. Such advisory members shall not be permitted to vote but shall assist County Central Committees in the conduct, planning and organization of political campaigns.

ARTICLE VII

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

1. The District Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair and Co-Chair of each County in the Congressional District plus one additional representative for every fifty thousand (50,000)

population in that County based on the most recent federal census. The additional County representative shall be elected by the County Central Committee.

2. The District Committee shall: (1) direct and coordinate Republican activities in the district, including organizational, candidate recruitment, and finance efforts; (2) coordinate the congressional and legislative campaigns in the district for the duly selected Republican nominees; (3) perform all of the duties relating to any election to fill a district vacancy on the Republican State Central Committee; (4) advise the congressional district's representatives on the Republican State Central Committee; and (5) do all other things which serve to promote the welfare of the Republican Party and the orderly and successful conduct of the election campaign in the congressional district.

ARTICLE VIII

REPUBLICAN STATE COUNCIL

1. The Republican State Council shall be composed of all elected members of the District Executive Committees. The function of the Council is to provide, from time to time, advice and counsel to the Republican State Central Committee. The Chair of the Republican State Central Committee shall preside over the Council and shall convene meetings when the Chair deems such action advisable or within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for a meeting from forty (40) Council members.

ARTICLE IX

CAUCUSES, CONVENTIONS, AND MEETINGS

1. Precinct Caucus. The Republican Party of Iowa shall conduct precinct caucuses, county conventions, district caucuses and state conventions. In election years, the Republican State Central Committee shall direct the County Central Committees to call precinct caucuses at a date to be fixed by the Republican State Central Committee for the purpose of electing delegates from each precinct to the County Convention to be held in each county in the State. The precinct caucus also shall elect precinct committee persons and may adopt resolutions. In presidential election years each precinct caucus shall perform such additional functions as directed by the Republican State Central Committee. Notice of the date, time, and place of said precinct caucuses shall be given twice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the precinct. The first notice shall be published not more than fifteen (15) days nor less than seven (7) days before the date of the precinct caucus, and the second notice shall be made not more than seven (7) days before and not later than the date of the precinct caucus.

2. Eligibility to vote. Any person voting at a precinct caucus must be a registered Republican in that precinct (or a person who will by the date of the next general election become eighteen years of age and indicates an affiliation with the Republican Party), and a resident of the precinct. A person may register to vote or change party affiliation at the caucus.

3. County Conventions. The Republican State Central Committee shall set the date of the county convention in each county of the State. It shall advise the county organizations of the number of delegates to the District Caucus and the State Convention to which each County is entitled, and shall determine the delegate assessment which must be paid by each County Central Committee.

4. Purpose. The purpose of the County Convention is to select delegates to the District Caucus and the State Convention; nominate candidates for any office when no Republican candidate for such office has been nominated at the preceding primary election; and adopt resolutions.

5. District Caucuses. The Republican State Central Committee shall set the date and location of Congressional District Caucuses. The District Caucus shall elect that District's representatives on the Republican State Central Committee; elect members of committees for the State Convention; and adopt a District Platform. In presidential election years the District Caucus shall elect such number of delegates and alternate delegates allocated to the District to the Republican National Convention, and shall select a Presidential Elector from the District.

6. State Convention. The Republican State Central Committee shall set the date, time and place of the State Convention, and shall determine the ratio and number of delegates to which each county is entitled. The Republican State Central Committee shall provide for the organization of the convention; the conduct of its business; and the selection of the temporary officers.

7. Purpose. The purpose of the State Convention is to adopt a State Platform, adopt or amend a Constitution, and transact such other business as may properly be brought before it. In gubernatorial election years, the convention shall select the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor. In Presidential election years, the convention shall elect such at-large delegates and alternate delegates allocated to the State to the Republican National Convention; and shall select two Presidential Electors at-large.

8. Voting. In the State Convention, and all District Caucuses, each delegate shall be allowed to vote as he or she deems appropriate and no county shall be allowed to vote by the unit rule. No delegate shall be bound by any pre-convention caucus and each county shall cast its vote by polling its delegation at the convention. No fractional votes shall be allowed.

9. Other meetings. The Republican State Central Committee may call other precinct, County, District and State meetings as it deems advisable.

10. Conventions to nominate legislative candidates. At a convention called either to fill a ballot vacancy or to nominate a candidate in a special election for the offices of Senator or Representative in the General Assembly, the voting strength of each precinct represented shall be proportionate to the vote cast for the Republican candidate for that office in the respective precincts at the last general election.

ARTICLE X

NONDISCRIMINATION IN ELECTED OR APPOINTED PARTY POSITIONS

1. The Republican Party of Iowa shall not use race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin as a criterion for either discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group in any of its elected or appointed party positions at any level. This section shall be implemented to the maximum extent consistent with law and the National Republican Party Constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. The quadrennial convention of the Republican Party held each presidential election year shall elect Republican National Committee members for the State. Such election shall be made by a majority vote of the delegates at the State Convention. Vacancies on the Republican National Committee shall be filled by vote of the Republican State Central Committee.

ARTICLE XII

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Republican National Convention shall be elected at the quadrennial convention of the Republican Party held each presidential election year, and in such number and manner as shall be consistent with the Rules of the Republican National Convention.

ARTICLE XIII

PROXY VOTES

1. Voting by proxy will not be permitted at any precinct caucus, County Convention, District Caucus, or State Convention. If any County shall not be fully represented at a District Caucus or State Convention only those delegates or alternate delegates who have assumed delegate status and are present at the District Caucus or State Convention shall be allowed to vote, and the votes represented by absent delegates shall not be cast.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution may be amended at any State Convention when notice of intention to amend is included in the call issued by the Republican State Central Committee for such convention.

2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be included in the call for convention when requested by forty (40) members of the Republican State Council. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be mailed to the certified convention **delegates** at least two (2) weeks prior to

convention. To be adopted such amendment must be approved by a majority vote of the convention delegates.

ARTICLE XV

CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL RULES

1. Rules of the Republican National Convention found to be in conflict with provisions of this Constitution shall take precedence over such provisions. Such rules of the Republican National Convention shall take precedence over conflicting provisions of Constitutions of County Central Committees, and shall take precedence over conflicting provisions of Bylaws of the Republican State Central Committee and County Central Committees.

ARTICLE XVI

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CONSTITUTION

1. The within Constitution was adopted by a majority vote of the Republican Party of Iowa, in convention assembled, at Des Moines, Iowa, July 20, 1974.