

BY-LAWS OF THE HUDSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

AS AMENDED JUNE 9, 1992

(Adopted pursuant to Section 19:5-3 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey).

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELECTED MEMBERSHIP:

The County Committee shall be composed of one male and one female member elected at the annual Primary Election by the Democratic voters of each election district of the County.

Section 2. TERMS OF OFFICE:

Pursuant to statute, the members of the County Committee shall take office on the first Saturday following their election, on which day the terms of all members of such Committee theretofore elected shall terminate.

Section 3. FILLING OF VACANCIES:

A vacancy in the office of a member of the County Committee shall be filled by the Municipal Committee of the municipality wherein the vacancy occurs. The filled vacancy shall be promptly filed with the Democratic County Headquarters within 30 days from the election of these new County Committee people.

Section 4. HONORARY MEMBERS:

The following elected or appointed officials Democratic residents of Hudson County shall be honorary members of the County Committee, with all the rights and privileges of membership, excepting the right to vote and unless otherwise provided for in these By-laws:

- a. All officers of the County Committee;
- b. The Democratic Committee National and State Committeemen and Committeewomen;
- c. All Municipal Chairpersons;

d. The Chairpersons of all standing committees as defined in Article VIII, Section I of these By-laws;

e. All Democratic elected officials within Hudson County.

Nothing herein, however, shall be interpreted to deny the right to vote to such elected or appointed official, who also is a duly elected member of the County Committee.

## ARTICLE II

### Section 1. QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS:

Any Democrat, male or female, shall be eligible to hold any office, whether or not he or she is a member of this Committee, provided, however, that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be individuals of the opposite sex.

### Section 2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, RECORDING SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

The Chairman, Vice-Chairpersons, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual organization meeting of the County Committee, as shall as provided by State law.

### Section 3. DATE OF OFFICE:

The officers of the Hudson County Democratic Committee pledge to support only Democratic candidates for office. In the event any officer violates this pledge, said officer shall forfeit the office and it shall be deemed vacant.

### Section 4. TERMS OF OFFICE:

All officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

### Section 5. FILLING OF VACANCIES:

Vacancies in any elective office of this Article shall be filled by the County Committee at its next succeeding meeting following the date of the vacancy, in the manner hereinafter provided for the regular election of officers.

### Section 6. NOMINATION FOR COUNTY CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, RECORDING SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

Candidates for said offices shall be nominated by any member of the Democratic County Committee.

Section 7. METHOD OF ELECTION:

- a. If there is no contest for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Recording Secretary or Treasurer, election shall be held by voice vote.
  - b. If there is a contest for any office, election for that office shall be by machine vote under the supervision of the Hudson County Superintendent of Elections following a check of credentials by the representatives of the Hudson County Superintendent of Elections. Funds shall be allocated to pay for this service.
  - c. In the event of a contest for any office, the candidate receiving a simple majority of the votes of those members of the County Committee present and voting shall be declared elected for that office.
- Should a candidate fail to receive the votes of a majority, the two (2) candidates with the largest number of votes shall compete in a second ballot to determine the holder of the particular office.

ARTICLE III

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 8. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the County Committee and of the Executive Committee;
- b. Appoint the Chairmen of all standing committees and be responsible to the County Committee for the faithful performance of their duties.
- c. Serve as a member ex officio of all standing committees;
- d. Faithfully execute the decisions of the County Committee;
- e. Individually or together with the Treasurer, sign all vouchers in payment of the disbursements of the County Committee;
- f. Prepare an annual budget for each Fiscal Year (July 1 to June 30), which budget shall be presented to the Executive Committee for its advice and consent at the January meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman may assign and delegate any registered Democrat to perform all or any part of the duties herein assigned to him.

Section 2. FIRST VICE CHAIRPERSON: The Vice-Chairperson shall:

- a. Assist the Chairman in the performance of his duties;
- b. In the absence of the Chairman, preside at meetings of the County Committee or of the Executive Committee;
- c. Perform such other duties as requested by the Chairman.

Section 3. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- a. Attend to all matters of correspondence as may be directed by the Chairman, the Executive Committee, or the County Committee.
- b. Perform such other duties as requested by the Chairman.

Section 4. RECORDING SECRETARY: The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Keep full and correct minutes of the proceedings of the County Committee and of the Executive Committee;
- b. Keep a complete roster of all members of the County Committee and of all Municipal Chairmen;
- c. Prepare and mail notices of all meetings of the County Committee and of the Executive Committee;
- d. In the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Treasurer, preside at meetings of the County Committee or of the Executive Committee.
- e. Perform such other duties as requested by the Chairman.

Section 5. TREASURER: The Treasurer shall:

- a. Deposit all funds in his custody and in such banks as the Executive Committee may designate, subject to the joint order of himself and of the County Chairman;
- b. Keep full and complete accounts of all monies received and disbursed by him;

- c. Prepare and file such financial statements as may be required by the County Committee by law, including the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission reports, and that these reports shall be made available at the Democratic County Headquarters for inspection;
- d. Act ex officio as a member of the Finance Committee;
- e. In the absence of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, preside at meetings of the County Committee of the Executive Committee.
- f. Perform such other duties as requested by the Chairman.

Section 6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- a. Assist the Chairman in maintaining order at all meetings;
- b. Appoint such aides as he may deem necessary to facilitate the discharge of said duty.

Section 7 ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

In addition to the above-enumerated duties, each officer shall perform such other functions as may be required of him by:

- a. These By-laws;
- b. The statutes of the State of New Jersey;
- c. The rules and procedures of the Democratic National and State Committee; and
- d. The County Committee.

Section 8 COUNTY COMMITTEE BALLOT POSITION:

Whenever and whenever there shall be more than one (1) petition filed within a district for County Committeeman or County Committeewoman, the County Chairman shall use every effort and exert every pressure possible to assure that both or all candidates, if they so desire, shall be included within the ballot column which includes the candidates chosen within the County Candidate Selection Convention to represent the Democratic Organization of Hudson County.

ARTICLE IV

COMMITTEES

Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES:

There shall be the following Standing Committees of the Hudson County Democratic Committee:

- a. Registration and Naturalization;
- b. Speakers;
- c. Rules, Resolutions and By-Laws;
- d. Platform;
- e. Political Education;
- f. Finance; and
- g. Publicity.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES:

Each of the above Standing Committees shall consist of:

- a. A chairman, appointed by the County Chairman at the organization meeting of the County Committee or within four (4) weeks thereafter;
- b. At least one (1) representative from each Hudson County Legislative District and such other members as may be appointed by the County Chairman, at his discretion, and with the advice and consent of the respective committee chairmen and of the Municipal chairmen of the municipalities in which the members reside.

Section 3. REMOVAL FROM COMMITTEES:

A vacancy in the Chairmanship of membership of any of the above Standing Committees may be declared by a simple majority of those present at a special meeting of the Hudson County Democratic Committee.

- a. That member's moving out of the County; or
- b. That member's non-performance of his duties on the Committee; or

c. That member's violating his oath as described in Article II, Section 3.

Section 2. DUTIES OF COMMITTEES:

The Standing Committees shall have the following duties:

- a. Registration and Naturalization Committee: Attend to all matters pertaining to the registration of voters and the naturalization of persons desiring to become citizens.
- b. Speaker's Committee: Set up a panel of public speaks on topics of general interest, cooperate in supplying speaks to club meetings, and arrange for speakers in all other public meetings in the County.
- c. Rules, Regulations and By-Laws Committee: Consider and report to the Chairman and County Committee on all questions of law, procedure, resolution or proposed amendments to these By-laws.
- d. Platform Committee: To prepare the Hudson County Democratic Platform for all County and State Legislative election campaigns for presentation and recommendation to the Chairman and County Committee, to hold hearings thereon annually and to solicit the views of all candidates, elected officials and others within the Democratic party and among Independents having either personal or representative views on County and State issues.
- e. Political Education Committee: To prepare and develop programs for the assistance and education of candidates, members of the Hudson County Democratic Committee and implementation for the program of the Hudson County Democratic Committee and to assist them in their understanding of the rights, obligations and techniques provided for by the election laws of the State of New Jersey and to provide such information for the Publicity Committee as it deems necessary, in keeping Democratic candidates, members of the Hudson County Democratic Committee and the public informed on the Democratic Party's programs and on the election laws of the State of New Jersey.
- f. Finance Committee: Arrange and conduct all fund raising events and functions, turning such funds over to the Treasurer.

4. Publicity Committee: Prepare such material as may be helpful to keeping the members of the County Committee and all Democratic candidates informed as to matters of interest to them, handle press and public relations for the County Committee, assist candidates in developing and publicizing their programs and records; and help local clubs, officials and candidates in developing their public relations activities.

Section 3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

The County Chairman from time to time may appoint such special committees, for specific purposes, as he/she may deem advisable.

Section 4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

All committees shall report at such times as requested to do so by the County Chairman.

ARTICLE V  
MEETINGS

Section 1 ORGANIZATION MEETING:

The annual organization meeting of the County Committee shall be held after the Primary Election each year, on the date fixed by statute, at 8:00 p.m. of said day, in a place to be designated by the Chairman in the call for the meeting.

Section 2 SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held at any time upon the call of the County Chairman, or upon the written request of five (5) percent of the members of the County Committee addressed to the County Chairman and the Secretary of the County Committee.

Section 3 RESOLUTIONS:

Any resolutions to be passed officially by the County Committee, except proper amendments, must be submitted in advance to the membership in writing. Such notice should be included with the County Committee notice. If the resolution is submitted after the meeting, notice is mailed to the County Committee, then the party or parties submitting the resolution to the County Committee, including the cost, no later than seven (7) days before said meeting. Thirty days after election, the County Chairman shall cause to be prepared a calendar of all pertinent dates to the



Democratic Party including but not limited to the meetings required by these By-laws, filing deadlines for candidates and the convention date.

Section 4 QUORUM:

One Hundred (100) elected members of the County Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5 NOTICES OF MEETINGS:

Written notices of meetings setting forth the place, date, hour and agenda of meetings shall be mailed by regular mail by the Secretary to all members as follows:

- a. Organization Meeting: As soon as practicable after the Primary Election.
- b. Special Meetings: At least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting, such notice setting forth the subject matter to be considered at this meeting.

ARTICLE VI

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1 CALL TO ORDER

At the hour set in the call for the meeting, if a quorum is present, the County Chairman shall call the meeting of the County Committee to order.

Section 2 ORGANIZATION MEETING:

At the organization meeting of the County Committee, called as provided by statute, the order of business shall be as follows:

- a. Salute to flag;
- b. Adoption of By-laws;
- c. Nomination from the floor;
- d. Election of officers (or, if there is a contest for County Chairman, election of County Chairman only);
- e. Other business.

Section 2. OTHER MEETINGS:

At all other meetings of the County Committee, the order of business shall be as follows:

- a. Salute to flag;
- b. Consideration of minutes or previous meeting;
- c. Reports of officers and action thereon, if required;
- d. Reports of Standing Committees and action thereon, if required;
- e. Reports of Special Committees and action thereon, if required;
- f. Unfinished business, if any;
- g. New business, if any.

Section 3. RULES OF ORDER:

Unless otherwise provided for in these By-laws or by statute, all business shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Section 1. EFFECTIVE DATES:

These By-laws and amendments thereto shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Section 2. SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS:

Any proposed amendment to these By-laws must be submitted by a member of the County Committee in writing to the County Chairman at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting at which said amendment is to be considered.

Section 3. REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE:

The County Chairman, upon receipt of such proposed amendment, shall immediately submit it to the Committee on Rules, Resolutions and By-laws for study and recommendation. The recommendation of said committee shall be made in writing to the County chairman within thirty (30) days of said Committee's receipt of the proposed amendment.

Section 4. NOTICES:

The proposed amendment shall be considered by the elected County Committee members only after the complete text of the proposed amendment, the Committee on Rules, Resolutions and By-laws' recommendation, and the existing by-law section is: a) included in the meeting notice or b) read and distributed in writing at a previous County Committee meeting.

Section 5. ADOPTION:

An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the elected members of the County Committee present and voting at the meeting at which said amendment is considered.

Notice to Amend By-Laws

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Hudson County Democratic Committee, notice is given that the Committee shall consider an amendment to the By-Laws as follows:

1. Article 11, Section 7(b) If there is a contest for any office, election for that office [shall be by hand vote]. Shall be by machine vote under the supervision of the Hudson County Superintendent of Elections following a check of credentials by the representatives of the Hudson County Superintendent of Elections. Funds shall be allocated to pay for this service.
  2. Article 11, Section 7(c). In the event of a contest for any office, the candidate receiving a simple majority of the votes of those members of the County Committee present and voting shall be declared elected for that office.
- should a candidate fail to receive the votes of a majority, the two (2) candidates with the largest number of votes shall compete in a second ballot to determine the holder of the particular office.

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

The Hudson County Republican County Committee members, assembled, do hereby make, ordain, publish and declare the following to be the Constitution for the government of said County Committee members in Hudson County, New Jersey, and for the government of the Hudson County Republican County Committee.

### OBJECT

The "Hudson County Republican County Committee" (hereinafter referred to as "County Committee") shall be the central organization of the New Jersey Republican Party in Hudson County, New Jersey and shall have the care of the interests, and be charged with the administration of the affairs of the New Jersey Republican Party in Hudson County, with full authority to direct and enforce the details of the organization of the County Committee. The County Committee, through this document, shall have the power to adopt such election, social, intellectual and recreative measures as will, in its judgment, promote the efficiency and the harmony and success of the Republican Party in Hudson County.

### ORGANIZATION

The County Committee shall consist of one (1) male and one (1) female member from each election district within Hudson County. The male receiving the highest number of votes among the male candidates for County Committee, and the female receiving the highest number of votes among the female candidates shall be declared elected as County Committee members. Such members of the County Committee shall reside in the district which they represent, and shall be registered Republican voters in the district they represent.

Members of the County Committee shall take office on the first Saturday following their election in the Republican primary election, on which day the terms of all members of the County Committee

theretofore elected shall terminate.

All elected members and officers of the County Committee shall serve two (2) year terms.

In the event that no one files a nominating petition in a particular election district for the County Committee, the County Chairman shall have the right to name any registered Republican to fill such vacancy at the bi-annual reorganization meeting.

A person appointed to fill a vacancy on the County Committee cannot vote for the selection of a County Chairman, or any other officer of the County Committee.

Vacancy, as used herein, means that no one filed a nominating petition for a particular election district, and therefore, no name appears on the ballot.

In the event that two or more persons seek the same County Committee seat, and there is a tie vote for such seat, the newly elected Municipal Chairman wherein the particular district is located shall break the tie at the bi-annual municipal reorganization meeting by announcing the name of the person who is to hold the contested County Committee seat.

Such persons, upon selection by the newly elected Municipal Chairman shall have the right to vote in the election for County Chairman.

The bi-annual reorganization meeting shall take place on the ninth (9) day following the primary election at which members of the County Committee are elected.

The County Committee shall be called to order by the Chairman of the preceding year, who shall then appoint a temporary Chairman to conduct the reorganization meeting. No vote shall be taken for temporary Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer of the preceding year shall act in the order named.

Incoming County Committee members shall present their credentials, and suitable identification, to a "Credentials Committee", the members of which shall be named by the Chairman.

Suitable identification is herein defined as a County Committee card (as issued by the Municipal Clerk) and one other form of identification which contains the member's name and address.

All decisions made by the Credentials Committee as to admittance to the reorganization meeting, and the right to vote for officers, shall be final.

In addition, each County Committee member, upon presenting his or her credentials to the Credentials Committee shall be required to provide a signature.

### **ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

At the bi-annual reorganization meeting, the members of the County Committee shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, General Counsel and Parliamentarian in the manner set forth hereafter.

Nominations: A nomination for any County Committee Officer may be made by any member of the County Committee, provided, however, that the nomination be seconded by another County Committee member.

Election of Officers: If only one candidate is duly nominated and seconded for any County Committee Office, the temporary Chairman upon the close of nominations shall declare that candidate elected by acclamation.

If more than one candidate is duly nominated and seconded for any office, a "roll-call" vote shall be taken by the Secretary, by calling the roll of the elected County Committee members from the various towns and cities within Hudson County, in regular order, alphabetically.

The Secretary shall call the name of each elected member of the County Committee, and such member shall thereupon announce his/her vote. The person, duly nominated, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to the post for which he/she has been nominated.

### **MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE**

Each municipality within Hudson County, shall select a municipal chairman, vice-chairman and such other officers as may be deemed appropriate by the newly elected Municipal Chairman at its bi-annual municipal reorganization meeting. The municipal reorganization meeting shall take place on the

eight (8th) day following the primary election at which members of the county committee are elected.

The municipal reorganization meeting shall be conducted by the existing municipal chairman, in a manner consistent with the conduct of the county reorganization meeting.

## COUNTY-COMMITTEE OFFICERS

### CHAIRMAN

The members of the County Committee shall elect a person as Chairman at the annual reorganization meeting, who shall be a registered Republican voter for a least five (5) years prior to his/her election as Chairman, and who shall have been a resident of Hudson County for at least five (5) years prior to his/her election.

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee, and shall perform all duties required of him/her by law.

The Chairman shall perform all the duties usually devolving upon a presiding officer, and shall appoint such committees as are not otherwise provided for, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Vice-Chairman shall be of the opposite sex of the Chairman, and shall hold office for a term co-terminus with that of the Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman shall perform all duties required of him/her by this Constitution, by law, or upon direction of the Chairman.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer shall preside in the order named.

The Vice-Chairman shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### SECRETARY

The Secretary shall notify the members by regular mail of the time and place of all meetings



at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time set for such meeting; keep a thorough record of the proceedings of the County Committee with a roll of the members of their respective places of residence and terms of office, and shall perform all of the duties usually devolving upon such officer.

The Secretary shall be a member of the Credentials Committee, and shall serve as the presiding officer for the Credentials Committee.

The Secretary shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit funds in such bank or other financial institution as the Chairman may direct, in the name of the Hudson County Republican County Committee's finances when required by the Chairman. The Treasurer shall report to the Chairman on the condition of the County Committee's financial status whenever required by the Chairman or by a majority of the Executive Board.

All disbursements of County Committee funds shall be upon order of the Chairman or by order of a majority of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing all required reports to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, or by statute.

The Treasurer shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

The Sergeant-at-Arms, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, as appointed by the Chairman, shall act under the direction of the Chairman, and shall be responsible for security of all meetings.

The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### **GENERAL COUNSEL**

The General Counsel shall be a member in good standing of the New Jersey Bar, a registered voter with Hudson County, and shall be a resident of Hudson County.

The General Counsel shall have full authority over all legal matters brought to his/her attention by the Chairman, and shall render any and all legal opinions as may be required by law, or by the Chairman.

The General Counsel may appoint such Assistant General Counsel as he/she deems necessary.

The General Counsel shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

The Parliamentarian shall resolve all disputes concerning parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the County Committee.

Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall serve as a guide for formulation of all parliamentary rules, but the final decision on such matters shall be that of the Parliamentarian.

The Parliamentarian shall be elected in the same manner as the Chairman.

### **COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

The elected County Committee Officers shall form the "Committee on Nominations", a majority of which, shall have sole authority to select Hudson County Republican Party candidates for public office, or to endorse any Republican Candidate for office using the name "Hudson County Republican County Committee".

### **RECALL OF OFFICERS**

Any County Committee Officer may be recalled from office, provided, however, that a petition of recall be signed by a minimum of two hundred and fifty (250) County Committee members. Said petition shall state the reason for the recall.

The petition shall be presented to the General Counsel, who shall certify the petition within fourteen (14) days of presentation. The certification shall include a sworn statement that the General Counsel has ascertained that the petition contains a sufficient amount of valid signatures.

Upon certification of the recall petition by the General Counsel, the Chairman shall within fourteen (14) days, call a meeting of the entire County Committee for the purpose of a recall election.

The Chairman shall select a temporary Chairman to conduct the recall meeting, which shall be conducted in a manner similar to the bi-annual reorganization meeting.

The temporary Chairman shall conduct a roll-call vote of the members present, a majority of which shall be necessary to remove any officer.

Thereafter, the temporary Chairman shall take nominations for the office vacated. Upon the closing of nominations, a roll-call vote shall be taken for the office vacated, in the manner set forth herein.

### ADOPTION

This Constitution shall be adopted at the bi-annual reorganization meeting or upon forty-eight (48) hour written notice to all County Committee members, if adoption shall take place prior to the bi-annual reorganization meeting, at a special meeting called by the Chairman for the purpose of adopting this Constitution. A simple majority of the County Committee members present at either the bi-annual reorganization meeting or at a special meeting is needed to adopt this Constitution.

Upon adoption of this Constitution, all prior constitutions, by-laws, rules and/or regulations shall be null and void.

### AMENDMENTS

Upon adoption of this Constitution, amendments hereto may be made upon the motion of any County Committee member, duly seconded, with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the County Committee members present at the meeting which adopted this Constitution.

Thereafter, amendments may be made only at the bi-annual reorganization meeting, with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the County Committee members present.

All votes taken for amendments hereto shall be roll-call votes only, in the manner prescribed herein for the election of the Chairman.

Upon adoption of this Constitution, true copies shall be filed with the New Jersey State Republican Chairman, the New Jersey State Republican Committee, the County Clerk of Hudson County and the clerk of each municipality within Hudson County.