

**PLAN OF ORGANIZATION
OF THE
GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY**

PREAMBLE

We, the Members of the Gaston County Republican Party, dedicated to the sound principles fostered by that Party and in the Constitutions of the United States and the Great State of North Carolina, conscious of our civic responsibilities and rights, firm in our determination to give our strength to preserving the American principle that government ought and must be of the people, for the people and by the people do, for the purpose of uniting and coordinating our efforts for maximum power and efficiency, herewith agree to organize under the current Plan of Organization of the North Carolina Republican Party, with additions specific to the Gaston County Republican Party as established below.

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

All residents of Gaston County who are registered Republican voters are Members of the Gaston County Republican Party and shall have the right to participate in the official affairs of the Republican Party in Gaston County in accordance with the rules of the North Carolina Republican Party Plan of Organization (hereafter called "NCGOP Plan") and of this document. All reference herein to Delegates, Members and Party Officers shall, in all cases, mean persons identified and registered as Republican voters in their precincts of residence within Gaston County.

ARTICLE 2 - PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

- A. **Meetings:** In every year, precinct meetings shall be held in the county upon call of the County Chair. The County Chair shall call such meetings to be held during the month of February or March and shall give at least fifteen (15) days written notice of the time and place of said meetings to all Precinct Chairmen. The notice shall also be posted on the county party website. Every Republican registered in Gaston County as of January 31 of the year of the precinct meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote, except that the January 31 requirement shall not apply to residents who have moved into the precinct within thirty (30) days of the precinct meeting and current registration is Republican. Precinct meetings may be held on the same day as the County Convention.
- B. **Officers:** Every Precinct shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Precinct in odd numbered years. Precinct Chair shall serve as members of the County Executive Committee and shall be responsible for organizing and mobilizing their precinct.
- C. **Vacancies:** Any Precinct Chair who is absent from four consecutive County Executive Committee meetings shall have automatically resigned from the Precinct Chairship and Executive Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the County Chair, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Where possible, vacancies should be filled from among the other officers of the vacated precinct.

ARTICLE 3 - ANNUAL CONVENTION

A. Convention Call: A County Convention shall be called every year by the Chair of the County Executive Committee, at a suitable location within the county, within the month of March, at least 10 days prior to the scheduled District Convention(s), and following procedures given in the NCGOP Plan.

B. Delegates in Absentia: Any person unable to attend the annual convention of the Gaston County Republican Party but wishing to attend the NCGOP or congressional district conventions may do so by petitioning the County Chair to have their name added to the convention delegate list. This petition must be received by the County Chair prior to the convening of the county convention and the requisite county convention delegate fee must still be paid. No requests can be honored after the start of the convention.

C. Convention Procedure: The general procedures of the County Convention may be found in the NCGOP Plan.

D. Election of Officers: In every odd-numbered year, the Convention shall elect the following officers of the County Party: Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair (optional), Treasurer, Secretary, and General Counsel.

E. Convention Officers: The County Chair shall appoint the following convention officers to serve in temporary roles for the duration of the County Convention:

- a. Convention Chair (may be the current county chair)
- b. Convention Secretary (may be the County Secretary)
- c. Convention Parliamentarian (may be the General Counsel)
- d. Convention Sergeant-at-Arms

F. Convention Committees: At the time of the Convention Call, the County Chair shall appoint the following convention committees to serve in temporary roles through the duration of the County Convention, each having no less than three members:

- a. Credentials Committee
- b. Plan of Organization and Rules Committee
- c. Resolutions Committee
- d. Nominating Committee

G. Convention Delegate Fee: The officers shall establish the Gaston County Republican Party Convention Delegate Fee and it shall be published in the call to convention.

ARTICLE 4 - COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Membership: In accordance with the NCGOP Plan Article III, the Gaston County Republican Party Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:

- a. The seven County Party Officers (Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, General Counsel, and County Party Finance Chair)

- b. The Immediate-Past Chair of the County Party
- c. All duly-elected Precinct Chairs
- d. The seven Township Chairs (Cherryville, Crowders Mountain, Dallas, Gastonia-East, Gastonia-West, Riverbend and South Point)
 - i. Gastonia-East (Precincts: 8,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,18)
 - ii. Gastonia-West (Precincts: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,11,17,19)
- e. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 At-large Members
- f. The local Chairs or Presidents of any duly-chartered GOP auxiliary clubs represented on the NCGOP Executive Committee
- g. Any Officers of the North Carolina Republican Party or NCGOP At-large Executive Committee Members who reside in Gaston County
- h. Any members of the North Carolina Republican Party's District Executive Committees who reside in Gaston County
- i. Any Republican Elected Official currently holding office provided he or she 1) is a resident of Gaston County and 2) was elected in a partisan election or appointed by the Executive Committee to fulfill an unexpired term.

B. Powers and Duties:

- a. The County Executive Committee shall cooperate with the District and State Republican Executive Committees in all elections and Party activities; shall encourage qualified candidates for office within the County; shall adopt a budget in coordination with the Officers Board; shall recommend nominees to the State Chair for appointments to the County Board of Elections; and shall have active management of Party affairs within the County.

- b. In considering the appointments made by the County Chair, it shall approve a Finance Committee and an Auditing Committee of not less than 3 Members each.

- c. In the event that it is determined that the County Plan of Organization is not consistent with the State Party Plan of Organization, the County Executive Committee must at the next called meeting bring the County Plan of Organization into compliance with the State Party Plan of Organization. Under any circumstances, the County Plan of Organization must be brought into compliance within 90 days. The Executive Committee may amend the County Plan of Organization upon a 2/3 vote after providing written notice via first class United States Mail of the meeting advising members regarding the substance of the proposed amendment and provided a quorum is present or it may be adopted or amended at a County Convention. The County Party shall submit, by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, this Plan of Organization, and amendments thereto, to the NCGOP State Headquarters within 30 days after their adoption, in order for the Plan and/or amendment to be considered valid.

C. Meetings: The County Executive Committee shall meet at least six times per year upon call of the County Chair after giving 10 days notice to all Members; or upon establishing a regularly occurring monthly or bimonthly meeting date; or upon a similar call of 1/3 of the

Members of the Executive Committee. The agenda of all meetings shall be distributed electronically to the Executive Committee no later than five days prior to the meeting.

D. Attendance: Members of the Executive Committee shall generally be expected to attend called meetings of the Executive Committee. General members who are absent from four consecutive, regularly-called County Executive Committee meetings shall have automatically resigned from the Executive Committee and their vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions set forth in this plan. This attendance requirement does not apply to any person who is automatically a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of holding a publicly elected office or other party office outside of the Gaston County Executive Committee.

E. Quorum: Quorum for the transaction of Executive Committee business shall be no less than 25% of the Committee membership defined in Article 4 Section A paragraphs a through e. Any person who is automatically a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of holding publicly elected office or other party office shall not be counted toward quorum nor included in the quorum requirement of the Executive Committee; however, such persons do retain all rights and privileges of Executive Committee membership, including, but not limited to, voting privileges.

ARTICLE 5 - COUNTY OFFICERS BOARD

A. Membership: The County Officers Board shall consist of: The County Chair, The County First Vice Chair, the County Second Vice Chair, the County Treasurer, the County Secretary, the County General Counsel, the County Finance Chair, and the Immediate Past County Chair (ex-officio).

B. Officer Duties:

a. **Chair:** The Chair of the County Party shall be Chair of the County Executive Committee and, with the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party within the County. The Chair shall issue the call for Precinct Meetings, County Convention, and Executive Committee Meetings, and shall preside at all the Meetings of the County Executive Committee (unless he or she sees fit to appoint a temporary meeting chair). The Chair shall appoint a Finance Committee, Auditing Committee, and any other committees deemed necessary to conduct the business of the County Executive Committee. The Chair shall further appoint a Temporary Chair of the County Convention, who may be himself. The Chair shall make periodic reports on the status of the Party within his County to the District Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of a Republican organization in every Precinct within his County. The Chair shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the County, District, or State Committees. The County Chair shall be an ex-officio Member of all Committees unless otherwise designated in this Plan.

b. **First Vice-Chair:** The First Vice Chair shall function as Chair in the absence of the Chair and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chair and the

County Executive Committee. The First Vice-Chair shall be an ex-officio Member of all Committees unless otherwise designated in this Plan.

c. **Second Vice Chair (optional):** The Second Vice Chair shall function as Chair in the absence of the Chair and First Vice Chair and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chair and the County Executive Committee.

d. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records and shall maintain a roster of all Precinct Officers and Executive Committee Members. At a minimum, these records shall contain the name and address for each Precinct Officer and Executive Committee Members. Such records shall be available upon request, including all Credentials Lists, to any registered Republican within the County. The Secretary shall furnish to the Congressional District Chair and to NCGOP Headquarters up-to-date lists of all County Executive Committee Members. The Secretary shall take attendance at all County Executive Committee meetings and notify any Executive Committee Member who is eligible to be removed due to a lack of attendance.

e. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds for Party expenditures pursuant to authority duly given by the County Executive Committee, shall make a financial report at all County Executive Committee Meetings, and shall fulfill all financial reports and obligations required under State and Federal election laws. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance and Auditing Committees and shall fully cooperate with these committees in accomplishing their work.

f. **General Counsel:** The General Counsel shall be an attorney licensed in North Carolina who shall provide general legal and parliamentary advice to the county party and be the chief election integrity officer of the county party working to identify and eliminate election fraud and to maintain trained and qualified election observers in every precinct. In the event that no qualified Republican residing in the county is willing to serve as General Counsel, the convention may select a person familiar with election procedures to chair an Election Integrity Committee to carry out the election integrity functions of the General Counsel. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in all questions regarding the State Plan of Organization, the interpretation thereof, or any issues that impact the State Party, the county general counsel shall have no authority to contradict the State General Counsel or Arbitration Committee. The General Counsel will be an ex-officio member (or Chair, if appointed) of the Plan of Organization and Rules Committee.

g. **Finance Chair:** The Finance Committee Chair shall lead the Finance Committee and have active management of fundraising efforts within the County. The Finance Committee Chair shall be responsible for planning and executing fundraising events, including the annual Lincoln Reagan Douglass Day Dinner. The Finance Chair shall cooperate with the County Treasurer in receiving funds raised and shall provide the

County Treasurer with all requests for information regarding donations within 14 days of request.

h. Immediate-Past County Chair (ex-officio): The Immediate-Past Chair of the County Party, who has completed at least one two-year term of office, shall serve in an ex-officio, advisory role to the County Chair and the County Officers Board. While the Immediate-Past Chair has no official duties or responsibilities, they can help with the transition of one administration to the next and give advice on issues that come before the Officers Board. The Immediate-Past Chair serves as a voting member of the Executive Committee, however, their role on the County Officers' Board does not include voting privileges, nor are they required to attend meetings of the Officers' Board.

C. Board Duties:

As set forth in this Plan of Organization, the Officers Board shall work together to address the affairs of the County Party and to carry out the decisions of the County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6 - COUNTY COMMITTEES

A. Finance Committee: The members of the Finance Committee and Finance Chair shall be nominated by the County Chair and the names shall be presented for the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee. The Finance Committee, once approved, shall cooperate with the Congressional District and State Finance Committees and shall have active management of fundraising efforts within the County. The Finance Committee shall consist of no less than three members, including the Finance Chair, in addition to any ex-officio members in this Plan.

B. Auditing Committee: The members of the Auditing Committee shall be nominated by the County Chair and the names shall be presented for the advice and consent of the County Executive Committee. The Auditing Committee, once approved, shall conduct a yearly review of the financial records of the County and report such review to the County Executive Committee for approval. The report may be made at the County Convention. The review to be conducted shall be of the type and nature which the Auditing Committee, in its discretion, deems appropriate. The County Treasurer will cooperate with the Auditing Committee in the completion of their work. The Auditing Committee shall consist of no less than three members, including the Auditing Committee Chair, in addition to any ex-officio members in this Plan.

C. Credentials Committee: The members of the Credentials Committee shall be appointed by the County Chair at the time of the Call to Convention. The Credentials Committee shall consist of a Credentials Chair and not less than two additional members. The Credentials Committee shall have general charge over all credentialing for the County Precinct Meetings and County Convention, in accordance with the NCGOP Plan. The Credentials Committee will also serve as tellers for any secret ballot votes taken at the convention. The Credentials Committee shall work with the County Secretary and County Treasurer as needed to produce membership and donation records.

D. Plan of Organization and Rules Committee: The members of the Plan of Organization and Rules Committee shall be appointed by the County Chair at the time of the Call to Convention. The committee shall consist of a Chair and not less than two additional members. The committee shall formulate and propose a Plan of Organization and set of convention rules for consideration by the convention, in accordance with the NCGOP Plan. The County General Counsel shall be an ex-officio member of the committee or may also be appointed by the County Chair as chair of the committee.

E. Resolutions Committee: The members of the Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the County Chair at the time of the Call to Convention. The Resolutions Committee shall consist of a Resolutions Chair and not less than two additional members. The Resolutions Committee shall consider all resolutions submitted to them for inclusion in a Resolutions Committee report to be delivered at the County Convention by the Resolutions Chair. Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee Chair prior to the start of the county convention. No resolution may be presented from the floor of the convention without first being submitted to the Resolutions Committee for consideration. Resolutions rejected by the Resolutions Committee may then be submitted from the floor. The Resolutions Committee Report given at the County Convention will contain only those resolutions recommended for adoption by the Resolutions Committee.

F. Nominating Committee: The members of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the County Chair at the time of the Call to Convention. The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Nominations Chair and not less than two additional members. The Nominating Committee shall seek out qualified candidates and propose a slate of candidates for nomination at the County Convention for all open positions at that convention. Positions for nomination by the Nominating Committee may include: County Officers, Township Chairs, At-Large County Executive Committee Members, and members of the Congressional District or NCGOP Executive Committees. The Nominations Chair shall give a report at the County Convention with the nominations of the applicable candidates for office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

G. Election Integrity Committee: The General Counsel, with the advice and consent of the County Chair, may appoint an Election Integrity Committee to assist the General Counsel in his duties. Members of the Election Integrity Committee will work at the discretion of the General Counsel.

ARTICLE 7 - BIENNIAL BUDGET

The Chair, in coordination with the Treasurer and Officers Board, shall present a biennial budget for adoption by the Executive Committee no later than June of odd-numbered years. The budget may be amended by the Executive Committee at any point should circumstances dictate. All expenditures should fall within the budget that has been approved by the County Executive Committee. The Officers Board may, by majority vote, make emergency expenditures between

Executive Committee meetings; however, such expenditures must be reported and explained to the Executive Committee at the next meeting during the report of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 8 - ENDORSEMENTS IN ELECTIONS

A. In accordance with NCGOP Plan Article IX, endorsements may be made by the Executive Committee in non-partisan elections or in partisan elections where there is no primary election. The Committee may vote to endorse some, none, or all of the Republican candidates in such an election.

B. Meetings to consider endorsements must be called in accordance with the NCGOP Plan and must not be held until after the close of the official filing period (set by the Board of Elections) for the election in which the endorsement is being considered.

C. Meetings to consider endorsements shall be conducted at the discretion of the County Chair and Officers Board. Votes will be taken by secret ballot and discussions will be held in a closed session of the Executive Committee.

D. Only candidates registered as Republicans as of at least 30 days before the beginning of the filing period will be considered for endorsement.

E. Any voter guides or similar list of candidates published by the Gaston County Republican Party must include all candidates endorsed by the NCGOP and any candidates that have won the Republican Primary for their race. A Spanish language version will be made available upon request.

ARTICLE 9 - VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Vacancy due to death, resignation, discontinuance of residency within the County, removal of any Officer or Member of the County Committee, including the County Chair, for any reason, shall be filled via election by the Executive Committee at the next regularly called meeting. Any non-officer vacancy shall be appointed by the County Chair with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Should a vacancy occur in the office of County Chair, the First Vice Chair shall serve as Acting-Chair until a new Chair is elected.

A. The procedure for removal of any Member or Officer is defined in NCGOP Plan Article IX. Such removal may be appealed to the State Central Committee within 20 days and their decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 10 - VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

A. **Attendance:** The Chair of any committee or board organized under this Plan may permit any one (1) or more members of such committee or board to participate in a meeting of such committee or board by means of a telephone or other electronic means that allows all persons participating in the meeting to simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, and such participation in a meeting shall be deemed present in person at such meeting.

B. Voting: The Chair of any committee or board organized under this Plan may permit all members of such committee or board to cast a vote in any meeting by electronic means. The permission and method of electronic means will be at the sole discretion of the committee or board chair, but the chosen method of voting must be made available to all members of the committee or board in attendance.

ARTICLE 11 - EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PLAN

This Plan of Organization shall become effective and repeal and supersede all previous Plans of Organizations of the Gaston County Republican Party, immediately upon adoption by the County Convention held in March 2024; and shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by action of the County Convention or of the County Executive Committee as provided herein.

ADDENDUMS

Addendums are preserved as a record in the Plan of Organization but can be amended at any time by the officers of the Gaston County Republican Party.

1. Century Club Protocol.
2. Republican of the Year Nomination Form.
3. Senator James S. Forrester Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form.

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMMITTEE ON THE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION 2025

Mr. Neil Moore, Chairman
Rev. Mrs. Shelton Davis
Dr. Edward Dunlap
Senator Brad Overcash, Esq.
Robert King (ex-officio)
Ron Shook, Esq. (ex-officio)