



# CONSTITUTION OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Revised and restated June 11, 2009*

## ARTICLE I

## NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee (hereinafter "County Executive Committee"). It shall be constituted as the Executive Committee of the Republican Party within St. Johns County, Florida, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Florida and the Party Rules of the Florida Republican Executive Committee (hereinafter "State Executive Committee").

## ARTICLE II

## OBJECTIVES

The general purposes of this organization as a "political party" are to achieve the following objectives and aims:

- a) Election to office of qualified persons;
- b) Determination of public issues under the accepted democratic process of the nation;
- c) Foster loyalty to the Republican Party;
- d) Promote an informed electorate through political education;
- e) Increase Republican registration;
- f) Seek qualified candidates for local, county, state and federal offices;
- g) Promote the election of all Republican candidates in the General Election;
- h) In general to uphold the principles of freedom, equality and justice on which the Republican Party and the government of this nation are founded, as set forth in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.

## ARTICLE III

## MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1

The County Executive Committee shall consist of one man and one woman, each being a registered Republican residing within each precinct. However, any precinct with more the one thousand (1000) registered voters shall have additional members in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Republican Party of Florida.

Pursuant to the State Party Constitution, the State Committeeman and State Committeewoman shall be voting members at large of the County Executive Committee for all purposes. In addition, pursuant to F.S. 103.091(6)(a)1, the County Executive Committee shall include all members of the State Legislature who are residents of the county and members of the Republican Party and who shall be known as at-large committeemen and committeewomen. Each member of the County Executive Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

## Section 2 – DISTRICT UNITS

In Counties divided into 40 or more continuous precincts, the State Executive Committee may adopt a district unit of representation for such County Executive Committees. Upon adoption of a district unit representation, the State Executive Committee shall request the Supervisor of Elections of the county, with approval of the Board of Commissioners, to provide for an appropriate number of election districts as nearly equal in number of registered voters as possible. When the district unit of representation has been adopted, district representatives shall be elected in the same manner as Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman, and shall serve in place of precinct men and women.

## Section 3 – VACANCIES

In the event no county committeeman or committeewoman is elected or a vacancy occurs for any other cause in the County Executive Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at a regular or special meeting of the County Executive Committee at which due notice of the meeting has been given to all members at which a quorum is present. Such vacancy shall be filled by a qualified member of the political party residing in the district where the vacancy occurred and for the unexpired portion of the term and shall not be deemed a member until the name has been duly recorded with the Supervisor of Elections by the Secretary of the County Executive Committee or his designee and the candidate oath has been filed as required under Article III Section 5 below.

## Section 4

In the event of no election of a county committeeman or committeewoman, or where such vacancy is not filled by the County Executive Committee as herein provided, the Chairman of the State Executive Committee of the party may fill such vacancy by appointment, after giving sixty (60) days notice of intention to do so to the County Chairman by registered mail.

## Section 5

The Chairman of the County Executive Committee or his/her designate shall file with the State Executive Committee and the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections the names and addresses of the officers and members within thirty (30) days of their elections. A County Executive Committee member shall not be deemed a member until the candidate oath (F.S. 99.021) has been signed and filed with the Supervisor of Elections and the Republican Party Loyalty Oath (pursuant to Rule 9) has been filed with the Chairman of the County Executive Committee who shall cause the oath to be forwarded to the Republican Party of Florida within thirty (30) days. After the organizational meeting required under Article IV of this Model Constitution, the list maintained by the State Executive Committee shall constitute the official roster of the County Executive Committee.

## Section 6

Members of all political party committees, and the National Committeeman and Committeewoman, shall before taking office, establish by written oath or affirmation that during their term of office they will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate other than the Republican candidate in a partisan unitary, general or special election, or a registered Republican in non-partisan elections, other than Judicial races governed under Florida Statute 105, if there is a registered Republican running for the same office.

Members elected by the County Executive Committee shall file their oaths with the Chairman of the County Executive Committee, and the County Chairman, or his or her designee, shall forward the signed oaths to the State Chairman as required under Section 5 above. The oath or affirmation may be witnessed rather than notarized.

### Section 7

There may be as many alternate county committee members as there are duly elected members in each precinct. An alternate member shall have no vote, except in the absence of the member he/she duly represents. Each alternate member shall possess the qualifications required of the member represented and shall be elected by the County Executive Committee. Alternate county committee members are not eligible to serve as elected officers on the County Executive Board, unless this rule is waived by the State Executive Board.

### Section 8 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

The County Executive Committee shall establish an Executive Board, whose membership shall include, but not be limited to, the elected officers of the County Executive Committee, the State Committeeman and the State Committeewoman. The County Chairman may appoint a General Counsel to serve as a nonvoting member of the County Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the County Executive Committee between its meetings, make recommendations to the County Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as may be specified by RROF Rules of Procedure. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the County Executive Committee, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the County Executive Committee.

Meetings of the Executive Board shall be called by the Chairman. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairman or upon the written request by a majority of the members of the Board.

### Section 9

A member of the County Executive Committee shall be considered in “good standing” after he or she completes all of the following:

- a) He or she has attended three consecutive meetings as a guest of a member in good standing and fulfilled the obligations described in Section 3 of this article; or he or she

has been elected through the process described in Section 1 of this article; or they have been appointed as described in Section 4 of this article.

- b) They have signed the loyalty oath and it has been submitted to the Supervisor of Elections
- c) They have complied with all other requirements for membership and conduct as described in the governing document of the County Executive Committee and the State Executive Committee.

A member is not considered to be in good standing until he or she has completed one meeting of the County Executive Committee after his or her election. This may include the meeting at which the election took place. A member in good standing may not invite guests until they have been a member in good standing for at least three consecutive meetings. Guests may only be registered Republicans residing within St. Johns County, and they must be submitted for approval to the REC Chairman at least twenty-four hours before the meeting. In no way shall this constitute a member's automatic right to bring guests. County Executive Committee meetings shall be considered closed to the public unless otherwise designated by the REC Board.

#### ARTICLE IV

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Section 1

The outgoing Chairman of the County Executive Committee, within thirty (30) days after the members of the County Executive Committee take office(December 1,) shall call an organizational meeting for the purpose of electing officers. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing Chairman to open the meeting, and the first order of business shall be the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen as set forth in the rules and By-Laws as promulgated by the State Executive Committee. Thereafter, the new Chairman shall preside, and the agenda shall include the election of a Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large, the filling of any vacancies on the committee, and any other business which may appropriately come before the committee.

The above officers shall be elected from the primary members of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee and shall be elected for a term of two years. At the conclusion of each two year term officers shall be elected in the same manner as is required at the organizational meeting. Officer elections held at the organizational meetings are final and are not subject to recall.

##### Section 2

The Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall appoint, with the approval of the County Executive Committee, such standing sub-committees and their chairmen, and such other officers as may be required in the administration of the business of the County Executive Committee, as long as the functions of said standing sub-committees and other officers do not violate any of the provisions of this Constitution or the Executive Committee By-Laws or applicable Florida Law. The Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall be considered

an ex officio member of all standing subcommittees so appointed. Other ad hoc committees and their chairmen may be appointed by the Chairman without approval of the Executive Committee.

### Section 3

The election of officers and filling of vacancies shall be by ballot. In the event there is but one nomination for any officer or office, the ballot may be dispensed with by unanimous vote of the membership eligible to vote and present. All nominations shall be from the floor. No ballot shall be preprinted with the name of any candidate.

### Section 4

The presiding officer at all meetings of the County Executive Committee shall be the Chairman of the County Executive Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, the First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, or Member-at-Large, in that order, shall preside. If none of the said officers are present, the membership, by a majority vote, shall name the presiding officer.

### Section 5

In the event the Chairman of the County Executive Committee is unable to continue his/her duties, the First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, or Member-at-Large, in that order, shall temporarily assume the duties of the Chairman. The Acting Chairman must within sixty (60) days hold an election for the purpose of filling the vacancy. All vacancies shall be filled by the majority vote of a quorum present at the duly called meeting of the County Executive Committee.

### Section 6

A person may hold only one position as Chairman of the County Executive Committee or State Committeeman or State Committeewoman, except in counties with less than 750 registered Republicans, unless this rule is waived by the State Executive Board.

### Section 7

Candidates for State Committeeman and State Committeewoman must be a member in good standing of the County Executive Committee at the time of qualifying.

## ARTICLE V

## REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

### Section 1

Any member or officer of the County Executive Committee may be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the committee present at any regular or special

meeting after ten (10) days notice to the membership of the committee that a motion for the purpose of removal of a member or officer will be considered at said meeting, provided that such two-thirds (2/3) vote constitutes at least a majority of the full committee. The removal may be for any cause, including, but not limited to, an alleged violation of oath of office.

### Section 2

The member or officer cited with removal charges shall be served, by certified mail at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting at which the removal action is to be heard, with a complaint which shall set forth in particular the reasons for the removal charge.

### Section 3

Every office of the County Executive Committee shall be deemed vacant in the following cases:

- a) by the death of the incumbent
- b) by the resignation of the incumbent
- c) by the removal of the incumbent as set forth in Article V Section 1 & 2
- d) by the ceasing of the incumbent to be an inhabitant of the county, district or precinct for which he/she had been elected or appointed.
- e) by his/her refusal to accept the office
- f) by the conviction of the incumbent of any felony
- g) by his/her failure to attend, without good and sufficient reason, three (3) consecutive or special meetings of the County Executive Committee.

### Section 4 – Removal for Non-Attendance at Executive Committee Meetings

- a) A County Executive Committee member who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings without a valid excused absence shall be removed from the committee as of the date of the third consecutive missed meeting.
- b) Prior to missing such third consecutive meeting, any member may request, in writing, that an absence be excused indicating the reason for such absence. Excused absences may be granted by the membership of the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at which a quorum is present. Once granted the excused absence, that committee member shall be treated as present only for the purpose of meeting attendance requirements. Authorization to grant such excused absences may not be delegated by the Executive Committee, except upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting at a regularly called meeting thereof, provided always that such delegation of authority may be rescinded at any time upon the majority vote of the County Executive Committee or by the action of the Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida.

## ARTICLE VI

## QUORUM

### Section 1

Forty percent of the eligible voting members of the County Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. At no time shall less than 40 percent of the eligible voting members constitute a quorum.

### Section 2 - Use of Proxies

There shall be no use of proxies at County Executive Committee meetings.

## ARTICLE VII      POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) To adopt a constitution by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full committee. If a County Executive Committee fails to adopt and file with the Republican Party of Florida a County Constitution that is not in conflict with (a) Florida Statutes, or (b) the Constitution of the Republican Party of Florida (RPOF), or (c) RPOF Rules of Procedure or (d) the RPOF County Model Constitution, the County Model Constitution shall prevail.
- b) To adopt such By-Laws as it may deem necessary by majority vote of the full committee. Such By-Laws may not be in conflict with Florida Statutes, the RPOF Constitution, the RPOF Rules of Procedure, or the RPOF Model County Constitution.
- c) To conduct regularly scheduled meetings as required under this Constitution. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, First Vice Chairman or upon petition of 20% of the membership of the Executive Committee, provided there is written notice of ten (10) days given to all members of the Executive Committee and the subject of the special meeting is announced in the notice. Any petition to call a special meeting must identify the date and subject of the proposed special meeting, and the subject of the proposed special meeting must be within the authority of the Executive Committee. A copy of the signed petition shall be submitted to all members of the County Executive Committee in conjunction with the notice for the meeting. A quorum for such meeting is required.
- d) To make party nominations when required by law.
- e) To conduct campaigns for the party nominees and/or for County Executive Committee endorsed candidates.
- f) To raise and expend party funds for the maintenance and administration of the party organization and to do anything that is considered by custom and practice as proper for party committees, except as expressly prohibited; provided, however, that no funds may be spent by a committee except for bona fide services or material rendered to and received by the committee for the advancement of the party organization and/or its endorsed candidates.
- g) To approve the necessary subcommittees.
- h) The Chairman and Treasurer of the County Executive Committee shall be accountable for the funds of such committee and jointly liable for their proper expenditure of authorized purposes only. All financial transactions shall require two authorized

signatures. They shall furnish adequate bond, but not less than Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars, conditioned in effect upon the faithful performance by such party officer of this duty and for this faithful accounting for party funds. Bonds for Chairman and Treasurer of the County Executive Committee shall be filed with the county Supervisor of Elections. The Treasurer of the County Executive Committee shall maintain adequate records evidencing receipt and disbursement of all party funds received by him, and such records shall be publicly audited at the end of each calendar year. A copy of such audit shall be filed with the Supervisor of Elections and the State Executive Committee prior to April 1st. of each year.

- i) The Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall, within thirty (30) days following each regular or special meeting of the committee, furnish the State Executive Committee a copy of the minutes of such meeting, along with a report showing the record, by name of attendance of the meeting and any action taken by the committee to excuse the absences of its membership.
- j) The Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall furnish the State Executive Committee, within thirty (30) days of filing, a copy of the coversheet report of contributions and expenditures required by F.S. 106.29.
- k) Each County Executive Committee shall annually appoint an Audit Committee from among its members which committee shall perform an audit of the financial affairs of such County Executive Committee and cause the same to be made public.

## ARTICLE VIII

## NOTICE

Notice may be given via e-mail where a member has indicated to the Chairman and/or Secretary that they would prefer to receive notice by this means. Once a member has made such an indication it is good until such time as the member indicates otherwise. To the extent such notice applies to a special meeting all required documentation pursuant to Article VII shall be attached to the e-mail notification.

## ARTICLE IX

## AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible voting members of the full committee. The proposed amendments shall be submitted to the SJCREC Chairman, who shall refer them to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review all proposed amendments for form, clarity and content and is authorized to consider the proposed amendment based on its plain language, understandability and content. The Rules Committee must assure their compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the SJCREC and RPOF and determine if they are in compliance with all applicable laws. The Rules Committee shall determine if the proposed amendment is referred back to the REC Board. If referred back to the Board, they shall be placed on the agenda by a majority vote of the REC Board.

## ARTICLE X

## PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The latest revision of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall constitute the authority governing the Rules of Procedure at all meetings of the County Executive Committee, except

as otherwise limited by the laws of the State of Florida, the Party Rules of the Florida Republican State Executive Committee, the Constitution of the Republican Party of Florida and this Constitution and the By-Laws adopted by this organization.

ARTICLE XI

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of Procedure as to the establishment of a Board of Directors, the number of meetings of the County Executive Committee, no less than six (6) each year including one (1) each quarter, and any other activities of the County Executive Committee not in conflict with the Party Rules of the Florida Republican State Executive Committee, this Constitution, adopted By-Laws, and applicable Florida Statutes, shall be adopted by a majority vote of the entire membership of the County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII

PARTY AUTHORITY

Final authority in all Republican Party matters and in the organization and/or government of the Republican Party not specifically otherwise delegated by Florida Statutes shall vest in the Florida Republican State Executive Committee, but may be delegated by the State Executive Committee to the County Executive Committee in such manner and to such boards or committees as it shall from time to time determine by State Party Rule.

ARTICLE XIII

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any part of this Constitution is found to be in conflict with the Constitution, bylaws or any other governing documents of the Republican Party of Florida; or the Constitution of the United States, or the Constitution and state statute of the State of Florida, it shall not affect any other part of this Constitution and is declared severable.

This Constitution of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee was duly adopted by the membership of said committee, last revisions on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 2009

(Signatures on file)