

CONSTITUTION

The Members of the Somerset County Republican Committee, in the State of New Jersey, pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the New Jersey Legislature, entitled, "An Act to Regulate Elections" (Revision of 1930) approved April 18, 1930, and the several supplements and amendments thereto, do here-by adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws for their proper government.

ARTICLE I Name and Objective

Section 1. **The Somerset County Republican Committee, heretofore known as the Somerset County Republican Executive Committee, shall henceforth be known as the Somerset County Republican Organization.**

Section 2. The **purpose** of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall be to direct the affairs and further the interests of the Republican Party.

ARTICLE II Membership and Vacancies

Section 1. The **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall consist of one male and one female, from each **election district** in the County, to be elected in accordance with the **New Jersey Statutes Annotated** governing elections of County Committees.

The State Committeeman and the State Committeewoman shall be members.

Section 2. **Duly elected members of the Somerset County Republican Organization in each municipality shall collectively constitute the Republican Municipal Committee of such municipality.**

Section 3. Vacancies caused by death, resignation, failure to elect or otherwise, shall be filled as provided by Statute.

Section 4. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of County Chairman, for any cause, it shall be the duty of the 1st Vice-Chairman to call a special meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** to fill such vacancy for the balance of the term. This call for the special meeting is to be issued and the meeting held within thirty (30) days after such vacancy occurs.

If for any cause, the 1st Vice-Chairman fails to call and hold said special meeting, then the 2nd Vice-Chairman shall issue the call within fifteen (15) days thereafter.

Section 5. **The term for each officer and member of the Somerset County Republican Organization shall be two years, or until each of their successors is elected.**

ARTICLE III
Annual Meeting and Election

Section 1. The annual meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall be held as provided by law at an hour and place to be designated in a notice, in writing, to be mailed by the Chairman to each member.

Section 2. **Municipal Chairman** shall present the credentials **of their Municipal Committee** to the **County** Chairman, and these being accepted and filed, to **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall proceed to organize and elect officers. The County Clerk's certified copy of the **list of** Committee Men and Women shall be accepted in place of credentials.

ARTICLE IV
Officers, Duties, Committees

Section 1. The officers of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall consist of a Chairman who need not be a member of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**, **1st Vice-Chairman who shall be of the opposite gender of the County Chairman**, **2nd Vice-Chairman**, Secretary, Treasurer, **Finance Chairman and Executive Director**. **The officers as a group shall be known as The Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee shall not be local, county, State or federal elected government officials. This provision shall not apply to current members of the Executive Committee as of the effective date of the amended Constitution. The Finance Chairman and Executive Director shall be appointments of the County Chairman. The duties of each officer shall be those usually performed by the holders of similar offices. The Secretary shall make a report of the proceedings of each meeting and the Treasurer shall present a financial report.**

Section 2. The County Chairman shall have power to appoint any and all committees, and shall be ex-officio member of all such committees.

Section 3. The following committee shall be appointed annually **at the reorganization of the County Committee** by the County Chairman.

Finance – The Finance Committee, shall consist of one or more suitable persons, who need not be members of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**.

Section 4. The Somerset County Republican Organization Chairman may from time to time appoint for legal consultation a counsel to the organization. This shall be a non-voting position.

ARTICLE V
Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** by the vote of the majority of the whole of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**, provided that the amendment shall have been presented at a meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** and a written notice of such proposed amendment shall have **first** been sent to each member by the Secretary, **at least fourteen (14) days prior** to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to voted upon.

Section 2. Whenever any law shall be enacted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey which law in any way conflicts with any provisions in this Constitution, this Constitution shall be considered amended and/or supplemented by such Legislation without any further act on the part of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**.

Section 3. In the event any Republican Municipal Committee does not have a constitution and by-laws, the Somerset County Republican Organization Constitution and By-Laws shall apply.

**SOMERSET COUNTY REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION
BY-LAWS**

Rule 1. All meetings of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**, other than those provided for by law, shall be held from time to time as determined by the **Somerset County Republican Organization** or at the call of the Chairman. **Fifteen (15) percent of the authorized membership** may request the Chairman to call a special meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization**, and in default of the Chairman calling such meeting, may by fourteen days notice to each member of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** call a meeting thereof. When a special meeting is called and notice given to members as prescribed herein, the reasons of the special meeting shall be specifically stated in such notice.

Rule 2. **Twenty (20) percent of the current membership** shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Rule 3. The order of business at every regular meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** shall be as follows:

1. Chairman call meeting to order
2. Roll call of members
3. Reading of the minutes of previous meeting
4. Reports of Committees
5. Communications
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

Rule 4. The County of Somerset is divided into 21 **Municipalities**. Each **municipality is further divided into election district(s) according to the number of registered voters.**

Sub-Section A. On the **Monday following** the Regular Primary Election, the duly elected Republican Committeemen and Committeewomen of each municipality shall meet for the purpose of organizing and electing a Municipal Chairman. The **Municipal Chairman** shall be elected by a majority vote of the members **present** of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** from said **municipality.**

Sub-Section B. **Within twenty-one (21) days after a vacancy occurs in the position of Municipal Chairman, the duly elected Republican Committeemen and Committeewomen of such** municipality shall meet for the purpose of filling such vacancy.

Sub-Section C. **The Municipal Chairmen** shall be members of the **Municipal Chairmen's Association** as set forth in Rule 5 of these by-laws. It will be the duty of the **Municipal Chairmen** to represent their respective **municipalities** at all conferences or meeting that the **Municipal Chairmen** may be called to by the County Chairman; to advise the County Chairman **and Executive Committee**; to keep the County Chairman **and Executive Committee** informed on the conditions in their **municipalities**; **and** to consider all matters, questions and problems that may from time to time be referred to them by the County Chairman.

Sub-Section D. It shall be the duty of each **Municipal Chairman** to hold meetings with the Committee **members** in **their municipality** at least **four (4)** times each year to ascertain their views, opinions and recommendations on such matters, questions or problems that may be referred to the **Municipal Chairman** by the County Chairman; **and** to plan and work throughout the entire year for the success and betterment of the Republican Party. **In order to be eligible to vote in the Somerset County Republican Organization candidate screening process, each committee member shall attend at least one-half (50%) of the required meeting held by the local municipal chairman pursuant to this Section.**

Sub-Section E. In case of any dispute arising between members of the County Committee in any **Municipality** which cannot be settled by said membership, such dispute shall be referred to the **Chairman** of the Somerset County Republican **Organization**. In the event that after three (3) weeks from the Regular Primary Election, **or after three (3) weeks from the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of Municipal Chairman**, any **Municipality** fails to elect a **Municipal Chairman** to represent said **Municipality**, the **Chairman** of the Somerset County Republican **Organization** shall designate a member from said **Municipality** to serve as the **Municipal Chairman**.

Rule 5. There shall be a **Municipal Chairmen's Association** of 21 members. This **Association** shall be composed of **the** Twenty-one (21) **Municipal Chairmen**.

Sub-Section A. The **Municipal Chairmen's Association** shall advise the **Somerset County Republican Organization Chairman** on such matters, problems or question as **may be submitted for consideration either by the Somerset County Republican Organization Chairman or by the Municipal Chairmen's Association.**

Rule 6. All bills against the Somerset County **Republican Organization**, shall be paid by check, signed by the **Chairman** and countersigned by the **Treasurer**.

Rule 7. When members of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** desire to speak at any meeting of the **Organization**, he or she shall, after addressing the Chair, give his or her name and the **Election** District and Municipality represented.

Rule 8. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** by the vote of the majority of the whole of the **Somerset County Republican**

Organization, provided however that the amendment shall have first been presented at a meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** and a written notice of such proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member by the Secretary, **at least fourteen (14) days prior** to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon.

Rule 9. **In the event any vacancies have not been filled in any of the election districts of the 21 Municipalities within sixty (60) days of such vacancies, the Somerset County Republican Organization Chairman may recommend individuals to the Municipal Organization. These recommendations shall be acted upon within sixty (60) days.**

Rule 10. The **Somerset County Republican Organization** supports an open nominating process. Once a year the Chairman shall call for a screening meeting of the **Somerset County Republican Organization** for the purpose of considering candidates for endorsement by the Somerset County Republican Organization. Those individuals eligible to vote shall include all duly elected Somerset County Republican Organization Members, the Somerset County Republican Organization Executive Committee, and all current and former Republican officials holding elective office as listed below:

- Governor
- U.S. Senators
- U.S. Representatives
- N.J. State Senators
- N. J. State Assemblypersons
- Somerset County Freeholders
- Somerset County Constitutional Officers
- Somerset County Republican State Committee Members
- Somerset County Republican Executive Committee

All individuals shall have one vote and must be currently domiciled in Somerset County, and must have been domiciled in Somerset County when holding elective office.