

# **Kitsap County Republican Party Bylaws<sup>A</sup>**

Adopted 12/12/2020

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this private, political organization is the Kitsap County Republican Party (KCRP).

## **Article II – Purpose**

The purpose of KCRP is to promote and elect to public office individuals identified as Republicans.

## **Article III – Membership**

Members are individuals, who support KCRP in order to work with others sharing similar values, goals, and philosophies as embodied in the KCRP Platform, and to elect public officials and promote public policies reflecting those values, goals, and philosophies.

## **Article IV – Precinct Committee Officers**

Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are elected or appointed in accordance with RCW 29A.80.031 through RCW 29A.080.051<sup>B</sup>, provided that appointed PCOs must be confirmed by the Executive Board.

## **Article V – Central Committee**

### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION**

The Central Committee shall be composed of elected and appointed Kitsap County Republican PCOs and members of the Executive Board elected by the Central Committee, provided that at its Organization Meeting the Central Committee shall be composed of only elected PCOs.

### **SECTION 2. MEETINGS**

- a. **Organization Meeting:** The biennial Organization Meeting of the Central Committee shall convene in accordance with RCW 29A.80.030<sup>C</sup> for the purpose of adopting KCRP Bylaws, electing KCRP Officers, and other business that may arise. Per Article IX, Section 2(b) of these Bylaws, a Special Committee shall convene for the purpose of planning the Organization Meeting. Thirty days' notice shall be given of the meeting. Proposed rules, agenda, and bylaws by the temporary committees established under Article IX, Section 2(b) shall be sent out at least seven days before the meeting. The PCOs present shall constitute a quorum.
- b. **Regular Meetings:** Regular meetings shall be held at least semi-annually, called by the KCRP Chair or the Executive Board. Two weeks' notice shall be given of the meeting, together with a proposed agenda. 25% of current PCOs in Good Standing shall constitute a quorum.
- c. **Special Meetings:** Special meetings may be called by the KCRP Chair, Executive Board or at the request of twenty members. Two weeks' notice shall be given of the meeting and the business to be conducted. 25% of current PCOs in Good Standing shall constitute a quorum.

### **SECTION 3. POWERS**

The Central Committee shall be the governing authority of the KCRP.

## **Article VI – KCRP Officers**

### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION**

KCRP Officers shall be KCRP Chair, KCRP Vice Chair, State Committeeman, State Committeewoman, KCRP Secretary, and KCRP Treasurer. They shall be elected by the Central Committee to serve until the convening of the next Organization Meeting or until their successors are elected. The KCRP Chair and KCRP Vice Chair must be of opposite sexes (RCW 29A.80.030 <sup>C</sup>).

### **SECTION 2. DUTIES**

- a. **KCRP Chair:** The KCRP Chair is the chief executive officer of the KCRP and the official voice for the Executive Board and the Central Committee. The KCRP Chair shall not obligate the KCRP to any debt or obligation beyond the next Organization Meeting unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.
- b. **KCRP Vice Chair:** The KCRP Vice Chair serves in the absence or inability of the KCRP Chair and acts as a liaison between like-minded groups and the Executive Board.
- c. **KCRP State Committeeman:** The State Committeeman serves on the Washington State Republican Party (WSRP) Committee with powers and duties pertaining to that office.
- d. **KCRP State Committeewoman:** The State Committeewoman serves on the WSRP Committee with powers and duties pertaining to that office.
- e. **KCRP Secretary:** The KCRP Secretary shall serve as secretary to the Central Committee and Executive Board and shall maintain a current list of PCOs with contact information, dates of election, appointments, and resignations, and such list shall be made available to any PCO upon request.
- f. **KCRP Treasurer:** The KCRP Treasurer shall be the custodian of all KCRP funds; maintain an accurate record of all receipts and shall disburse funds on the order of the KCRP Chair in accordance with the budget approved by the Executive Board; prepare and file all financial reports in compliance with the Public Disclosure Commission; and report to the Executive Board at regular meetings.
- g. In addition, all KCRP Officers shall have those duties and powers relating to their specific office and as prescribed by law, these bylaws, the WSRP, the adopted parliamentary authority, and the Standing Rules and Policies of KCRP.

### **SECTION 3. VACANCIES**

Vacancies among the KCRP Officers shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next meeting of the Central Committee. The KCRP Vice Chair will not automatically become the KCRP Chair for the unexpired term should a vacancy occur in the office of KCRP Chair.

## **Article VII – Executive Board**

### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION**

The Executive Board, all of whom must be registered voters in Kitsap County, shall be composed of two classes of members:

- a. KCRP Officers.
- b. Five School District Representatives, one each from Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap, and South Kitsap School Districts elected by the members of the Central Committee. Candidates for School District Director and PCOs voting for them must reside in a precinct within

the respective school district or, for precincts not within one of the above school districts, for the adjacent school district. They serve until the convening of the next Organization Meeting or until their successors are elected.

If a member chooses to become a candidate they must recuse themselves from all decisions and votes affecting their campaign and party spending as related to campaign contributions.

## SECTION 2. POWERS

The Executive Board shall govern the KCRP between meetings of the Central Committee. It shall advise and assist the KCRP Chair in carrying on political campaigns, and in doing all things proper and necessary to promote the welfare and success of the Republican Party.

## SECTION 3. MEETINGS

- a. Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held monthly as fixed by the Executive Board. A regular meeting may be cancelled by a majority of the Executive Board and rescheduled with two days' notice to the remaining members of the Executive Board and PCOs.
- b. Special meetings may be called by the KCRP Chair or at the request of a majority of the Executive Board, with five days' notice of the meeting and the business to be conducted.
- c. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
- d. The Executive Board may invite various committee chairmen or others to attend its meetings and to speak with the permission of the Executive Board.
- e. Unless the Executive Board is in executive session, any member of the Central Committee may attend and observe meetings of the Executive Board. Minutes of the Executive Board meetings and advance notices of its meetings shall be made available to all members of the Central Committee upon request.
- f. Meetings of the Executive Board may supplement required and called Central Committee meetings only upon failure of the Central Committee to achieve a quorum.

## **Article VIII – Legislative Districts**

### SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

- a. Legislative District Chairs shall be elected in accordance with RCW 29A.080.61D.
- b. In addition to the Chair, Legislative Districts wholly within Kitsap County shall consist of a Treasurer, Secretary, and four additional members. They will be elected by the PCOs within that Legislative District at the Organization Meeting of the KCRP Central Committee to serve until the election of a new Legislative District at the next Organization Meeting. The Executive Board may by a two-thirds vote declare any position vacant except Chair. Any vacancies shall be elected by the PCOs within that Legislative District during a special meeting of the Central Committee called within 60 days of the vacancy.
- c. If a member chooses to become a candidate they must recuse themselves from all decisions and votes affecting their campaign and party spending as related to campaign contributions.

### SECTION 2. MULTI-COUNTY DISTRICTS

- a. Legislative Districts located in more than one county shall be governed in accordance with the Bylaws of the WSRP<sup>E</sup>.

- b. The three Kitsap County members of a multi-county district shall be elected at the Organization Meeting of the KCRP Central Committee by the PCOs in that District to serve until their successors are elected at the next Organization Meeting. The Executive Board may by a two-thirds vote declare a position vacant. Any vacancies shall be filled by the PCOs within that Legislative District during a special meeting of the Central Committee called within 60 days of the vacancy.
- c. If a member chooses to become a candidate they must recuse themselves from all decisions and votes affecting their campaign and party spending as related to campaign contributions.

### SECTION 3. RELATION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Legislative District Committee members shall be non-voting ex officio members of the Central Committee.

## Article IX – Committees

### SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. The **Convention and Caucus Committee** shall plan and organize all operations of the County Convention and biennial Precinct Caucuses on behalf of the KCRP.
- b. The **Candidate Recruiting Committee** shall plan and organize the recruitment of candidates supporting the values, goals, and philosophies as embodied in the KCRP Platform. The goal of the committee shall be to recruit quality candidates identified as Republicans for every elected position within Kitsap County.
- c. The **Candidate Committee** shall plan and organize candidate vetting and research on behalf of the KCRP, utilizing the values, goals, and philosophies as embodied in the KCRP Platform as the basis for its recommendations.
- d. The **Policy Issues Committee** shall plan and organize issue analysis on behalf of the KCRP.
- e. The **Finance Committee** shall raise funds as required by the Central Committee to fulfill its purpose, provide financial records to the KCRP Treasurer, and direct fundraising events and membership drives.
  - 1. The Lincoln Day Dinner Subcommittee shall plan the annual Lincoln Day Dinner.
- f. The **Audit Committee**, appointed by the Executive Board, shall conduct an annual financial review of the KCRP Treasurer’s records to be completed by March 31 of each year.
- g. The **Operations Committee** shall plan and organize all operations of PCO recruitment and development, volunteer recruitment and development, and events on behalf of the KCRP.
- h. The **Budget Committee** of three, consisting of a chair, the KCRP Chair, and the KCRP Treasurer, shall prepare an annual budget to be approved by the Executive Board.
- i. The **Information Technology Committee** shall review and implement all policies relating to new technologies, and plan and organize electronic media.
- j. Other standing committees may be established by the Central Committee with such composition and duties as deemed appropriate.

### SECTION 2. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Special Committees may be established by the Central Committee or the Executive Board with such composition and duties as deemed appropriate.

b. Organization Meeting Planning

1. The KCRP Chair will arrange for the newly elected PCOs to convene in the month of September immediately before the Organization Meeting of the Central Committee to elect a temporary chair and establish any temporary committees to prepare for the Organization Meeting. Only those PCOs who shall have standing at the Organization Meeting shall have voting privileges at this meeting.
2. The temporary chair may be any member of the KCRP and is an ex officio member of all organization meeting temporary committees.
3. The temporary chair shall appoint chairs to committees not elected at the September meeting or that become vacant due to removal or resignation.
4. All members of the KCRP shall be allowed to participate in both the September meeting and as members in any temporary committee established therein.
5. A permanent chair for the Organization Meeting will be elected at the Organization Meeting. The temporary chair and temporary committees serve only until the completion of their duties at the Organization Meeting.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION

Unless otherwise provided for in these bylaws or in the creation of a committee:

- a. The KCRP Chair appoints all committees.
- b. Appointments of committee chairs are confirmed by the Executive Board.
- c. The KCRP Chair is an ex officio member of all committees except the Audit Committee and any Ethics Committee.
- d. A person who is not a registered voter residing in Kitsap County may not serve on a committee without the consent of the Executive Board.
- e. No committee or subcommittee may have co-chairs.

**Article X – Filling Elected Office Vacancies<sup>F</sup>**

To fill vacancies in legislative and county partisan offices entirely within Kitsap County:

- a. Within sixty days of the vacancy, the KCRP Chair or designee shall convene a special meeting of the PCOs from precincts electing the vacated office, provided that only elected PCOs, or PCOs appointed sixty days prior to the meeting, shall participate.
- b. Those PCOs convened shall select a permanent chair for their meeting and proceed to select three nominees to fill the vacancy coming from within the precincts represented by the vacant office, the names of which shall be forwarded to the Kitsap County Commissioners.
- c. No business unrelated to the selection of the nominees may be conducted at the special meeting.
- d. This action shall constitute the action of the Central Committee.

**Article XI – County Convention**

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

The County Convention shall be convened in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of the WSRP.

## SECTION 2. CAUCUSES

The KCRP Chair shall instruct the PCOs to call a caucus in each precinct. The Executive Board will determine if pooled caucuses will be held with more than one caucus convening in the same location. Delegates to the KCRP Convention will be elected at the Precinct Caucus.

## SECTION 3. CONVENTION

The County Convention will be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Board. Prior to the County Convention the KCRP Chair will appoint a Credentials Committee, a Rules Committee and a Platform and Resolutions Committee. The KCRP Chair will be the temporary chair of the convention and call it to order.

## SECTION 4. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless amended by a two-third vote at the County Convention, the order of business for the County Convention shall be:

- a. Adoption of the Credential Committee report.
- b. Election of a permanent chair and secretary for the County Convention.
- c. Adoption of the Rules.
- d. Adoption of the Agenda.
- e. Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention.
- f. Adoption of a Platform.
- g. Adoption of Resolutions.
- h. Other business that may arise.

### **Article XII – Electronic Meetings**

The Central Committee, Executive Board, and all committees may meet by any electronic technology that allows all participating members to hear each other at the same time.

### **Article XIII – Principles and Discipline**

#### SECTION 1. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF REPUBLICAN CONDUCT

Participants in the activities of the Kitsap County Republican Central Committee acknowledge and adhere to the following principles of conduct:

- a. The Republican Party Encourages Free Discussion and Debate.
- b. The Republican Party is a Party Open to All.
- c. As Republicans We Conduct Ourselves with Mutual Respect in All Our Interactions, Communications, and Representations.
- d. Participants Accept the Duty to Facilitate Orderly Conduct of Meetings.
- e. Republicans Do Not Engage in Abusive Confrontations of Any Kind.

#### SECTION 2. DENIAL OF GOOD STANDING

- a. The Kitsap County Republican Party is a private organization and as such, has the right to exclude persons who have committed egregious, flagrant, and continued violations of the above

Fundamental Principles of Republican Conduct including those who display an open and public hostility to KCRP.

- b. The Executive Board shall consider a Complaint to deny Good Standing Status when signed by at least ten PCOs and submitted to the KCRP Chair.
- c. For the individual who is the subject of the Complaint, the KCRP Chair shall:
  - 1. Notify the individual within seven days of the submission of the Complaint that a complaint has been submitted against them.
  - 2. Invite the individual to submit a written response to the Executive Board.
  - 3. Give the individual seven days' notice of the Executive Board Meeting at which the Complaint will be considered.
  - 4. Allow the individual to speak to the Executive Board at that meeting prior to the vote on the Complaint. Notice of this intent shall be given to the KCRP Chair at least three days prior to the meeting at which the Complaint will be considered.
  - 5. If the individual chooses to speak before the Executive Board, the PCOs submitting the Complaint must also be present. Failure of at least five of the PCOs signing the Complaint to appear shall cause an immediate dismissal of the Complaint by the Executive Board.
  - 6. The KCRP Chair may make only one postponement in the consideration of the Complaint for scheduling considerations to allow all parties to attend, so long as it does not exceed the time constraints of Section 2(e) of this Article.
- d. By a two-thirds vote in executive session of the Executive Board Members who have not signed the Complaint, the individual shall be denied Good Standing Status which shall exclude the individual from all meetings, conventions, and other activities of the KCRP, except those activities which are explicitly allowed under Washington State Law<sup>C</sup>.
- e. The complaint process must be concluded within sixty-five days of the submission of the Complaint.
- f. PCOs who have been Denied Good Standing shall not be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum at any Central Committee Meeting.

### SECTION 3. CENSURE OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- a. Any member of the Executive Board who publicly supports a current candidate of another political party for any partisan public office without approval by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board shall be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board and banned from participating in KCRP as a member of the Executive Board until the next Organization Meeting.
- b. Any Executive Board member who misses three regularly-called, monthly Executive Board Meetings within the most recent twelve-month period shall be automatically removed from office unless the Executive Board votes in executive session to retain that member.
- c. Any Executive Board member who 1) represents their views as being those of the KCRP when not authorized, 2) commits the Executive Board or Central Committee to a course of action or financial expenditure when not authorized, 3) engages in inappropriate conduct, or 4) fails to perform the duties of their office, may be censured or removed from office as follows:
  - 1. A signed, written complaint with a non-refundable fee of \$100 must be filed with the KCRP Secretary.

2. The KCRP Secretary shall notify the member within seven days and request rebuttal documentation to be submitted within fourteen days which will be forwarded, with the original complaint, to the Executive Board upon receipt.
  3. The KCRP Secretary will provide the Executive Board seven days' notice of the Executive Board meeting at which it will hear and consider the complaint.
  4. The Executive Board may, by a two-thirds vote in executive session, censure or remove the member from office.
  5. The complaint process must be concluded within forty-five days of the submission of the complaint.
- d. This section shall not preclude the Central Committee from removing and replacing KCRP Officers or members of the Executive Board.

#### SECTION 4. CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

- a. The Executive Board, or Central Committee when in session, shall determine whether a candidate is Republican, and shall not rely solely on the candidate's assertion when filing for office. For this purpose, a Republican is defined as an individual who has a demonstrable history of speech and behavior consistent with the republican core principle that unalienable individual rights are prior to and superior to all human legislation. The candidate has not exhibited speech or behaviors repugnant to the Kitsap County Republican Party Platform. The candidate understands and endorses the fact that the State of Washington is guaranteed a republican form of government.
- b. The KCRP shall have the latitude to endorse candidates to non-partisan office and candidates to partisan office who did not file with Republican Party preference if no other defined Republican has filed for office after the close of the filing period, provided they meet the definition stated above.
- c. Candidates subject to the Hatch Act vying for a county-wide or smaller district office shall be considered a Republican for the purposes of endorsement despite being required to file as independent by law, if they meet the definition stated above.

#### SECTION 5. RIGHT OF APPEAL

The affected Republican who is Denied Good Standing, is Censured or Removed from Office or disagrees with the action of the Executive Board regarding their Candidate Endorsement shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Board to the Central Committee at either its next Regular Meeting or a Special Meeting called for this purpose.

#### **Article XIV – Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

#### **Article XV – Amendments**

#### SECTION 1. INITIAL BYLAWS

Bylaws at the Organization Meeting shall be adopted by a majority vote.



## SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a Central Committee meeting, provided that a copy of the amendment was given with the call to the meeting.

## Endnotes

---

### A

RCW 29A.80.010 - Rule-making authority.

Each political party organization may adopt rules governing its own organization and the non-statutory functions of that organization.

### B

RCW 29A.80.031 - Precinct committee officer.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of precinct committee officer by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification of the incumbent, or because of failure to elect, the respective county chair of the county central committee shall fill the vacancy by appointment. However, in a legislative district having a majority of its precincts in a county with a population of one million or more, the appointment may be made only upon the recommendation of the legislative district chair. The person so appointed must have the same qualifications as candidates when filing for election to the office for that precinct. When a vacancy in the office of precinct committee officer exists because of failure to elect at a state primary, the vacancy may not be filled until after the organization meeting of the county central committee and the new county chair has been selected as provided by RCW 29A.80.030.

RCW 29A.80.041 - Precinct committee officer, eligibility.

Any member of a major political party who is a registered voter in the precinct and who will be at least eighteen years old by the date of the precinct committee officer election may file his or her declaration of candidacy as prescribed under RCW 29A.24.031 with the county auditor for the office of precinct committee officer of his or her party in that precinct. When elected at the primary, the precinct committee officer shall serve so long as the committee officer remains an eligible voter in that precinct.

RCW 29A.80.051 - Precinct committee officer—Election—Term.

The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the primaries apply to candidates for precinct committee officer. The office must be voted upon at the primaries, and the names of all candidates in contested races must appear under the proper party and office designations on the ballot for the primary for each even-numbered year. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected. The term of office of precinct committee officer is two years, commencing the first day of December following the primary.

### C

RCW 29A.80.030 - County central committee—Organization meetings.

The county central committee of each major political party consists of the precinct committee officers of the party from the several voting precincts of the county. Following each state general election held in even-numbered years, this committee shall meet for the purpose of organization at an easily accessible location within the county, subsequent to the certification of precinct committee officers by the county auditor and no later than the second Saturday of the following January. The authorized officers of the retiring committee shall cause notice of the time and place of the meeting to be mailed to each precinct committee officer at least seventy-two hours before the date of the meeting.

At its organization meeting, the county central committee shall elect a chair and vice chair of opposite sexes.

## D

RCW 29A.80.061 - Legislative district chair—Election—Term—Removal.

Within forty-five days after the statewide general election in even-numbered years, the county chair of each major political party shall call separate meetings of all elected precinct committee officers in each legislative district for the purpose of electing a legislative district chair in such district. The district chair shall hold office until the next legislative district reorganizational meeting two years later, or until a successor is elected.

The legislative district chair may be removed only by the majority vote of the elected precinct committee officers in the chair's district.

## E

WSRP Bylaws Article 10.4 - *Composition - Multi-County District:*

Legislative district committees for districts located in more than one county shall consist of three members from each county, all or part of which is included in the district. The members from each county shall be designated by, or as provided in the bylaws of, the county central committee. Each such legislative district committee shall hold an organizational meeting by June 30 of every odd-numbered year for the purpose of electing a chairman and a treasurer. [as of January, 2019]

## F

Washington State Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 – Vacancies in Legislature and in Partisan County Elective Office.

Such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature or in any partisan county elective office shall be filled by appointment by the county legislative authority of the county in which the vacancy occurs:

*Provided*, That the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and shall be one of three persons who shall be nominated by the county central committee of that party, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district, county, or county commissioner or council district and of the same political party as the legislator or partisan county elective officer whose office has been vacated, and the person so appointed shall hold office until his or her successor is elected at the next general election, and has qualified:

*Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring after the general election in a year that the office appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected:

*Provided*, That in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of joint senator, or joint representative, the vacancy shall be filled from a list of three nominees selected by the state central committee, by appointment by the joint action of the boards of county legislative authorities of the counties composing the joint senatorial or joint representative district, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated, and in case a majority of the members of the county legislative authority do not agree upon the appointment within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the governor shall within thirty days thereafter, and from the list of nominees provided for herein, appoint a person who shall be from the same legislative district and of the same political party as the legislator whose office has been vacated.

[AMENDMENT 96, 2003 House Joint Resolution No. 4206, p 2819. Approved November 4, 2003.]