

Bylaws of the Yellowstone County Republican Party

Adopted by the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee
As Amended MAY 11, 2024 in Billings, Montana

MISSION:

The Yellowstone County Republican Party will recruit, assist, and support all qualified conservative Republican Party Candidates for local, state, and national elected governmental office. The Yellowstone County Republican Party will promote and support the Montana State Republican Party Platform.

ARTICLE I: **General Provisions:**

1.01 Name. The name of this organization shall be the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee. The organization may also be referred to, informally, as the Yellowstone County Republican Party, the Yellowstone GOP, Yellowstone County Republicans or the Central Committee.

1.02 Authority. These bylaws are created for the governance of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee. They shall govern when not in conflict with state law and the rules of the Montana Republican Party. In the event of a conflict between these bylaws and the rules of the Montana Republican Party, the latter shall govern.

1.03 Purpose. The purpose of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee is to recruit, train, promote and provide support to the election of Republican candidates for all elected offices of Yellowstone County, the State of Montana, and the United States, whether partisan or nonpartisan who run for public office who uphold the principles of the State of Montana and Yellowstone County Republican platform, commit to support the Constitutions of the State of Montana and the United States of America.

1.04 Principal place of business. The Central Committee shall maintain a permanent post office box, telephone number/voice mail, website, and email.

1.05 Amendments. These bylaws/rules may be amended, repealed, or adopted at a meeting of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee in an odd-numbered year by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting. Each duly elected or appointed precinct committeeman and precinct committeewoman, hereinafter referred to as Precinct Representative, must have received notice in writing of such meeting, and have received a copy of such proposed amendments to these rules at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the bylaws shall be voted on.

1.06 Effective Date. These rules shall become effective at the time of their adoption and shall continue in force and effect for the government of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee and its present and future membership, unless amended as provided hereafter.

Upon the effective date of the rules and any amendments thereto, a copy of the rules and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the county election administrator pursuant to MCA 13-38-105 and with the Executive Office of the Montana Republican Party as required by its rules.

ARTICLE II:

CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

2.01 Central Committee. The central committee is comprised of two Precinct Representatives, one male and one female, from each voting precinct in Yellowstone County. Precinct Representatives are elected every two years during the Yellowstone County primary election.

2.02 Appointment of Precinct Representatives. The Yellowstone County Republican Party will fill vacant precinct representative positions in accordance the current Montana State Party Bylaws.

The County Chair shall notify the County Election office of any and all appointments to the position of Precinct Representative.

2.03 Resignation or Vacancies of Precinct Representatives. Any resignations of Precinct Representatives shall be in writing; "Writing" is to include electronic communications. If a sitting Precinct Representative moves a primary residence outside said precinct such move will be considered an automatic resignation. The Chair is responsible for notifying the members of the Executive Committee. The Secretary is responsible for keeping on file a hard copy of any resignations submitted by electronic communications.

Precinct vacancies shall be filled by the Central Committee by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose. Montana State statutes and the Rules of the Montana State Republican Party are to prevail on any procedural matters relating to vacancies and appointments.

2.04 Conflicts of Interest. Coordination of expenditures between the Central Committee and a particular campaign for elected office is prohibited. Members of the Central Committee shall avoid conflicts of interest pertaining to expenditures by abstaining from votes that implicate campaigns in which the Precinct Representative is a candidate or actively volunteering for a candidate.

2.05 Voting. All Precinct Representatives present at Central Committee meetings shall be entitled to participate therein and to vote in their representative capacity either individually or by proxy. There shall be one-man, one-vote rule. Proxy of any Precinct Representative to a County Central Committee meeting must be an elector of the precinct of the committee person executing the proxy. In the event of any disagreement or controversy arising under this rule, it shall be the responsibility of the Rules Committee to resolve and interpret the proper application to be given this section and its sub-parts.

ARTICLE III:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

3.01 The Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee shall, at its convention in the odd numbered years, elect the following officers to serve for a period of two years and until their successors are duly elected at the next primary election.

1. Chair and Vice Chair, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female.
2. Treasurer
3. Secretary
4. Finance Chair
5. One (1) State Committeeman
6. One (1) State Committeewoman

If the State has more than one (1) Congressional District:

7. One (1) Congressional Committeewoman
8. One (1) Congressional Committeeman

3.02 Executive Committee shall exercise any and all powers conferred upon the County Central Committee by these rules or by state law, or by state Republican rules and regulations, during the periods of time between meetings of such Central Committee.

3.03 The Executive Committee shall meet on call by the Chair, or by vote of a majority of its members, or by a petition signed by more than one-third (1/3) of Executive Committee members, and shall hold a regularly scheduled monthly meeting on a date, time, and location to be pre-announced by the Chair. All duly elected or appointed Precinct Representatives, whether members of the Executive Committee or not, shall be entitled to attend such meetings and to speak therein, but they shall not be entitled to vote therein, unless they are also members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may choose to cancel one regular monthly meeting but must provide ten (10) day notice of cancellation and reason for cancelling the meeting to the Central Committee.

3.04 The voting members of the Executive Committee of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee shall consist of all officers elected by the County Central Committee. Non-voting Executive Committee Officers shall consist of the Presidents of existing County Republican organizations such as Yellowstone County Republican Women, Yellowstone County Young Republicans, any Non-voting Officer may assign a proxy in their place at the Executive Committee meetings. Non-voting Executive Committee Officers have power to conduct any business of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee.

ARTICLE IV:

VACANCIES:

4.01 All resignations shall be in writing and sent to the Chair of the Executive Committee. "Writing" is to include electronic communications. The Chair is responsible for notifying the members of the Executive Committee. The secretary is responsible for keeping on file a hard copy of any resignations submitted by electronic communications.

4.02 If an officer of the Executive Committee has a total of five (5) absences or three consecutive absences from the regularly scheduled monthly meetings during the two (2) year term, the County Central Committee shall decide whether to vacate the office in favor of a new appointment in accordance with state party rules.

4.03 In the event of the existence of a vacancy in any of the offices provided in Article III, such vacancies shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the County Central Committee at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE V:

DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

County Chair:

The County Chair shall be the recognized leader of the Republican Party in Yellowstone County. The Chair shall have the sole responsibility for the hiring of and the termination of employment of all paid employees. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and shall appoint all committees pursuant to Article VI. S/He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. S/He shall be a signer on the bank account. S/He shall represent the County Central Committee in an official capacity and shall have the usual powers of supervision and management.

Vice-Chair:

The County Vice-Chair shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the County Chair. In the absence of the County Chair, or in the event of absence or vacancy in the office, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for recruiting Precinct Representatives, precinct development, and Get Out the Vote efforts.

Treasurer:

The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all monies provided for the committee, to be custodian of funds received, to disburse same with a valid receipt only upon order of the Chair, and fulfill all state reporting requirements in a timely fashion. Any expenditure over \$500 must be approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall present an annual report to the Committee and periodic financial statements to the Chairman and Executive. The Treasurer, Finance Chair and Chair shall conduct an internal audit of finances in even numbered years. An external audit may be requested by a majority vote of the County Central Committee.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall keep a record and minutes of all meetings of the Central Committee and of the Executive Committee, certify as to quorums, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. The secretary is responsible for maintaining the party website, social media, and shall receive and forward as necessary all incoming voicemails to the party telephone.

State Committeeman and Committeewoman:

The State Committeeman and State Committeewoman, along with the County Chair and the Congressional Committeeman and Congressional Committeewoman, comprise the county's representation on the State Central Committee. They should attend all State Central Committee meetings and conventions for the purpose of reporting back to the Central Committee. Additionally, these officers should assist the County Chair and vice-chair to develop a strong organization including precinct development.

Congressional Committeeman and Committeewoman:

If the State has more than one (1) Congressional District, the County Central Committee shall elect a Congressional Committeeman and Congressional Committeewoman. They must be approved by the Central Committee but may serve in their capacities prior to such approval. The Congressional Committeeman and Congressional Committeewoman, along with the County Chair and the State Committeeman and State Committeewoman, comprise the county's representation on the State Central Committee. The duties of the Congressional Committeeman and Committeewoman are to be the County Chair's liaison between the county organization and the Congressman or the Congressional Candidate. Also, these officers should be able to assist the Congressman or candidate with their activities in Yellowstone County in accordance with section 2.04.

Finance Chair:

The Finance Chair shall be the coordinator of all Central Committee fundraising events. The Finance Chair may establish an ad hoc committee to assist with all fundraising activities and objectives.

ARTICLE VI:

COMMITTEES:

6.01 The Chair shall appoint a standing Rules Committee consisting of Precinct Representatives to report at each meeting of the County Republican Central Committee and to consider all proposed rules changes.

6.02 The Chair may appoint additional committees as necessary to carry on the purposes of the Central Committee. All such appointments shall be subject to ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII:

MEETINGS:

8.01 The Central Committee shall meet at a time specified by the rules of the Montana Republican Party of each odd-numbered year to hold elections for Executive Committee, and shall meet at least one other time during the year. The Central Committee shall meet in regular convention by May 15 in each even numbered year in which the primary election is held to provide a review of the bylaws and at least one other time during the year.

8.02 Meetings of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee shall be called:

1. By the Chair;
2. By motion passed by the Executive Committee;
3. By petition signed by more than 50 percent of the Executive Committee; or
4. By petition signed by more than 50 percent of the duly elected or appointed members of the Central Committee.

8.03 The notice of all meetings shall be given to all duly elected or appointed Precinct Representatives and to all members of the Executive Committee and shall be posted on the Yellowstone County GOP website and sent via email. It is the responsibility of the members of the Central Committee and Executive Committee to keep their contact information up to date and to check the county party website regularly for notices of meetings and events.

8.04.1 A quorum for the transaction of business of the Central Committee shall be twenty-five (25) percent of the duly elected or appointed members of such committee. They may be present in person or by proxy in writing as permitted by the rules of the Montana Republican Party.

8.04.2 A quorum for the transaction of business of the Executive Committee shall be two-thirds of the duly elected or appointed members of such committee. They may be present in person, by electronic means or by proxy in writing.

8.05 Voting. All duly elected or appointed Precinct Representatives for the Republican Party in Yellowstone County may vote, either in person, electronically, or by written proxy, during Central Committee meetings and conventions. A member of the Executive Committee may only vote during Central Committee meetings if he or she is an elected or appointed Precinct Representative.

8.05.1 Electronic Communication: The Executive Committee may choose to allow a member of the committee to vote electronically. The Chair has sole discretion as to the use of electronic communications and voting. At any time, the Chair may cease electronic communication on an issue and call for a meeting to continue discussion.

8.06 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of such committee insofar as they are applicable and not inconsistent with these rules.

ARTICLE IX: COUNTY DELEGATE CONVENTION:

9.01 The Republican County Delegate Convention shall meet at the call of the Chair each presidential election year. Such convention shall elect the delegates to the State Convention.

9.02 The State Chairman shall notify the County Central Committee of the number of delegates that the county may send to the State Delegate Convention.

9.03 The county shall be entitled to the number of votes at the State Delegate Convention equal to the total number of votes cast in the county for the Republican candidates for President in the most recent primary election.

9.04 Per state party rules, delegates to the State Delegate Convention from the county shall divide equally the number of votes to which the county is entitled on a decimal basis, and each delegate shall cast his or her votes individually.

ADOPTED

Amendments to the Rules of the Yellowstone County Republican Party adopted at a full Central Committee meeting held June 5, 2024.

CHAIR

ATTEST

Motion carried to adopt amendments, as contained herein, by a majority vote of members present at a full Central Committee meeting on June 5, 2024.

SECRETARY