

BY-LAWS OF THE GRATIOT COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Article 1 Name and Objectives

1 This organization shall be known as the Gratiot County Republican Party and is hereinafter also
2 referred to as the County Committee or Party.
3

4 The principle objectives of the organization are:
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6 To perform all duties provided by law (Michigan Election Law, 1954 Act 116, effective June 1,
7 1955, as amended), those delegated or advanced by the Republican National Committee and the
8 Michigan Republican State Committee and such other duties not prohibited by law as will benefit
9 Gratiot County Republicans.
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11 To promote the principles and philosophy of Republicans and to increase membership in the
12 Party.
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14 To assist in the election of Republican candidates for county, state, and national offices. This
15 includes judicial candidates nominated at a state Republican convention.
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Article 2 County Executive Committee

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21 Within twenty (20) calendar days following the November election in even numbered years, the
22 Chairperson shall convene a "Fall" County Convention for purposes of selecting "a number of persons
23 equal to the number of county offices and state legislative offices for which (Republican) candidates
24 were nominated at the last two preceding Fall primary elections, who together with the persons most
25 recently nominated by the Republican Party for each of those offices." MCLA 168.599 (1) MSA
26 6.1599 (1).
27

28 Those persons, when combined in membership with all Republican county executive and legislative
29 candidates and state legislative primary candidates most recently elected, constitute the membership
30 of the Executive Committee.
31

32 The positions of any vacancies of persons who were the most recent primary candidates are to be
33 filled by the remaining elected members of the Executive Committee (that is by the remaining
34 members elected by the voters of Gratiot County at the most recent primary election). Any new

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1 primary candidate elected for county or legislative office automatically replaces the former nominee
2 as a member of the Executive Committee.
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4 Immediately following the selection of the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall certify the names
5 and addresses of those members to the County Clerk.
6

7 Between meetings of the Gratiot County Republican Party's County Committee's general
8 membership, the Executive Committee shall have all powers and duties of the County Committee
9 herein granted and as prescribed by law.
10

11 The term of service of all Executive Committee members commences upon being selected, and
12 continues for a period of two years and until selection of the successive Executive Committee.
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14 Statutory members are delegates at large. By virtue of their nomination to the most recent
15 Republican primary election, they are automatically members of the County Executive Committee.
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17 Should a vacancy occur in one of these statutory offices and a special election is held to fill the
18 position, the person nominated as the Republican candidate automatically is seated as a member of
19 the Executive Committee. Should the vacancy be filled by appointment, the Executive Committee
20 shall determine the replacement on the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis.
21

22 If any non-statutory member misses three consecutive meetings, said member is presumed to have
23 resigned. The Secretary shall send a written notice to member referencing this Article as the authority
24 for automatic resignation. Each member shall be informed by the Chairperson upon their election to
25 the County Committee or Executive Committee of this clause.
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27 Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chairperson and/or on-third of the
28 members of the Executive Committee.
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Article 3

Duties of Executive Committee Officers

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34 The officers of the Gratiot County Republican Party's Executive Committee shall consist of a
35 Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Whenever possible the Chairperson
36 and Vice-Chairperson shall be of opposite sex. Officers of the Party's Executive Committee shall
37 serve simultaneously as the officers of the County Committee.
38

39 The duties of the Chairperson shall be those provided by law and other such duties not prohibited by
40 law as may be required by action of the Executive Committee, County Committee, or general
41 membership. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee. County
42 Committee, and general membership meetings. The Chairperson shall appoint or remove the

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1 chairpersons and members of sub-committees. Sub-committee chairpersons and members serve at
2 the pleasure of the Executive Committee's Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio
3 member of all committees whether standing or otherwise, but shall not have a vote. The Chairperson
4 shall make regular reports to the Executive Committee, the County Committee, and general
5 membership as may be required by law and shall keep each informed of Republican Party programs
6 and activities. The Chairperson shall insure that the Treasurer's books are audited not less than
7 annually and that all Secretary of State election reports are filed in a timely manner. Further, the
8 Chairperson's signature shall be required on all contracts, agreements, and documents with that of
9 the Treasurer when authorized by the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall communicate
10 with the Secretary in establishing meeting agendas. The Chairperson is one of three officers
11 authorized to cosign party checks with the Treasurer. The Chairperson shall serve as the official
12 spokesperson for the Party.
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14 The Vice-Chairperson shall perform all duties of the Chairperson in the absence of, or at the request
15 of the Chairperson. In the event the Chairperson is unable to act, the powers and duties of the
16 Chairperson shall be assumed by the Vice-Chairperson until such inability is removed, the Chairperson
17 resigns, or until the Chairperson shall again take up the duties of the office. The Vice-Chairperson
18 is one of three officers authorized to cosign Party checks with the Treasurer.
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20 The Secretary shall perform all the duties normally incident to the office of Secretary and in particular
21 shall keep a permanent record of the minutes and attendance at all meetings of the Executive
22 Committee; County Committee and general membership; shall make these records available for
23 inspection and copying by any member who requests the minutes of meetings and shall see that all
24 notices are duly given as required by law and these By-laws. The Secretary shall assist the
25 Chairperson in setting each meeting's agenda and shall give official notice of all meetings; shall make
26 provision for such correspondence as the needs of the Party may dictate; and, shall perform such
27 other duties as requested by the Committee. The Secretary is one of three officers authorized to
28 cosign Party checks with the Treasurer.
29

30 The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies paid to the Party and shall deposit the
31 same in the name of the Gratiot County Republican Party in a bank designated by the Executive
32 Committee and shall pay all duly authorized bills. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper
33 and timely filing of all financial reports required by law. The Treasurer shall keep an account, in
34 permanent records, of all financial transactions of the Party. A statement of financial conditions shall
35 be made at each regular meeting of the Party. Upon reasonable request, all records shall be open to
36 inspection to Party members in good standing, with dues paid, and as otherwise provided for by law.
37 The Treasurer shall cooperate openly with any audit whether scheduled or otherwise. Upon leaving
38 office, the Treasurer shall cooperate with a final audit and shall furnish to his/her successor all funds,
39 accounts, and other property pertaining to the affairs of the office of Treasurer. The Treasurer's
40 signature shall be required on all contracts, agreements, and documents with the Chairperson when
41 authorized by the Executive Committee.
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Article 4

Special Spending Authority

All expenditures of the organization require approval by the majority of the County Committee members. Occasionally, however, it may be necessary to commit organization funds between meetings, prior to the reading of bills and final approval.

The Treasurer has authority to commit funds of the organization, for purposes related to fulfilling the goals and intended purposes of the organization, up to \$100.00 for any one bill, or a maximum of \$300.00 for an aggregate of items, without prior approval. This authority is increased to \$150.00 and \$500.00 with the approval of at least two (2) of the remaining officers of the Party, i.e., Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary. Such special spending shall be highlighted in the Treasurer's report at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership and be submitted for ratification.

Article 5

County Committee Membership

Within forty-five (45) days of January 1 in each odd numbered year, members of the Executive Committee shall select the voting membership. MCCLA 168.599 (4) MSA 6.1599 (4)

If at all possible, the Committee is to be composed one (1) Republican registered voter from every election precinct of Gratiot County. The size of the County Committee may be increased as the Executive Committee determines advisable.

Only qualified electors shall be eligible for membership to the Committee. Members must reside in the election precinct they represent. Should any Committee member no longer reside in Gratiot County, such Committee member shall immediately be deemed to have resigned from membership of the Committee.

The term of office shall continue for a period of two (2) years. Vacancies are to be filled by the Executive Committee as soon as possible after a vacancy occurs.

The County Committee shall meet at least once every three months and/or at the call of the Chairperson, or by request of one-third of the members of the County Committee.

Article 6

Duties of County Committee Officers

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1 The officers of the Gratiot County Committee of the Republican Party shall consist of a Chairperson,
2 a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Officers of the Party's County Committee shall
3 serve simultaneously as the officers of the Executive Committee.
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5 At the discretion of the Chairperson, a nominating committee may be appointed by the Chairperson
6 for purposes of recruiting and listing nominations to the various offices, preparing ballots, accepting
7 nominations from the floor, and presenting such to the County Committee of the Party. Such a
8 nominating committee should be formed no later than fourteen (14) days before the election of
9 officers is to take place.
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11 The election of officers may take place by secret ballot. The membership of the County Committee
12 of the Party has the sole power to elect officers to the County Committee, and is to act within thirty
13 (30) days following the Fall County Convention. Proxies are not allowed for any member except
14 members of the Executive Committee who are current State Legislative members.
15

16 The term of office for each officer so elected is for two years, commencing January 1 of every odd
17 numbered year.
18

19 The membership of the County Committee is to fill all vacancies occurring among itself. Upon the
20 resignation, death, or temporary vacancy of the office of Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall
21 assume all responsibilities and powers granted herein to the Chairperson, as "Acting Chairperson".
22 Upon the resignation or death of the Chairperson, the County Committee shall fill said vacant office
23 of the Chairperson. The County Committee shall fill said vacant office at its next meeting. Upon the
24 resignation or death or temporary vacancy of the office of the Treasurer, the Secretary shall assume
25 all responsibilities and powers granted herein to the Treasurer, as "Acting Treasurer". Upon the
26 resignation or death of the Treasurer, the County Committee is to fill said vacant office at its next
27 meeting.
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Article 7 Committees

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33 The Chairperson may create standing and/or ad hoc committees. Persons appointed to committees
34 shall be members of the Party, in good standing, and with dues currently paid. All appointees to
35 committees serve at the pleasure of the Party Chairperson. Committees created by the Chairperson
36 may include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:
37

38 Campaign Committee: The duties of this committee are to include recruiting candidates and
39 developing, coordinating, and implementing the election effort. The further responsibility of
40 this committee is to attempt to establish and maintain a campaign headquarters for the
41 utilization of all township, county, state and national candidates on the Republican ballot.
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1 Membership Committee: The duties of this committee include maintaining and increasing the
2 membership of the organization; formulating strategies and tactics to "build" the organization;
3 and, striving toward having every precinct represented by the number of precinct delegates
4 to which it is entitled.
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6 Special Events Committee: The duties of this committee include such activities as directed
7 by the Chairperson as may be established at a meeting of the general membership. Illustrative
8 of a Special Event is the Lincoln Day Dinner. Responsibilities would include, but not
9 necessarily be limited to, finding a location, selecting a menu, setting the admission price,
10 establishing the program, obtaining the speaker(s), table decorations, etc.
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Article 8

Procedures and Amendments

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16 A quorum is defined to be not less than two officers in attendance and the general membership
17 present. A simple majority (fifty percent plus one) is required to pass motions except where a higher
18 majority is specified in these By-laws. In the event of an emergency and where time does not permit
19 notifying the general membership, the officers of the Executive Committee shall have the authority
20 to act on behalf of the general membership and then shall have the duty to inform the general
21 membership of the action(s) taken at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Emergency actions taken
22 by the Executive Committee are subject to subsequent ratification by the County Committee. In such
23 instances when the Executive Committee acts, its quorum shall consist of not less than two of the four
24 officers, both acting in agreement.
25

26 Any portion of this document may be amended so long as it does not violate Michigan Election Laws
27 or Public Acts and is not inconsistent with the Republican State Party. Motions to amend these By-
28 laws shall be made at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting. To receive further
29 consideration, the proposed amendment shall have an affirmative majority vote (fifty percent plus
30 one). In no event shall the motion to amend become effective based upon this vote. Upon receiving
31 an affirmative majority vote, the Secretary shall publicize the proposed amendment in the newsletter
32 notifying membership of the next regularly scheduled meeting. At that meeting, the motion shall be
33 included on the agenda, discussed, and voted upon subject to the rules of parliamentary procedure.
34 In order for the amendment to become effective, a two thirds affirmative vote shall be required. The
35 amendment to the By-laws shall not become effective until 12:01 a.m. the day of the next regularly
36 scheduled County Committee meeting. The intent of this provision is to prevent a group of members
37 rushing to change the By-laws through without adequate opportunity for the general membership to
38 respond.
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Article 9

Endorsements

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3 The Gratiot County Republican Party shall not endorse Republican candidates until after the primary
4 election. This requirement may be waived in a contested primary for a county office when exceptional
5 circumstances exist. All of the following criteria must be met to implement a waiver and thusly
6 support one (or more) Republican candidate(s) over another: (1) A member of the County
7 Committee in good standing with dues paid who believes one of the candidates would bring discredit
8 to the Party or embarrass it because of the candidate's extremist views may offer a motion to endorse
9 and/or support the other candidate(s). (2) A majority vote of not less than a quorum of the County
10 Committee shall be required to hold a special meeting to hear the challenged candidate's view point.
11 (3) Upon conclusion of the hearing, a motion shall be made to either implement the waiver or not
12 implement it. (4) If the motion is to implement the waiver, a two thirds majority vote is required;
13 otherwise a simple majority vote (fifty percent plus one) is required if the motion is to deny the
14 waiver. (5) If the waiver is implemented, the Republican candidate(s) in the contested primary who
15 was (were) not the subject of the special hearing shall receive financial support.
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17 Republican candidates or candidates for non-partisan office in regular or special general elections may
18 be endorsed by the Gratiot County Republican Party. Such endorsement may also include financial
19 support. To be eligible for financial support, the endorsed candidate must meet the following criteria:
20 (1) The candidate must be opposed in the general election and, (2) If the candidate is running as a
21 Republican for a Gratiot County office, the candidate must be a Party member in good standing with
22 dues paid.
23

24 Financial support for candidates shall be set after the primary election by a majority vote of the
25 general membership at the next regularly scheduled County Committee meeting. The Treasurer shall
26 recommend the amount of funds available for financial support of Republican or non-partisan
27 candidates. Sufficient funds in the treasury shall be reserved as are deemed reasonable and prudent
28 for the Party to meet anticipated obligations and ongoing expenses.
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Article 10 Ratification

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34 The provisions set forth in these By-laws supercede all previous By-laws and amendments and shall
35 become effective as follows:
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37 An affirmative majority vote (fifty percent plus one) at a regularly scheduled meeting of the
38 County Committee, and
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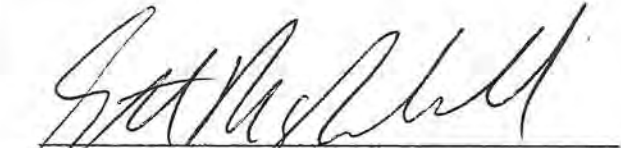
40
41 Followed by a notice being mailed by the Secretary to members in good standing with dues
42 current, and

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Two thirds affirmative vote of not less than a quorum present at the next regularly scheduled County Committee meeting.

The By-laws then become effective at 12:01 a.m. the morning of the next, subsequent regularly scheduled meeting of the County Committee.


Stewart McDonald, Chairperson


Pauline Merchant, Vice-Chairperson


Carol Vernon, Secretary


Greg Carlson, Treasurer

12/12/02
Date

Resolutions Policy

All members desiring to have the Gratiot County Republican Party take a position on a particular issue may submit draft resolutions in writing at any monthly meeting. The resolutions will be given to the Resolutions Committee for consideration and action.

The Resolutions Committee may take one of the following actions:

- a. Recommend a vote for approval and public press release.
- b. Recommend a vote for approval and forwarding to the 4th District or State Party.
- c. Recommend (a) and (b) above.
- d. Forward to 4th District without comment.
- e. Recommend a negative vote at the next public meeting.

In the event that the Chair believes that the issue is of such urgency that an immediate discussion and vote occur without consideration by the Resolutions Committee, he may so rule IAW Roberts Rules of Order.

Bylaw Amendment _____

The Gratiot County Republican Chairman will appoint a committee from the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), to investigate and take necessary action, including but not limited to removal of a member for acts unbecoming of a Gratiot County Republican.

Proposed August 15, 2006

Adopted September 19, 2006

Eric St. Onge, Chairman *E. St. Onge* Date 9/19/06

Julie Armstrong, Secretary *Julie Armstrong* Date 9/19/06

Dave Crumbaugh, Treasurer *Dave Crumbaugh* Date 9-19-06

Michelle Murphy, Secretary *Michelle Murphy* Date 9-19-06