

Pierce County Republican Standing Rules

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1. NO CONFLICT

Nothing in these standing rules shall be in conflict with Article II, Section 15 of the Washington State Constitution, Pierce County Code 1.28.180, the PCRCP bylaws or the bylaws and rules of the WSRP or the RNC.

2. DUES - Member in good standing

To be a member in good standing in the PCRCP, individuals shall be pay annual dues of \$20. Beyond this basic membership, member categories are as follows: Century Club \$100-\$249, Benefactor \$250-499, Winners' Circle \$500 or more.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Any resolution for action by the Central Committee, Executive Board or at district caucuses must be submitted in writing (by mail or email) to the members no less than ten days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. Copies of a proposed resolution should be included in the meeting notice. All resolutions shall bear the

signature of a minimum of three sponsors from two or more legislative districts but who are members in good standing of the body to which the resolution will be presented.

4. PCO/MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers of Pierce County Republican Precinct Committee Officers and PCRCP members shall be available only to PCRCP members in good standing but can only be used Republican party building activities or the election of Republicans to office. There shall be no charge. Other party information may be subject to charge.

5. LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES

5.1 Single-County Districts. No later than ten days after a vacancy occurs, the Candidate Director and the affected District Leader, with the advice of incumbent Republican legislators, shall establish the procedures for identifying and nominating candidates to fill the vacancy including the location, time and date of a district caucus. No later than thirty days after a vacancy occurs, the PCOs in good standing in the affected district shall meet to compile a list of three names, in order of preference, to be recommended to the Central Committee for submission to the Pierce County Council to fill the vacancy. The actions by the District Caucus and the Central Committee may be concluded prior to the effective date of an already announced or reasonably anticipated vacancy.

5.2 Multiple-County Districts. The Central Committee shall follow the procedures established in the Bylaws of the WSRP.

6. COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICE VACANCIES

Within thirty days after a previously unannounced vacation of a Pierce County elective office, or, if practical, prior to the effective date of a voluntary or required vacancy, the Central Committee elected officers and the District Leaders (or in the case of a single county council district only the affected District Leaders) shall nominate and, subject to further nominations from the floor, the Central Committee shall approve a list of three persons, in order of preference, to submit to the County Council. The County Council will select one of the three to fill the vacancy in accordance with County Charter, Section 4.70.

7. CAUCUSES AND CONVENTIONS

7.1 Committee Chairs - Not less than thirty days prior to the precinct caucuses, the Chair shall appoint chairs for the convention committees of Credentials; Rules and Order of Business; and, Platform and shall call a meeting of the Central Committee for

the purpose of organizing for caucuses and convention. At that Central Committee meeting, district caucuses shall be held for the purpose of electing the following:

7.2 Rules and Order of Business Committee - One member from each legislative district.

7.3 Credentials Committee - Two members from each legislative district whose registered voter population is 50% or more in Pierce County and one member from those legislative districts whose registered voter population is less than 50% in Pierce County.

7.4 Platform Committee - Two members from each legislative district whose registered voter population is 50% or more in Pierce County and one member from those legislative districts whose registered voter population is less than 50% in Pierce County.

7.5 Duties – Rules and Order of Business Committee

7.5.1 These Rules may be amended or modified only by a Pierce County Convention and not by a District Caucus. The adopted rules from the previous Convention do apply to the new year's events until they are replaced, except as modified by National or State rules and dates, times and place applicable to those subsequent events.

7.5.2 No rules shall be added or deleted that will jeopardize the credentials of Pierce County delegates and alternates. Prior to the precinct caucuses, the Rules Committee shall review the Rules and Order of Business for precinct caucuses as prescribed by the Washington State Republican Party and the Republican National Committee. After the caucuses, the committee shall meet to prepare the Rules and Order of Business to be adopted by the convention. For informational and coordinative reasons, the committee chair shall submit a copy of the proposed Caucus and Convention Rules and Order of Business to the Central Committee, the Platform and the Credentials Committee Chairs prior to their being enclosed in caucus and convention packets. The Rules and Order of Business will be referred to the Convention by its Chair for consideration.

7.6 Duties - Platform Committee - Prior to the precinct caucuses, the committee shall prepare a questionnaire to be enclosed in the caucus packets. The questions may be on any issue of local, state or national importance. The committee may adopt the questionnaire prepared by the WSRP. After the caucuses, the committee shall prepare a platform for consideration at the county convention. The committee shall consider the results of the caucus questionnaire in preparing the platform. Procedures for submitting resolutions to the Platform Committee for consideration at the county convention shall be included in the caucus packets. Resolutions may not be altered by the Platform Committee. The Platform Committee shall review each resolution submitted and prepare a "do pass" or "do not pass" recommendation. If the intent and substance of a

resolution is incorporated into the platform, the author of the resolution shall be notified prior to the convention and given the opportunity to withdraw the resolution from consideration. The Platform Committee Chairman shall be responsible for meeting the deadline for having materials ready to be included in the caucus and convention packets.

7.7 Duties - Credentials Committee - Prior to the precinct caucuses and county convention, the credentials committee shall review the rules and order business and all materials to be included in the caucus and convention packets. The Credentials committee Chairman or his/her designee shall be responsible for opening and removing materials from caucus packets returned to Republican headquarters, shall ensure caucus reports are kept in a secure place accessible only to members of the Credentials Committee, and shall act as swiftly as possible to get questionnaire reports to the Platform Committee and any money enclosed to the Central Committee Treasurer. Precinct reports shall be released by district, by the Credentials Committee Chairman only after the credentials work has been completed on the entire district. If a district caucus is held prior to the county convention, the Credentials Committee Chairman and the Credentials Committee member(s) from that district shall ensure that proper procedures for electing state convention delegates are followed.

7.8 Call to Caucus and Convention - Pursuant to notice from the Washington State Republican Party, the Central Committee Chair shall be responsible for calling caucuses and county conventions and making all necessary arrangements including location, date and time.

7.9 Convention Rules of Order - The Central Committee Chairman shall preside over the opening of the convention. The following shall generally be the order of business:

Order and Call Opening Ceremonies
Appointment of temporary chairman
Appointment of temporary parliamentarian, secretaries, and sergeant-at-arms
Credentials Committee Report
Rules Committee Report
Election of permanent chairman
Election of permanent parliamentarian, secretaries and sergeant-at-arms
Caucus meetings and Reports (election of State Delegates)
Platform Committee Report
Miscellaneous Business
Adjournment

7.10 Parliamentary Authority - The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern county conventions in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with any rules of order the convention delegates may adopt.

8. NONPARTISAN AND PARTISAN CANDIDATES AND BALLOT MEASURES

8.1 Nonpartisan Candidates. The Chair through the Candidates Director and team shall recommend support of or opposition to ballot measures and endorsement (or not) of nonpartisan candidates. The Candidates Director shall perform research (including using WSRP or PCRP developed questionnaires) or review published research to some practical degree on which measures and candidates support or do not support the fundamental political philosophy of the majority of Republicans. Nonpartisan candidates may be identified as "fully endorsed" or "qualified – not endorsed" if they have so requested or agreed to in writing. The written recommendations of the committee shall be for endorsement or opposition to ballot issues or "full endorsement" or "qualified" or "no action" for non-partisan candidates. If practical, these recommendations should be mailed with the notice for the Central Committee meeting at which they are to be considered. The recommendations may be amended or rejected. A simple majority vote is required for amendment and for approval to become the official position of the PCRP. The difference between qualified and full endorsement is that endorsed candidates have access to PCRP resources like mailing lists, USPS Permits, low cost printing, data "apps" (etc.) and "qualified" candidates do not. The Central Committee may not endorse more than one candidate for a specific office, nor may it "qualify" more than one candidate for a specific office, neither may the central committee use both qualified and endorsed in the same race. The Central Committee may choose "no action" for all or some of the candidates in any given race.

8.2 Partisan Candidates.

8.2.1 Incumbent and Unopposed Republican Candidates. At the first Central Committee meeting after the completion of candidates' filing week (usually in May) the Chair or Candidates Director shall move that all filed Republican incumbent and all filed unopposed candidates who identify themselves as Republican or GOP – whether elected or appointed – be endorsed by the Central Committee. The motion, which must start "I move we nominate and endorse..." may propose these incumbents or unopposed candidates be considered en masse, by district or individually. A simple majority is required for the endorsement of the list or individual. Whatever form of the Chair's motion, it is subject to amendment and one of those potential amendments is not to endorse a particular incumbent or unopposed candidate. An amendment not to endorse must have a two thirds (2/3) vote to be successful and the basis for such a loss of party endorsement must be legal, criminal, moral, ethical or medical. Another potential amendment is to table the name from the list of incumbent or unopposed candidates being proposed for endorsement until the next Central Committee meeting at which time that candidate will be considered nominated and must be considered for endorsement.

8.2.2 Pre-primary Endorsement of non-incumbent Republican Candidate(s).

At any Central Committee Meeting after filing week and before the primary election, a Central Committee member, the Chair or the Candidates Director may move to endorse a filed Republican candidate for an office for which a Pierce County voter may vote. The motion must start: "I move we nominate and endorse..." A simple majority is required for the endorsement of the list or individual. This is an especially powerful tool to indicate our support for a candidate who is the only Republican in a particular primary race, since our support may insure he or she is elevated as one of the top two candidates for the general election. However, this tool can have a divisive impact where it is used to choose among several (or more) Republicans in a race before the voters have a chance to weigh-in in the Primary. If the use of this tool is contemplated in this scenario, the choice to endorse one over another(s) should be made on moral, ethical, criminal, legal or medical grounds. In any event, the Central Committee may not endorse more than one candidate for a specific office. The Central Committee may choose "no action" for all or some of the candidates in any given race.

8.2.3 Post Primary Endorsement of Republican Candidate(s).

8.2.3.1 At the nearest Central Committee meeting after the Primary Election (after the Primary Election Certification and recount processes in the case of close elections), the Chair or Candidates Director shall move that all filed not previously endorsed Republican primary election winners (those who elevate to one of the Top Two in a given race) be endorsed by the Central Committee. The motion, which must start "I move we nominate and endorse..." may propose these candidates be considered en masse, by district or individually. A simple majority is required for the endorsement of the list or individual. In the case where the Top Two candidates are both Republicans, both may be nominated but only one endorsed or "no action" taken where one candidate has already been endorsed (e.g., an incumbent Republican).

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8.2.3.2 Whatever form of the Chair's motion, it is subject to amendment and one of those potential amendments is not to endorse a particular candidate. An amendment not to endorse must have a two thirds (2/3) vote to be successful and the basis for such a loss of party endorsement must be legal, criminal, moral, ethical or medical. Another potential amendment is to remove the name from the list of candidates being proposed for endorsement until the next Central Committee meeting at which time that candidate will be considered nominated and must be considered for endorsement.

8.2.4 Removal of Endorsement from filed Republican Candidates. At any meeting of the Central Committee and before the General Election any Central Committee member may move that a previously granted PCRCP endorsement be revoked. The motion should take the form: "I move that the Central Committee

Endorsement of Candidate [name of candidate] for [position and election year] be revoked." The motion to revoke, like the motion to not endorse, requires a 2/3 majority to be successful and must be based on moral, legal, criminal, ethical or medical grounds.

8.2.5 In the past, most assumed that if a Republican made it to the general election, he or she was automatically endorsed by the party. That was not the case since we had no process for doing the endorsing in our county. Additionally, with the legal challenges complete and the Top Two election system now firmly ensconced in our election laws, there is a potential loophole between the Top Two partisan declaration requirement and the more general requirements of Article 2, Section 15 of the Washington Constitution. To prevent loophole from bringing mischief, WSRP posits that the party "nominate" a candidate so that on his/her winning, that party has a right to fill that partisan vacancy should one occur. In any case of revocation or decision to not endorse, therefore, it is important that the motion only address the "endorsement" portion of the motion, NOT the nomination portion.

9. SUSPENSION OR AMENDMENT OF STANDING RULES

These standing Rules may be suspended or amended at any meeting of the Central Committee or Executive Board by a simple majority vote provided a quorum is present.

10 MEETINGS

10.1 Meeting notices shall be post-marked or electronically dated so that time-sufficiency of the notice can be determined.

10.2 Meeting notices shall include any minutes sought to be approved at the meeting so that members have time to consider these matters.

10.3 Meeting sign-in sheets shall be organized by Legislative District and Precinct so that District Leaders know if they have a quorum for legislative district caucuses and who is present.

10.4 A sign-in sheet for guests shall be provided at Central Committee and Executive Board meetings to segregate non-voting members and for potential membership purposes.