

**2022-2024 Bylaws of the Lavaca County Republican Party County Executive Committee**  
**Approved at the Organizational Meeting June 28, 2022**

**ARTICLE I --- NAME**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Lavaca County Republican Party Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the County Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE II --- PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The purpose of the County Executive Committee shall be:

(a) to establish general policy of the Republican Party in the county, subject to direction of the biennial County Convention.

(b) to represent the Republican Party of this county, state, and nation, articulating the Party's candidates.

(c) to cooperate in carrying out programs initiated by the Republican Party of Texas, including but not limited to:

1. conducting a Republican Primary in as many election precincts within the county as practicable, but, at a minimum, having a voting location in each County Commissioner's precinct; and

2. organizing a coordinated effort, including Get-Out-The Vote, preceding each general election, to publicize the Party's candidates.

**Section 2.** The County Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of observing all laws of the State of Texas and these United States in fulfilling the purposes stated in this Article.

**ARTICLE III --- MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The voting members of the County Executive Committee when conducting official business required by the Texas Election Code shall be the County Chairman and the Precinct Chairmen. Officers and Committee Chairmen who are not Precinct Chairmen may serve as *ex-officio* (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

**Section 2.** To qualify to hold the office of Precinct Chairman, a person must be a qualified voter residing within the bounds of the entity represented and cannot be a holder of elected public office at the county, state, or federal level or candidate for such office.

**Section 3.** The term of office shall be for two (2) years, commencing on the twentieth (20th) day after the Run-Off Primary Election Day, as provided for in Section 171.022(c) of the Texas Election Code.

**Section 4.** Any vacancy in the office of County Chair or Precinct Chair shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

(a) County Chair. A majority of the total membership of the Executive Committee must participate in filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(a) of the Texas Election Code.

(b) Precinct Chair. One-fourth (1/4) of the total membership of the Executive Committee, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for filling a vacancy and the person selected must receive a majority of the votes cast of those members participating in the election, as provided by Section 171.024(c) of the Texas Election Code. A county executive committee may authorize voting to fill precinct chair vacancies via mail or email. In any convention, except a Precinct Convention or a State Convention when organized in Congressional District Caucuses, any delegation present, upon request, shall be permitted to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled on any item of business. (RPT Bylaws: Rule 7a)

(c) Precinct Vice-Chair. A Precinct Vice-Chair may be appointed by the Precinct Chair and be approved by the **County Executive Committee**. The Vice-Chair must fulfil the same qualifications as the Precinct Chair and shall assist the Chair as needed. They may preside and direct the Precinct Caucus and other Precinct Meetings, in absence of their Precinct Chair. The Vice-Chair may participate in County Executive Committee Meetings but cannot vote in proceedings. Term of appoint will coincide with the appointing Precinct Chair.

#### Section 5. Abandonment of Office.

A precinct chairman who has failed to perform statutory duties provided by this code or failed to attend four or more consecutive meetings of the county executive committee may be removed for abandonment of office as provided by this section.

(a) If authorized by a resolution passed by the county executive committee, a county chair may send a notice to a precinct chair that states that the precinct chair is considered to have abandoned the office of precinct chair and the duties of the office.

(b) The notice must:

(1) state the reasons the county executive committee believes the precinct chair has abandoned the office.

(2) be sent by certified mail; and

(3) request a response from the precinct chair not later than the seventh day after the date the precinct chair receives the notice. (Texas Election Code 171.029)

### ARTICLE IV --- OFFICERS

**Section 1.** Officers of the County Executive Committee shall be the County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. The County Vice Chairman and Treasurer shall be appointed by the **County Executive Committee** at the Organizational Meeting, and in no case shall the office of Vice Chairman or Treasurer be vacant more than ninety (90) days. The Secretary shall be elected by the County Executive Committee following commencement of term of office.

**Section 2.** The term of office of the officers shall be concurrent with that of the County Executive Committee, except in the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairman (at which time the appointed officers shall serve only until election a new County Chairman).

**Section 3.** A vacancy in the office of County Chairman shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. A vacancy in the office of Secretary shall be filled by the County Executive Committee following notice of the vacancy, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

**Section 4.** Duties of officers shall be those prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the County Executive Committee and by these bylaws, as listed below:

(a) County Chairman. The County Chairman shall be the County Executive Committee's presiding officer and official spokesman. He/She shall perform these duties required by the statute and by these bylaws and by the Rules of the Republican Party of Texas. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all county Standing and Special Committees. The County Chairman may be a member of the Texas Republican County Chairman's Association and any assessments or dues are to be paid by the County Executive Committee.

(b) County Vice Chairman. The County Vice Chairman shall assist the County Chairman as requested in the performance of any non-statutory duties of the office. The Vice Chairman may not perform any statutory duties as outlined by state law but may assist in any other functions of the County Chairman, including appointment to committees.

(c) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping systematic records and for complying with any applicable state and federal statutes with regard to reporting contributions and expenditures. The Treasurer shall prepare a current report of financial conditions for presentation to the County Executive Committee at each regularly scheduled meeting. A Treasurer who is not Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

1. Assistant Treasurer (s) (optional) may be appointed by the County Executive Committee. In the event of the Treasurer's death, resignation, or inability to serve, the Assistant Treasurer(s), if any, automatically shall succeed to the office of Treasurer and assume the duties thereof until the Treasurer's replacement by action of the County Chairman. Assistant Treasurer(s) who are not Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

(d) Secretary. The Secretary shall carry out the usual duties of that office, keeping an up-to-date role of the County Executive Committee's members and ensuring that each member receives timely notices of meetings. A permanent file containing minutes of the County Executive Committee meetings shall be maintained. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairman, the Secretary shall call a meeting of the County Executive Committee for the purpose of electing a new County Chairman, as provided for in Section 171.025 of the Texas Election Code. The Secretary is authorized to receive applications for a place on the Primary Ballot, as provided for in Section 172.022(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code. A Secretary who is not Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

1. Assistant Secretary (s) (optional) may be appointed by the County Executive Committee. In the event of the Secretary's death, resignation, or inability to serve, the Assistant Secretary(s), if any, automatically shall succeed to the office of Secretary and assume the duties thereof until the Secretary's replacement by action of the County Chairman. Assistant Secretary(s) who are not Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

(e) Sergeant-At-Arms may be appointed by the County Executive Committee. The Sergeant-At-Arms may be removed by the County Executive Committee. The Sergeant at Arms shall assist the County Chairman as requested in the performance of meetings and conventions. Sergeant at Arms who is not Precinct Chairmen may serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the County Executive Committee.

1. The Sergeant-At-Arms will guard against the loss of respect or conduct by any person who may enter the place during the proceedings' official, active process.

2. The Sergeant-At-Arms will be ready at all times to assist the County Chairman to maintain proper order during the meeting or convention.

3. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall remove any person that has been deemed, by the County Chairman as a disruption to the order of a meeting or convention.

4. The Sergeant-At-Arms may call a "Point of Order" when a discussion of any topic has become out of control to the point that all or any person is unable to follow the discussion.

(f) **Parliamentarian.** The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the County Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian does not have to be a member of the County Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian should have familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary procedures, and considered a non-voting officer of the County Executive Committee (unless he/she is a Precinct Chairman)

(g) **Chaplain.** The Chaplain shall be appointed by the County Chairman, considered a non-voting officer of the County Executive Committee (unless he/she is a Precinct Chairman). The office of Chaplain is to open and close all meetings with invocations and benedictions

## ARTICLE V --- MEETINGS

### Section 1. Meetings Held Electronically

In the event of a stated emergency, as declared by the Federal, State or County Government, the Lavaca County Republican Party Chairman, may conduct any authorized meeting through the use of electronic meeting services, so designated by the Lavaca County Republican Party Chairman.

Section 2. The County Executive Committee shall meet at least once a quarter and no more than six (6) times a year. The County Executive Committee may meet more than six (6) times a year if a majority of those present and voting at a properly called meeting extend the number of meetings for the rest of the year.

Section 3. In each even-numbered year, as required by Republican Party of Texas Rule 8d, one of the regular meetings shall be an organizational meeting to be held within forty-five (45) days of the date the County Executive Committee takes office. (This is twenty (20) days after the Primary Run-off Election according to Subsection 171.022 (c) of the TEC.) The County Chairman shall be responsible for calling the meeting however, if the County Chairman does not call the meeting, then one-fourth (1/4) of the Precinct Chairmen may, by written demand, call an organizational meeting. Notice of the organizational meeting shall be mailed by USPS or by email to the last known address of the members of the executive committee at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting and such notice shall state the time, date, and location of the meeting and the names(s) of the person(s) issuing the call. The agenda of the organizational meeting shall include, but not be limited to, the swearing in of the newly elected executive committee members and the adoption of Bylaws and/or Rules for the biennium. The proposed Bylaws and/or Rules shall be sent out with the meeting call via USPS or email at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 4. Regular meetings shall be called by the County Chairman with a minimum of ten days' notice to each County Executive Committee member. Emergency meetings may be called by the County Chairman with a minimum of five days' notice to each County Executive Committee member.

Section 5. A special meeting must be held on petition of a minimum of twenty-five percent of Precinct Chairs. Notice of such meeting must be provided to every member of the County Executive Committee and held no earlier than five days after presentation of the petition to the Secretary and/or County Chairman.

Section 6. All meeting notices must be in writing by email or USPS and include the date, time, and location of the meeting. A notice must include a statement of any business requiring a vote of the County Executive Committee to be conducted at the meeting. Official action may be taken only on items listed on the notice unless unanimous consent is received from County Executive Committee members present at the meeting to waive such requirement.

Section 7. No county executive committee meeting shall be held during the week of the biennial State Convention or the quadrennial National Convention.

Section 8. In accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 8f, All meetings of the County Executive Committee including meetings of any, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee shall be open to any member of that County Executive Committee, and they shall have the right to appear before any such committee, sub-committee, or ad hoc committee and make recommendations for the committee's consideration or testify concerning any item under purview of the committee. This Rule does not preclude the committee from going into executive session; however, such executive session(s) shall be open to any member of the County Executive Committee including ex-officio members.

Section 9. Quorum, in accordance with Republican Party of Texas Rule 9:

(a) Non-Statutory Business and Filling Vacancies - One-fourth (1/4) of the membership, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum for conduct of non-statutory business.

(b) Statutory Business -A quorum for conduct of statutory business (called for by the Texas Election Code) shall consist of those members present. (Statutory Business: Organization Meeting; County Convention; Drawing for Placement of Ballot Position; Removal of County Chairman; Filling a Vacancy;)

(c) Roll Call Vote or Division of the Vote-The body can order a Division of the Vote or Roll Call Vote if one fifth (20 %) of the membership request this method of voting. It does not require a second, and cannot be debated, or amended, or have any other subsidiary motion applied to it.

## ARTICLE VI --- COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** The County Executive Committee shall appoint the chairmen of any Standing Committees deemed necessary to carry out policies of the local Party.

**Section 2.** Each committee is authorized to develop procedures for conducting the business within that committee's jurisdiction, subject to review and amendment by the full County Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** A committee member or members may be removed from a committee upon request of the committee chairman or the County Chairman.

## ARTICLE VII --- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

**Section 1.** The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the County Executive Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules promulgated by the Republican Party of Texas, or any state or federal statutes.

## ARTICLE VIII --- NOMINATING PETITION FOR COUNTY CHAIR

**Section 1.** A candidate seeking the office of County Chair shall not be required to obtain a nominating petition or any other document requiring the signature of any Precinct Chair or any other person in order to apply for a place on the ballot for the office of County Chair.

## ARTICLE IX ---AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

**Section 1.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the County Executive Committee present and voting at a properly called meeting of the County Executive Committee by giving notice at the previous regular meeting, by email, or by mailing written notice to each County Executive Committee members at least seven (7) days in advance of a Regular or Special Meeting called for that purpose.

**Section 2.** Notwithstanding Section 1 of this Article, the provisions of Article VIII and this Section may be amended only by the unanimous vote of the members of the County Executive Committee. In addition to the notice requirements of Section 1 of this Article, notice to amend any provision of Article VIII and this Section must also be published in a newspaper of broadest circulation in Lavaca County for at least two (2) weeks under the title of "PROPOSAL TO DENY LAVACA COUNTY REPUBLICANS THE RIGHT TO VOTE."

All changes in red were approved by majority vote at the Organizational Meeting of the Lavaca County Republican Party County Executive Committee meeting on June 28, 2022.