

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Adopted December 13, 2018

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Maryland." (Here in referred to as the "Committee.")

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The purposes of the Committee are to be the governing body of and the official spokesman for the Republican Party in Washington County, Maryland; to cooperate with the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland and with the Republican National Committee; to establish and operate an effective Republican political organization for Washington County; to seek to register new voters as Republicans and to encourage those already registered otherwise to change their registration to the Republican Party; to secure the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates; to fill vacancies in, and in nominations for, public office; to periodically submit to the Governor the names of proposed members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Washington County; to coordinate and assist Republican activities in Washington County; to engage in fund raising to support the activities enumerated above; to promote the principles, objectives, and platform of the Republican Party; and to engage in such other activities as are reasonably necessary and proper to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Committee shall be regulated in accordance with the appropriate sections of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and Article IV of the Constitution of the Republican Party of the State of Maryland. Membership of the Committee shall be set at nine (9) members, elected at large. A person who fails or refuses to take the oath of office within 15 days of the general election will be considered to have resigned from office and another person will be appointed in accordance with these bylaws to the office so vacated.

SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS: Each member of the Committee shall be a bona fide resident of, and registered voter in Washington County. Each member of this Committee shall have declared such member's party affiliation to be "Republican" when registering to vote in partisan elections under Maryland law and under the law of any and all local jurisdictions and shall maintain such Republican registration throughout such member's term in office.

SECTION 3: TERMS OF OFFICE: The term of office of members of the Committee shall be as provided in Article 33 of The Annotated Code of Maryland.

SECTION 4: RESIGNATIONS: Any member of the Committee may resign for any reason at any time provided that such member provides written notification to the Chair of the Committee of such member's intent to resign and the effective date of such resignation. In the event that no effective date is specified in the written notification, such resignation shall be effective upon receipt of the written notification by the Chair.

SECTION 5: REMOVALS OF MEMBERS:

a. A member of the Committee who sustains three consecutive absences from regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee occurring over a period in excess of sixty days may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of the Committee members present and voting at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Written notice of intent to remove shall be given to such member and to all of the other members of the Committee at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the vote shall be taken. A member who has been removed in accordance with this section shall be notified in writing within three days after the vote to remove, but failure to so notify such removed member shall not invalidate the vote to remove.

b. At any regular or special meeting of the Committee, a vote may be taken to remove any non-elected member, with or without cause, provided that at least twenty days written notice has been given to all members of the Committee of such an intention. A two-thirds majority of the Committee shall be required to effect removal.

SECTION 6: VACANCIES: A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal, or resignation of a member or upon the occurrence of any event provided for in Article 33, Section 11-2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Chair shall immediately give notice to the other members of the Committee of a vacancy and shall appoint an ad hoc nominating committee comprised of three members of the Central Committee, the nominating committee shall select and propose at least one nominee for consideration by the Central Committee. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled within ninety days after the vacancy occurs by the remaining members of the Committee at a duly called meeting of the Committee. Additional nominations may be made by any member, and elections shall be by a majority of the Committee. If a vacancy has not been filled within the ninety-day period commencing on the date of the vacancy, the vacancy may be filled by the Chair. A person chosen to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remaining term of the member who created the vacancy.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

SECTION 1: CALL TO ASSEMBLE: Within four days after the Gubernatorial general election, the newly elected member of the Committee who received the most votes of all persons elected as members of the Committee in the most recent gubernatorial primary election shall upon at least seven days written notice to the newly elected members of the Committee, issue a call to assemble for the purpose of electing officers and conducting such other business that may properly be brought before the Committee. (The newly elected member who issues the call to assemble shall act as the temporary Chair of the organizational meeting until the Chair is elected.) In the event that the newly elected member fails to call such a meeting within four days after the Gubernatorial primary election, the newly elected member who is first in the alphabetical listing of the newly elected members of the Committee, within five days thereafter, shall initiate the call to assemble and act as the temporary Chair of the organizational meeting. The responsibility to issue the call to assemble and act as the temporary Chair shall progress down the alphabetical listing of the newly elected Committee members every five days thereafter until the call to assemble is issued.

SECTION 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The first order of business of the newly elected members at the organizational meeting shall be the election of officers.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

SECTION 1: OFFICERS: The officers of the Committee shall be a Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair must be members of the Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer shall not be required to be members of the Committee but must be registered Republican voters in Washington County at the time of their election and throughout their term of office. All officers shall be elected by the Committee.

SECTION 2: CHAIR: The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Committee; shall call regular and special meetings of the Committee; shall preside at all meetings of the Committee; shall have general supervision over the affairs, activities and any employees of the Committee; shall supervise the expenditures of Committee funds; shall make all Committee appointments unless herein or by law otherwise provided; shall oversee the maintenance of all appropriate current and past Committee records; shall be the official spokesman for the Committee; and shall perform such other duties as required by law and as usually pertain to the office of Chairman.

SECTION 3: 1st VICE-CHAIR: The 1st Vice-Chair shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform such other duties as required by law or as may be prescribed by the Chair and are incident to this office, and in the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair, the 1st Vice-Chair shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chair until such vacancy has been filled by the Committee.

SECTION 4: 2nd VICE-CHAIR: The 2nd Vice-Chair shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chair and 1st Vice-Chair and perform such other duties as are required by law or as may be prescribed by the Chair and are incident to this office and in the event vacancies occur in the offices of Chair and 1st Vice-Chair, the 2nd Vice-Chair shall exercise all the powers and perform all of the duties of the Chair until such vacancies have been filled by the Committee.

SECTION 5: SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep complete and accurate minutes (including attendance records) of all meetings of the Committee; shall be responsible for official notices and reports as required by law or this Constitution and By-Laws; and shall perform such other duties as the Chair shall assign and are incident to this office.

SECTION 6: TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and, at the direction of the Chair, the disbursement of all monies by and for the Committee; shall maintain the accounts for the Committee and shall maintain complete and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements; shall render periodic reports of income and expenditures as required by the Chair or the Committee; and shall, upon request, account to and transfer any funds belonging to the Committee at the end of his/her term.

SECTION 7: GENERAL COUNSEL: A General Counsel may be appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Committee to serve as legal adviser and Parliamentarian to the Committee and to perform such other duties as are incident to this office.

SECTION 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Election of officers shall be held at the organizational meeting provided for in Article IV hereof and thereafter annually at the first duly called meeting of the Committee following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Officers shall be elected by majority vote. Each officer shall serve for a term of office lasting one year, or until such officer's successor is elected, whichever is later to occur. All officers may stand for re-election.

SECTION 9: NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Within fifteen days following the election of any officer(s), the Chair shall notify the State Administrative Board of Election Laws and Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland and Washington County Board of Elections of the names and addresses of the persons elected as officers.

SECTION 10: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS: At any regular or special meeting of the Committee, a vote may be taken to remove any officer from office, with cause, provided that at least twenty days written notice has been given to all officers and to all members of the Committee of such intention. A two-thirds majority of the Committee shall be required to effect removal.

SECTION 11: FILLING OF VACANCIES: A vacancy shall exist upon the death, removal, or resignation of an officer. The Chair shall immediately give written notice to the other members of the Committee of a vacancy. If an officer is removed, the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote taken at the same meeting. Except as otherwise provided in the preceding sentence, if a vacancy occurs, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy for the remaining term at the first duly called meeting of the Committee which is held not less than seven days after written notice of the vacancy is given to the other members of the Committee. In the event that the vacancy is the Chair, the highest-ranking Vice-Chair shall act as Chair until a new Chair is elected. Elections shall be by majority vote.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION 1: REGULAR MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held not less often than quarterly, with a preference to hold meetings monthly. Such meetings shall be held at a location in Washington County which is convenient to all members of the Committee.

SECTION 2: SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon a written petition to the Chair by a majority of the members of the Committee. Such meetings shall be held at a location in Washington County which is convenient to all members of the Committee.

SECTION 3: NOTICE: The Chair shall give at least seven days written notice of any regular or special meeting of the Committee. The notice shall state the time, place, and insofar as practical, the agenda of the meeting. A copy of each such notice shall be sent to the Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland.

SECTION 4: PROXIES: Proxies shall not be permitted at any meeting of the Committee. Proxies are permitted at all State meetings and Conventions. No member is allowed to carry more than one proxy.

SECTION 5: QUORUM: Representation from a majority of the then serving members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum of the Committee at any meeting.

SECTION 6: RULES OF PROCEDURE: When not inconsistent with the provisions of this instrument or any other rules of procedure adopted by the Committee, Robert's Rules of Order (most recent edition) shall govern all meetings of the Committee.

ARTICLE VII – SUBCOMMITTEES

There may be the following subcommittees: Executive, Strategic Planning, Finance, Candidate Recruitment, Communications, Volunteerism, and Precinct/Voter Registration. The chairs of the subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chair of the Committee with the approval of the majority of Committee members. Each subcommittee chair shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. The chairman of these subcommittees may be members of the Committee.

In addition to these committees, the Chair with the approval of the majority of Committee members, may appoint such other committees as may be necessary or practicable to carry out the purposes and intent of the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1: NOTICES: Any notice provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws shall be deemed to have been given when received by the person to whom directed, or alternatively sent by e-mail, or when deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, to be delivered by regular first-class mail, provided that any such mailed notice shall be addressed to a person at the most recent address provided to the Committee by such person. Any required written notice (except the written notice provided for in Article IV, Section I) may be waived provided that a written waiver of any such required notice is executed by not less than four-fifths of the members of the Committee.

SECTION 2: FILLING VACANCIES IN NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE:

The Committee shall have such power as is conferred upon it by the law of Maryland to fill vacancies in nominations for public office. Whenever under the law of Maryland the Committee is to act in filling such a vacancy, a meeting to fill the vacancy may be called by the Chair (or, in the event that the office of Chair is vacant, by the Vice-Chair serving as Chair) upon seventy-two hours' notice.

SECTION 3: ENDORSEMENTS IN PRIMARIES: The Committee neither shall endorse nor shall it support financially or in any other manner, any candidate, group of candidates, or "Ticket" over any other candidate, group of candidates, or "Ticket" prior to a primary election.

SECTION 4: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY: Upon the request of the Governor, the Committee shall, by majority vote, designate persons affiliated with the Republican Party for each position on the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Washington County which the Election Code requires to be filled by Republicans.

SECTION 5: CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

- a. Any Committee member who intends to run against another Republican (other than for Central Committee) should, upon filing, resign from his or her position on the Committee since such candidacy creates a conflict of interest between the member's personal interests and the interests of the Committee and Party.

- b. As a matter of general principle, members are discouraged from publicly expressing personal views which are critical of incumbent Republican officials or Republican candidates (other than candidates for the Central Committee itself); neither should members endorse, or appear to endorse, any non-Republican candidate who is opposed by a Republican candidate. Members who publicly express criticism of, or opposition to, other Republican candidates or incumbents without good grounds may be reprimanded by the Committee as a whole.

ARTICLE IX – OATH OF OFFICE

SECTION 1: OATH REQUIRED PRIOR TO ASSUMING OFFICE: Subsequent to their election or appointment and prior to assuming their official duties, all members of County Central Committee and all Officers of the Party must take the Party Oath.

SECTION 2: SUBSTANCE OF THE PARTY OATH: In order to take the Party Oath, all members of County Central Committees and all Officers of the Party must solemnly swear or affirm that they will:

- a. Uphold and support the Constitution of the United States;

- b. Be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and uphold the Maryland Constitution and laws thereof;

- c. Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Maryland Republican Party; and

- d. Faithfully execute the term of office:
 1. With diligence to the best of their skill, abilities, and judgment
 2. Without partiality or prejudice

ARTICLE X – CONFLICT

To the extent this Constitution and Bylaws may conflict with the State Republican Central Committee Constitution and Bylaws, the State Constitution and Bylaws shall govern.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This Constitution and Bylaws when adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a duly called meeting of the Committee and provided further that a copy of this Constitution and Bylaws was sent to each member with written notice of its proposed adoption at least seven days prior to meeting. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members, at a duly called meeting and provided further that notice of the purposed amendment was sent to each member of the Committee at least seven days prior to the meeting. The Chair shall file with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws and with the Republican State Central Committee for the State of Maryland a copy of this Constitution and Bylaws within thirty days after its adoption and shall also file in the same locations a copy of any amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws within thirty days after adoption.

ARTICLE XII – POLICY ON FILLING LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES

SECTION 1: PURPOSE:

Article III, § 13 of the Maryland State Constitution provides that a vacancy in the Maryland General Assembly shall be filled by designation of the central committee of the party and county from which the legislator was last elected or appointed within thirty (30) days of the seat becoming vacant. The members of The Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Maryland, who are elected by the Republican voters of Maryland, recognize the responsibility with which they have been entrusted and understand that they are charged with filling any vacancy as representatives of their jurisdiction without personal partiality or prejudice. This policy shall govern the selection process for The Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Maryland as governed by the Republican State Central Committee of Maryland.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Committee shall mean The Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Maryland.
- (b) Chair shall mean the Chairman of The Republican Central Committee of Washington County, Maryland as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Committee.
- (c) Legislative Vacancy shall mean a vacancy in a seat, occurring in either the Maryland House of Delegates or the Maryland State Senate, whereby the member immediately holding the seat prior to the vacancy was a Republican at the time of last election or appointment and where the geographical boundaries of the district either lie entirely within or occupy some portion of Washington County, Maryland.

- (d) Application Deadline shall mean the deadline for submitting a timely application to fill a Legislative Vacancy as prescribed in Section 4 herein.
- (e) Application Review Committee shall mean either an Ad-Hoc Committee or a Committee of the whole formed pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Committee for the purpose of reviewing applications of candidates to fill Legislative Vacancies. In cases of multi-county districts, the Chairs of the effected County Republican Central Committees shall form an Ad Hoc Application Review Committee composed of at least two but not more than three members from each County as appointed by the Chair of each County in the multi-county district.
- (f) Occurrence of Legislative Vacancy shall mean the receipt of notification that the House of Delegates member or State Senator has resigned
- (g) Short-term Vacancy shall mean a Legislative Vacancy occurring within sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the vacating member's term in the General Assembly.
- (h) Applicant(s) shall refer to an individual or individuals who submit an application(s), for a vacancy, to be considered by the Committee.
- (i) Candidate(s) shall refer to an applicant or applicants who have been selected for an interview by the Committee, and who complete the interview process.

SECTION 3: ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY:

Upon the occurrence of Legislative Vacancy, the Chair or his designee shall, within five (5) days, publicly announce the Legislative Vacancy by either of the following means:

- (a) By sending an electronic mail (email) message to each of the following for which the Chair has a valid email address:
 - (1) All members and officers of the Committee;
 - (2) All elected Republican public officials within the county
 - (3) The president of each sanctioned Republican organization in the county

- (b) Or by issuing a press release to all local media announcing the vacancy and that the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to the Committee's policy on Legislative Vacancies.

SECTION 4: APPLICATIONS TO FILL LEGISLATIVE VACANCIES:

- (a) Any individual who meets the requirements of the Maryland State Constitution to serve as a member of the Maryland State Senate or Maryland House of Delegates from the district in which the vacancy occurs may apply to be considered as a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- (b) Any individual wishing to apply to fill the vacancy shall submit prior to the Application Deadline a statement of his or her intention to apply to fill the vacancy along with a completed application form.
- (c) In addition to the application document required in (b), an applicant shall submit a resume and a completed questionnaire prior to the Application Deadline.
- (d) The Application Deadline shall be announced along with the Legislative Vacancy in accordance with Section 2 above, and shall in no event, be set less than ten (10) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after the Legislative Vacancy occurs except as prescribed in Section 10 herein.
- (e) Any individual wishing to apply to fill a Legislative Vacancy shall send his or her application via electronic mail (email) or USPS mail to the officially published address of the Committee.

- (f) Any application materials received by email or postmarked by the Application Deadline will be deemed to have been timely filed.
- (g) The Chair, or their designee, shall confirm receipt of an application within three (3) days of receipt by the Committee.
- (h) Any applications or application materials not timely filed shall not be considered.
- (i) All committee members shall be sent an electronic copy of all applications within two (2) days following the Application Deadline.

SECTION 5: REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

- (a) There shall be an Application Review Period which shall be the ten (10) day period immediately following the Application Deadline.
- (b) An Application Review Committee shall be convened a minimum of one (1) time during the Application Review Period in order to:
 - (1) Review all submitted applications for the Legislative Vacancy for the purpose of determining compliance with all technical requirements including, but not limited to, submission of the required documentation in a timely manner.
 - (2) Verify that each applicant meets the constitutional eligibility requirements (e.g., residency in the district, etc.) to occupy the seat in which there is a Legislative Vacancy.
- (c) The Application Review Committee shall submit a report of its findings on the submitted applications to the entire Committee.
- (d) The review of the Application Review Committee shall be limited to whether each applicant is constitutionally eligible to serve and whether each application complies with all technical requirements as set forth in this policy. In no event shall the Application Review Committee make any other substantive recommendations or conclusions about any applicant.

SECTION 6: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- (a) Within three (3) days after the Application Deadline, the Chair, or their designee, shall announce the identity of all applicants for the Legislative Vacancy along with an invitation for public comments in the same manner as set forth in Section 3 above.
- (b) The deadline for public comments shall be five (5) days after the press release announcing the names of the applicants.
- (c) The method and deadline for submission of public comments shall be announced in accordance with subsection (a) above.

SECTION 7: INTERVIEWS:

- (a) The Committee shall hold interviews for the purpose of evaluating and selecting a candidate to fill a Legislative Vacancy.
- (b) Only those applicants who have submitted a timely application and who have met the technical and constitutional requirements will be considered for an interview.

(c) The entire Committee shall meet prior to the candidate interviews to determine which applicants to interview, based upon their application and qualifications. This meeting may occur in executive session. The committee will evaluate and then vote on each applicant as to whether to interview. The final list of candidates to be interviewed will then be shared with the public, through a press release and posted on the Committee website.

(d) The candidate interviews shall be held no earlier than the end of the Application Review Period as defined in Section 4(a) herein nor later than twenty-nine (29) days after the occurrence of the Legislative Vacancy.

(e) The candidate interviews may take place at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Committee as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Committee. The interviews may take place over multiple meetings of the Committee provided that all the sessions occur within the timeline prescribed in subparagraph (d) herein.

(f) Since this interview of candidates will include personal information, it should be treated with the same respect as the process of interviewing state employees.

SECTION 8: INTERVIEW PROCESS:

(a) The order in which candidates will be interviewed shall be determined by the Committee. The Committee shall choose the time and place for the purpose of interviewing candidates.

(b) Each candidate shall be invited to address the Committee during the interview for five (5) minutes.

(c) The address of each candidate will immediately be followed by a question and answer period lasting up to fifteen (15) minutes, or for a longer period at the discretion of the Chair, during which members of the Committee may question the candidate.

(d) Each candidate will be afforded the opportunity to make a two (2) minute closing statement following the question and answer period.

SECTION 9: SELECTION of CANDIDATES:

(a) There shall be no proxy voting on candidates to fill Legislative Vacancies. Only those Committee members actually present may vote.

(b) If a Committee member is also a candidate, they shall recuse themselves from the vote. If a Committee member has a financial or familial relationship with the candidate, or other conflicts of interest, they shall recuse themselves from the vote.

(f) Voting shall take place in a public session after the completion of the interview of candidates. It may occur during the same session as the interview of candidates or during a subsequent meeting of the Committee provided that it occurs during the time period as provided by section 7(c) herein and the vacancy exists at the time of the vote.

(g) Voting shall be conducted by a written secret ballot indicating the name of the candidate for whom the member is voting.

(h) The Secretary or another administrative officer of the Committee shall collect all ballots in a ballot box and shall count the ballots in the presence of all members of the Committee.

(i) If no individual candidate receives enough votes of a majority of committee members, second and subsequent ballots will be taken until one candidate receives votes of a majority of committee members.

(j) The Committee shall stand in recess for a minimum of three (3) minutes between ballots. Longer periods of recess shall be permitted upon motion and vote. Multiple rounds of balloting may take place over multiple meetings of the Committee, provided that all rounds occur during the time period set forth by section 7(c) herein.

(k) After the third and each subsequent ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped.

Notwithstanding subsection (k) of this section, if at the end of a ballot no candidate receives enough votes of a majority of Committee members and (on that ballot) a tie occurs among the remaining candidates with the fewest votes where the removal of all of the tied candidates would result in only one candidates (or no candidates) remaining, then no candidate will be eliminated as a result of that ballot.

SECTION 10: EARLY INITIATION of PROCESS for ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

(a) In some cases, when an incumbent member of the State House of Delegates or the State Senate, has announced an intention to resign as of a given date, it may be prudent to initiate the selection process prior to the actual occurrence of a vacancy.

(b) When the Committee receives a copy of an official resignation letter of a State Delegate or State Senator, which is dated as of a date certain occurring no more than thirty (30) days in the future, the Committee may proceed with the process for filling a Legislative Vacancy as if the Legislative Vacancy had occurred on the date the letter was received. However, in no event, shall the Candidate interviews or any Vote take place prior to the actual occurrence of the Legislative Vacancy.¹

(c) If the process for filling a Legislative Vacancy is initiated early due to an anticipated vacancy, the Application Deadline may be set no earlier than ten (10) days prior to the receipt of the copy of an official resignation letter.

(d) Should the process have been initiated early, but for some reason the Legislative Vacancy never actually occurs, the process will terminate immediately, and the Committee will not be responsible for any damages or costs incurred as a result of an applicant's decision to apply for filling the anticipated vacancy.

SECTION 11: SHORT-TERM VACANCIES:

In the event of a Short-term Vacancy as defined in Section 2(g) herein, the Committee may act to fill the Legislative Vacancy at a Regular or Special Meeting with voting taking place in accordance with Section 9 herein except that no time frames specified in these policies shall apply to filling the Short-term Vacancy. In addition, the Committee shall not be required to announce, take applications for, or interview applicants for a Short-term Vacancy. The requirements of Sections 3 through 8 of this policy shall not apply. Any selection to fill such a Legislative Vacancy, however, must still be made within thirty (30) days after the occurrence of such a vacancy as set forth by the Maryland State Constitution.

SECTION 12: FILLING of VACANCY in a MULTI-COUNTY DISTRICT:

In the case of a Legislative District occupying part or all of more than one (1) County, the County committees shall follow the guidelines above for a single County district and shall work together wherever possible.

Applications shall be sent to a single address and then shared with all committee members as set forth by section 4(i).

If possible, the Candidate interviews and Voting shall be held in one location for all committee members. Each Committee shall vote separately and tally their results. Following the completion of all County Votes, all of the Committee members will meet in Executive Session to share their results. If the same applicant has not been selected by all counties, subsequent votes will be taken to try to arrive at a single applicant. If a consensus cannot be reached, multiple nominations may be submitted.

If a joint hearing and vote is not possible due to distance or other factors, then the above guidelines shall be followed on an individual county basis, however, the county chairmen, prior to releasing their individual results, shall meet to share their results in an attempt to submit a single joint nomination. If the counties have different preferred nominees and cannot reach a consensus, multiple nominations may be submitted.

SECTION 13: NOTIFICATION of the GOVERNOR:

The Chair shall notify the Governor of the Committee's decision within one (1) day after the final selection is made. Pursuant to the Maryland State Constitution, the Governor must be notified no later than thirty (30) days after the occurrence of the Legislative Vacancy. The Chair shall submit one name, although the committee may vote to send additional names as well.

SECTION 14: REPEAL of POLICIES or PROCEDURES:

This policy for filling Legislative Vacancies may be suspended in whole or in part by a two-third majority vote of the Committee members present at a meeting of the Committee, provided 48 hours written notice of the meeting was given, and the suspension is provided to each member by the Chair; or the Committee may, with a unanimous vote of members present at meetings during the filling of vacancy process, amend or suspend portions of the filling process.

¹For example, suppose that a copy of an official resignation letter with an effective date of June 30 is received by the Committee on June 1. The Committee may, at its discretion, move forward with advertising the vacancy and setting a deadline for applications. However, it may not hold the Candidate interviews and fill the vacancy until after the actual occurrence of the vacancy on June 30.