

Note: Obviously, these will be put in the same font & format as used in the Bylaws once adopted.

ARTICLE IX
PARTY MEMBERSHIP FOR CANDIDACY TO PUBLIC OFFICE

Section 1. The following sets forth Party Membership requirements and other parameters for candidacy to public office as a Republican in Tennessee:

- A. In addition to requirements imposed by applicable law, any individual seeking election as a Republican candidate for public office must be a “bona fide Republican.” The burden of proving to the TRP that an individual meets its membership requirements is on the prospective candidate.
1. For purposes of this Article, a “bona fide Republican” is defined as an individual who a) is actively involved in the Tennessee Republican Party, the county Republican Party of the county in which the individual resides, or a TRP-recognized auxiliary organization, b) is registered to vote in the above-noted county; and c) who has voted in at least three (3) of the four (4) most recent statewide Republican primary elections in which he is eligible to vote.
 2. For purposes of this Article, “actively involved” includes, without limitation, attending TRP meetings or events; regularly attending Republican county party meetings or events; being a member of a recognized auxiliary organization for at least one year; working on the campaign of a Republican candidate for office in the most recent previous election cycle; contribution of money to the TRP, a county party, any recognized auxiliary organization, or to a Republican candidate committee with confirmation by the candidate or candidate’s campaign official; provided, however, that such activity or actions must have occurred during the time period elapsing since the most recent reorganization of the county Republican party in the county in which the individual resides.
 3. The TRP will maintain a list of recognized auxiliary organizations, updated biennially. The SEC Political Subcommittee will determine the organizations to be included on the TRP recognized auxiliaries list in each odd year prior to December 15th, and the TRP will make a copy of its list available by January 15th of each even year. A CEC that desires to have any local auxiliary organizations considered by the TRP Political Subcommittee for inclusion on the TRP’s recognized auxiliaries list must submit its request and list no later than: 1) September 30th in years immediately following a Presidential election and/or 2) July 31st in years immediately following a Gubernatorial election.

- B. **Beginning in 2026**, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article IX, Section 1A, an individual who has voted in any of the most recent four (4) statewide primary elections held by a party other than the applicable Republican Party will be ineligible to seek the Republican nomination for any public office in Tennessee.

- C. **Beginning on September 7th, 2023**, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article IX, Section 1A, an individual who has brought legal action against the TRP or any county Republican Party will be ineligible to seek the Republican nomination for any public office in Tennessee within ten (10) years of the final resolution of such legal action unless the individual is successful, as determined by the applicable judge or jury, on all claims made against the named defendant(s) in such action.

- D. An individual seeking any of the following elective offices as a Republican candidate will be required to submit to the TRP both a copy of his completed nominating petition and the applicable filing fee prior to the filing deadline for the office being sought.

Presidential Delegate to the Republican National Convention – \$100

Governor – \$5,000

US Senate – \$5,000

US Congress – \$2,500

Tennessee State Senate – \$1,000

Tennessee State Representative – \$500

District Attorney and Public Defender – \$500

State Executive Committee – \$100

Countywide Elected Offices – \$100

County Commission – \$25

School Board – \$25

Constable – \$25

1. Such Fees may be submitted in any manner determined to be acceptable by the TRP, which will maintain an updated list of acceptable payment methods and provide that list to any candidate seeking office as a Republican within three (3) days of written request for the same. If the TRP posts the updated list on its website at least ten (10) days prior to any applicable filing deadline, it will be deemed to have met this requirement for all candidates including, without limitation, those making individual requests. The TRP will accept fees for any particular office during the period starting one (1) year prior to the applicable filing deadline and ending on the filing deadline for the office being sought. An individual may submit his filing fee within a 48-hour grace period after the applicable filing deadline provided that he pay the full fee plus an additional 25% late penalty.

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article IX, Section 1D, no fee will be required from a candidate seeking a local office held by a non-Republican incumbent, who is seeking re-election.

Section 2. The TRP, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to disqualify any individual from running as a Republican candidate if it determines the individual does not meet the standards or requirements set forth in this Article IX. In addition, individual Republican voters may challenge an individual's bona fide Republican status for purposes of seeking public office as detailed in Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph A below.

- A. Any challenge of an individual's bona fide Republican status must be made to the State Chairman by at least five (5) individual registered voters (excluding SEC members), each of whom must 1) live in the district in which the challenged candidate has filed to run, and 2) have voted in at least three (3) of the four (4) most recent statewide Republican primary elections. Challenges must be made no later than five (5) days before the deadline for removal of a candidate's name from a ballot under TCA Section 2-5-204 or other applicable statute, rule or regulation, or any other applicable deadline.
- B. In the event of any dispute about a prospective candidate's qualification to seek office as a Republican or request for a waiver of TRP requirements, the final decision is within the TRP's sole discretion. Any prospective candidate who is disqualified or challenged will be notified by the TRP and may respond to the decision and/or challenge provided that the response is provided to the TRP by its applicable deadlines.
- C. Any challenge to, or request for a waiver of, an individual's qualification to seek public office as a Republican will be determined by a majority vote of the following: the State Chairman, each SEC member who represents any portion of the district covered by the individual's proposed candidacy, and the SEC Political Subcommittee. To avoid doubt, the SEC Political Subcommittee will have one collective vote. SEC members who serve on the Political Subcommittee shall not vote in the Political Subcommittee on any challenge or waiver related to their respective districts. Neither the SEC nor any portion or subcommittee thereof is required to follow the Tennessee Rules of Evidence, Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, or any other standards required in American courts of law or equity in considering and determining any challenge or request for a waiver.
- D. The State Chairman shall communicate to the appropriate election officials all TRP decisions regarding a Republican candidate's qualifications as determined pursuant to this Article.

ARTICLE X

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. These Bylaws shall be effective on and after their adoption by the SEC. All previous Bylaws or Rules inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 2. Unless the context of these Bylaws otherwise requires:

- A. The singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular.
- B. Any pronoun shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine and neuter forms.
- C. A reference to any law includes any amendment or modification to that law, all rules and regulations promulgated under such law, and all administrative and judicial authority exercisable under the law.
- D. Article, section, paragraph, and attachment references are to these Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations of the TRP, as applicable, unless otherwise specified.
- E. Any headings of articles, sections, paragraphs or in attachments are inserted for convenience only, are not to be used in interpreting TRP Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, and do not constitute a part of TRP Bylaws or Rules and Regulations.

Section 3. These Bylaws are intended to be in conformity with all Bylaws, rules, and regulations of the Republican National Committee; with governing federal and Tennessee statutes, rules, and regulations; and other applicable laws. If any of the foregoing are amended hereafter with the effect that these Bylaws are in conflict therewith, these Bylaws shall be deemed amended to conform therewith. The SEC shall as soon as possible thereafter cause these Bylaws to be expressly amended to conform therewith.

Section 4. From time to time, the SEC may adopt Rules and Regulations to set forth or govern procedures to be followed, conditions to be met, and actions to be taken by the TRP, the SEC, County Republican Parties, and/or Republican auxiliary organizations. Such Rules and Regulations shall have the full force and effect of these Bylaws. The bodies affected by such Rules and Regulations, or changes thereto, shall promptly take such action as is necessary to conform therewith. Such Rules and Regulations shall be adopted or amended in the same manner as amendments to these Bylaws as set forth in Article VII.