

Bylaw Amendments

Amendment 1 - Housekeeping and Reference Updates to Clarify Bylaws

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 2 - Prohibits Endorsing Candidates From Other Parties, Strengthens GOP Unity

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 3 - Disqualifies Lawsuit Filers Until Legal Costs Are Repaid

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 4 - Requires Executive Committee Leaves During Contested Primaries

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 5 - Removes Mandatory CPA Audit Requirement to Reduce Costs

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 6 - Lets County Committees Resolve Issues in Dysfunctional Town Committees

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 7 - Moves Delegate Selection to an Internal Party Process

Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 8 - Proposes Leaves of Absence for Local Chairmen in Contested Primaries

Not Recommended by the Bylaw Committee

Not Recommended by the Executive Committee

Amendment 1

Sponsor: Bylaws Committee

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Article I C

Section (2) - Change "Article II, 3, A" to "Article II C"

The existing language is a broken reference to the election of officers in Article II

Section (2) - Change "Article I, 4, A, (4), (b)" to "Article I C (4) (b)"

The existing language is a broken reference to State Committee Meetings called by petition.

Article I G

Change "Article 1, 4, A" to "Article 1 E"

Broken reference.

Article II A

Change "Article II, Section 2" to "Article II B"

Broken reference

Change "Article I Sec. 4a" to "Article 1 E"

Broken reference

Article II C

Change "section 4.B." to "Article II D"

Broken reference to filling of Chairman and Area Vice Chair vacancies.

Article II D

Insert Subsection numbering as follows

"1. Chairman..."

"2. Vice Chairman..."

"3. Regional Vice Chairmen..."

"4. Finance Chairman..."

"5. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer..."

"6. Secretary and Assistant Secretary..."

Article III

Change "Article 1 Sec. 4a" to "Article 1 E"

Broken reference

Article IV

Change "under Article VI" to "under Article V"

Broken reference

Change "Article I Sec. 4a" to "Article 1 E" (2 instances)

Broken references

Article V

Strike "RSA 661:10"

This references the state statute which addresses filling of vacancies to the position of Delegates to the State Convention which is not relevant in the section which is listed.

Change "Article I Sec. 4a" to "Article 1 E" (2 instances)

Broken reference

Change "ending by December 15th" to "shall be held no later than December 15th"

Clarifies that December 15th is a possible date for caucuses.

Article VI

Change "Article I Sec. 4a" to "Article 1 E"

Broken reference

Article VII

Change "anybody" to "any body"

Spelling correction

Bylaws Committee:

This amendment cleans up references in the bylaws. At last year's annual meeting we passed an amendment that renumbered certain sections and this updates the references accordingly. It also adds subsection numbering to Article II section D.

Amendment 2

Sponsor: Kelley Potenza, Rochester

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amendment Article I Section E to read as follows:

"Members of a County or City Republican Committee shall be registered Republicans who live within the respective County or City.

Any Republican who supports, or allows his or her name to be used as an endorsement of a candidate for elected office from another political party in a partisan election, when there is a Republican Party candidate for that office, or is engaging in political activities with political committees who are known to be organized in opposition to Republicans, shall be disqualified during the current and next biennium from holding an office of the State Committee or any County, Regional, Town or City Committee, from being a member of the State, Executive, County, Regional, Town, and/or City Committee.

The Executive Committee may waive this disqualification in the event that the Republican candidate is deemed to espouse beliefs or ideologies in direct contradiction with the principles or platform of the Republican Party."

Amendment Article I Section G to read as follows:

"The State Chairman may summarily suspend a member from the State Committee **and/or any County, Regional, City or Town Committee** upon determining that the member has violated the prohibition of Article 1 E, against the specified forms of support for an opponent of the Republican Party's nominee. The Chairman shall deliver a written notice of any such suspension to the member by mail, e-mail, fax, or any other means reasonably calculated to provide such notice. Any member who has been suspended under this section shall have the right to appeal the Chairman's determination to the State Executive Committee by delivering a written request for an appeal hearing to the Chairman within ten days of the date on the notice of summary suspension. The Executive Committee shall hear the appeal within 45 days of the date the Chairman receives the notice of the appeal. The hearing will be confined to whether the member violated the prohibitions. The Vice-Chairman shall preside at the hearing. The suspension shall result in the removal of the member from the State Committee **and/or any County, City, Regional, or Town Committee** for the remainder of the member's current term and for the next biennium if (a) the member does not timely appeal the suspension or (b) the Executive Committee fails to overrule the Chairman's determination by a vote of more than fifty percent of its total membership."

Rationale:

Supporting the proposed bylaw change clarifies the existing language to reinforce that Republican Committee members should not be endorsing candidates who oppose Republicans. This is in direct conflict with our mission to help recruit and elect Republican candidates and to promote the general welfare of the Republican Party.

Bylaws Committee Rationale:

Supporting the proposed bylaw change clarifies the process for suspending members who violate Article 1 E, prohibiting support for non-Republican nominees in partisan elections. It reinforces our commitment to electing Republicans by ensuring Committee members work towards a common goal.

Supporting this amendment strengthens our dedication to the Republican Party's success and promotes unity within our organization.

Amendment 3

Sponsor: Chris Ager, Amherst

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amend Article I, E by adding as the last paragraph:

Any individual who voluntarily initiates or joins as a party to a non-prevailing lawsuit against the New Hampshire Republican State Committee (NHRSC), or any of its officers, subordinate committees, or entities, shall be disqualified from serving as an officer, Executive Committee member, State Committee member, or as an officer or member of any County, City, Town, or Regional Committee. Furthermore, such individuals shall be ineligible to receive campaign support or official acknowledgment or endorsement from the NHRSC. This disqualification and ineligibility shall continue until all legal fees and costs directly incurred by the NHRSC due to the lawsuit are fully reimbursed by that individual or the parties to the lawsuit.

Rationale:

Prevent frivolous lawsuits by "so-called" Republicans and encourage parties to work within the structure to work out differences.

Bylaws Committee Rationale:

Supporting the proposed bylaw change protects the NHRSC's finances by deterring frivolous lawsuits and holding those who initiate or join such lawsuits accountable. It fosters collaboration by encouraging members to resolve conflicts through negotiation rather than litigation. The bylaw ensures responsible leadership, as members who engage in disruptive and costly lawsuits should not hold positions of authority. Furthermore, it promotes efficient dispute resolution and preserves the NHRSC's reputation by discouraging unnecessary litigation.

Amendment 4

Sponsor: Kelley Potenza, Rochester

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amend Article IV Section A by adding the following:

"An Executive Committee member shall take a leave of absence from the Executive Committee upon filing as a candidate, or, upon accepting a position within a campaign (paid or unpaid) for any U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, Statewide office, County office, Executive Council, State Senate, or State Representative political position during the period of a contested Primary Election."

Rationale:

Fewer conflicts of interest.

Bylaws Committee Rational:

Supporting the proposed bylaw change ensures the Executive Committee remains impartial by requiring members to take a leave of absence when running for or working on campaigns during contested primaries. Preventing potential conflicts of interest and maintaining the integrity of the committee. Supporting this additional amendment promotes transparency and upholds the trust placed in the Executive Committee by New Hampshire Republicans.

This amendment would not supersede existing bylaws that require officers of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee to resign if they engage in primaries.

Amendment 5

Sponsor: Chris Ager, Amherst

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amend part of Article II Section D in the paragraph describing Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer duties to read as follows:

"An audit of all funds shall be conducted every election year, and a review shall be conducted in all non-election years and as directed by the Executive Committee. ~~Such audit and review shall be performed by a professional certified public accountant, chosen by the State Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee.~~ The results of this audit or review shall be reported back to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall discharge his/her duties on behalf of the Republican Party as required by State Statutes (RSA 664:13) and federal law."

Rationale:

All income and spending are reported to either the State of NH or the Federal Elections Commission. Our CPA required audits have cost approximately \$15,000 per year and have yielded "NO FINDINGS" in all of the records available. An audit will still be performed and reported to the Executive Board with a non-CPA certification; the cost may go to zero with Republican volunteer auditors.

We already pay for a bookkeeper and a Compliance corporation.

Bylaws Committee Rationale:

Supporting this bylaw amendment removes the CPA requirement from the bylaws for audits and leaves it to the discretion of the Executive Committee, who could still choose to conduct an audit by CPA, or could pursue less costly audit methods including using qualified volunteers. The audit process, on average, costs the state party about \$10,000.

All income and spending is reported via the Federal Elections Commission and the New Hampshire Secretary of State, and the CPA requirement is a financial burden on the party.

Amendment 6

Sponsor: Chris Buda, Nashua

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amend Article V Section 2 by adding the bold italicized text:

2. Meetings

The County Chairman, within 45 days following their election, shall notify all constituent town and city committees either: (1) hold a meeting for the purpose of electing officers, or (2) file with the State Chairman a copy of its previously adopted bylaws and a list of officers and committee members for the Town and City who have been elected in accordance with those bylaws, after published notice of meetings. The County Chairman shall also provide the State Chairman with the names, addresses and phone numbers of officers and members of the County and local Republican Committees. ***The County Executive Committee may call for an Election of officers when the following occurs in a Town or Regional Committee: the vacancy of the Chair, the committee becomes dysfunctional, or committee business cannot be conducted.***

Rationale:

To give the County Executive Committee the authority to call for elections for a Town or Regional Committee when a the committee falls into a state of disarray in order to bring it back on track

Bylaws Committee rationale:

From time to time the NHRSC would end up dealing with a crisis with a Town or Regional Committee. Leadership issues and group dysfunction put the committee in a place where committee business cannot be conducted. The business of promoting the Republican agenda and electing Republican candidates is not well served. Often it would be left up to the NHRSC Executive Committee to resolve the issue. Instead of these matters going to the NHRSC Executive Committee first, we should give the County Executive Committee the authority to call for elections to resolve the matter at the lowest level.

Amendment 7

Sponsor: Chris Maidment, Peterborough

Bylaw Committee Recommends Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amend by the bylaws by inserting as Article IV after Article III and renumbering the following Articles.

Article IV - Delegates

A. Composition of Delegates

- The delegates to the New Hampshire Republican State Convention shall consist of:
 1. All Republican nominees for the following offices in the most recent general election:
 - State Representative
 - State Senator
 - Executive Councilor
 - Governor
 - U.S. Representative
 - U.S. Senator
 - County Government Offices
 2. Incumbent Republican office holders who were not up for re-election in the most recent general election: Incumbent Republican U.S. Senators and incumbent Republican County Officials elected to four year terms, provided that they remain in office.
 3. The Elected Officers of the Republican State Committee as outlined in Article II, Section B who shall hold office at the time of the State Convention.
 4. The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman who shall hold office at the time of the State Convention.
 5. The National Committeeman-elect and National Committeewoman-elect, if applicable, who have been elected but have yet to assume office.
 6. Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the County and City Republican Committees recognized as members of the Executive Committee pursuant to Article IV Section A of the bylaws who shall hold office at the time of the State Convention.
 7. Two at-large delegates from each county and city committee recognized by these bylaws.
 8. Elected Regional or Town Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Treasurers, and Secretaries of Town Committees in good standing.

B. Eligibility

- To serve as a delegate, an individual:
 1. Shall be a registered Republican voter.

2. Shall not be disqualified from being a member of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee pursuant to Article 1 Section E of these bylaws.
3. Shall not caucus with/portray themselves as a member of any other party and/or independent of party.

C. Election of Delegates

1. Nominees for office on the State Primary ballot shall be elected in accordance with the election laws of the State of New Hampshire.
2. Incumbent Republican office holders whose name did not appear on the State Primary ballot by virtue of their length of term shall remain Delegates so long as they are not disqualified in accordance with the bylaws, Article I Section E or Article IV Section B.
3. Officers of the Republican State Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article II Section C of these bylaws.
4. The National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, National Committeeman-elect, and National Committeewoman-elect shall be elected in accordance with Article III of these bylaws.
5. The Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Treasurers, and Secretaries of the County and City Committees recognized by these bylaws shall be elected in accordance with the bylaws of the Republican State Committee Article VI and the bylaws of their respective committee.
6. The Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Treasurers and Secretaries of the Town and Regional Committees shall be elected in accordance with the bylaws of the Republican State Committee, the bylaws of the County Committee(s) governing their respective territory, and the bylaws of their respective committee. County and City Committee Chairmen shall notify the Chairman and Secretary of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee of all elected officers of the Town and Regional Committees in their respective area no later than January 31 of each year, and within 7 days of any change in Officer.
7. The at-large delegates shall be elected at the first meeting of the calendar year following the State General Election by their respective County/City Committee. The County/City Committee Chairman shall notify the New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman and Secretary of the delegates so chosen, and shall update the Chairman and Secretary within 7 days of any change in Delegate.

D. Term of Delegates

- Delegates shall serve from the conclusion of the State Primary Election in which they were nominated until the conclusion of the next State Primary Election, or until their successor is elected, whichever comes first.

E. Filling Vacancies

1. In the event of a vacancy in the delegate role of a nominee for elected office chosen on the State Primary Ballot or incumbent Republican office holder, the vacancy shall not be filled until a new Republican nominee for that office is chosen at a Special Primary Election held in accordance with RSA 661 or Special General Election in the event of an uncontested Special Election, or the next State Primary Election if no Special Election is held for the vacant office.
2. If a vacancy occurs in the delegate positions elected at-large by the County or City committees recognized by the Executive Committee, the County or City committee may elect a replacement at a duly noticed meeting. The name of the newly elected Delegate shall be read into the minutes of the Executive Committee at their next meeting. The newly elected delegate shall serve from when their name is read into the minutes of the Executive Committee until their successor is elected.
3. Delegate vacancies occurring in the positions of National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, National Committeeman-elect, National Committeewoman-elect, officers of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, or Secretary of the County, City, Regional, or Town Committee shall be filled in accordance with the respective bylaws where the vacancy occurs and the name of the newly elected delegate, if any, shall be read into the minutes of the next Executive Committee meeting. The newly elected Delegate shall serve from the time their name is read into the minutes of the Executive Committee until their successor is elected.

Upon adoption of this amendment, the NHGOP shall formally notify the New Hampshire Secretary of State of the change to delegate selection procedures in accordance with RSA 662.

This amendment shall take effect following the adjournment of the next Biennial State Convention.

Bylaws Committee rationale:

Amendment 6 is a fiscally responsible reform that takes Delegate races off the State Primary ballot and solidifies the selection process within our Party's own bylaws. By eliminating this costly and time-consuming ballot measure we streamline the certification process, and free up vital resources for our municipal clerks and Secretary of State's office. This helps ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. We also free up resources of those who recruit candidates for state offices to focus on the races that determine control in Concord.

Moreover, Amendment 6 protects Republican integrity by ensuring that our Delegates are selected exclusively by our own members, not by independents or cross-party voters. Under the current system, anyone can vote for Republican Delegates in the primary—even those who don't share our conservative values. By transitioning Delegate selection to a Party-based process, we preserve the Republican platform and keep our Delegate seats from being influenced by outside interests.

In short, Amendment 6 empowers the New Hampshire Republican Party to control its own destiny, saves money, and keeps the choice of who represents our values exactly where it belongs—in the hands of registered Republicans.

Amendment 8

Sponsor: Emily Phillips, Fremont

Bylaw Committee Does Not Recommend Passage

Executive Committee Supports the Bylaw Committees Recommendation

Language:

Amendment Article 1, Section E

"All Chairmen and local Area Chairs for all Regional, City, and Town Committees shall take a leave of absence from their respective Committee upon filing as a candidate, or, upon accepting a position within a campaign (paid or unpaid) for any U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, Statewide office, County office, Executive Council, State Senate, or State Representative political position during the period of a contested Primary Election."

Rationale:

Less gaming of Republicans against Republicans by local committee chairs in contested primaries.

Bylaw Committee rationale for not supporting:

Not in support of the proposed bylaw change because the Committee has experienced how difficult it is to find willing people to help with each of these roles. Chris Buda's bylaw amendment change would help with any nefarious issue a Chairman may be doing and can be addressed by the County Chairman if needed.