

**BYLAWS**

**of**

***The FAUQUIER COUNTY  
REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE***

As revised and approved, Effective September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be "Fauquier County Republican Committee," hereinafter called the "County Committee."

### **ARTICLE II - ORGANIZATION**

The County Committee is organized under and governed by the "Plan of Organization of the Republican Party of Virginia," hereinafter referred to as the "State Party Plan." No action of the County Committee nor these Bylaws shall conflict with the State Party Plan, as amended from time to time; and to the extent that there shall be a conflict, the provisions of the State Party Plan shall prevail.

### **ARTICLE III - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the County Committee is to provide an organization through which like-minded citizens, devoted to the principles of the Republican Party, can unite in order to promote its principles. The County Committee is to encourage better government through the selection, nomination, and election to public office of Republican candidates who support the principles of the County Committee, and to exercise leadership and responsible action on public issues.

### **ARTICLE IV- PRINCIPLES**

The principles of the County Committee are as follows:

1. As so clearly stated in the "Declaration of Independence", "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed." God is our Sovereign and all authority rests in Him. We, the people, were created by God and then we created government. It is to be our servant and shall remain so.
2. A strong national defense is essential to peaceful coexistence with the other countries of the world.
3. The Constitution of the United States is to be applied literally, ensuring that in no way shall the sovereignty of the United States of America be abridged by an entity.
4. The function of government is to maintain law and order, with justice, and to provide for the common defense, that individual freedoms shall be preserved.
5. The free enterprise system is the only proper basis for individual and national prosperity.
6. Government functions best at the local level, and all attempts should be made to keep it so.
7. The Bill of Rights limits the powers of the federal government and must be duly adhered to.
8. Our constitutional republic, as defined by the U.S. Constitution, requires that the powers of the government of the Commonwealth of Virginia must be limited to those delegated to it by the citizens of Virginia. The document that sets forth these powers is the Constitution of Virginia, and all officials, whether such by election or other means, must abide by those limitations.
9. Candidates put forth by the County Committee must hold the aforementioned beliefs. Elected Republican officials who consistently fail to uphold these beliefs and principles in the performance of their sacred trust may be subject to censure or repudiation by the County Committee.
10. Members of the County Committee have become such by virtue of their agreement with the Republican Party, and are to continuously uphold the oath contained below in Article V, Section A, Item 1. Any member who fails to support Republican candidates for office is subject to censure or dismissal by the County Committee.

### **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION A: Qualifications**

1. All legally qualified voters under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia who reside in the County of Fauquier, and who are in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, and who, if

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requested, express in open meeting either orally or in writing as may be required their intent to support all of its nominees for public office in the ensuing election may participate as members of the Republican Party of Fauquier County in its mass meetings, party canvasses, conventions, or primaries encompassing their respective election districts and are eligible for membership on the County Committee.

2. A person who has made application for registration and meets all other requirements of Section A, but whose name does not appear on the local registration books solely because of the books having been closed in connection with a local election, will nevertheless be deemed a legal and qualified voter.

#### SECTION B: Dues

Each member of the County Committee shall be required to pay dues annually in an amount set and approved by the County Committee.

#### SECTION C: Composition

The County Committee shall consist of:

1. A Chairman

2. Precinct Membership - Each voting precinct in the County shall be represented on the County Committee by at least one precinct member. The total number of precinct members shall be determined by the County Committee on the basis of the Republican Party voting strength in the most recent Gubernatorial and Presidential elections, as stated in the call for the mass meeting, canvass, convention, or primary at which such members are elected. Precinct members shall be registered to vote in the precinct they represent.

3. At-large Membership: In addition to precinct membership, an at-large membership may be created, which shall not exceed in number 30% of the precinct membership as determined under the preceding paragraph. The at-large membership shall be elected at the mass meeting, canvass, convention, or primary which elects the precinct membership.

4. Precinct Captains: All precincts shall have one precinct captain. In precincts in which there is only one member of the committee, that member shall automatically be the precinct captain for that precinct. In all precincts that have two or more members, that captain will be a member appointed by the Vice Chairman – Precinct Organization as soon as possible after officers are elected following the election of the County Chairman and members of the County Committee. In the event no member of a precinct is able to perform as precinct captain, the Vice Chairman – Precinct Organization may appoint as precinct captain an individual who resides outside that precinct. Precinct Captains shall serve at the pleasure of the Vice Chairman – Precinct Organization.

5. Ex-officio Membership: All publicly elected Republican officials residing in Fauquier County, the chairman of The Piedmont Republican Women's Club, The Young Republican Club, and the Teen Age Republicans (TARs), if eligible under Article V: Membership, Section A: Qualifications, and who maintain their eligibility as specified under Article V, Section E, shall be additional voting members of the County Committee.

6. Associate Membership: Any person who meets the qualifications for membership in the Committee under Section A of this Article and who is approved by the Membership Committee and who otherwise complies with the State Party Plan, may become an Associate Member of the Fauquier County Republican Committee. Associate members shall have all the privileges of other members except that they shall not be entitled to a vote. An Associate Member may be removed from the roll by failure to pay annual dues by June 1st of each calendar year or by vote of two-thirds of the Membership Committee. Realizing, that a broad based membership is vital to success in the political arena, Associate Members will be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Committee and in the election of Republican candidates for office. Associate Members shall receive notice of the Committee meetings and are invited to attend. Associate Members' dues will be set at 75% of the amount established for Committee members.

#### SECTION D: Election and Term

The members of the County Committee shall be elected at the County mass meeting, party canvass, convention, or primary called for the purpose of electing delegates to the Biennial District Convention in the congressional district(s) of Virginia and they shall hold office for two (2) years from the time of their election, until successors are selected, or unless sooner removed.

#### SECTION E: Removal

1. Dues:

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a. Any member who fails to pay his annual dues by June 30th of each calendar year or within 60 days of his election on the Committee, whichever shall last occur, shall lose his status as a voting member until such dues are paid.

b. In the event that a member's dues are unpaid after June 30th of each calendar year, the secretary shall notify, by electronic mail or first-class mail, each member of his failure to comply with the requirement of paying dues for that year together with the amount of the said dues. If a member has not paid the dues within 30 days of the notice, together with a five-dollar (\$5.00) additional charge for delinquent payment, that member who has not paid shall be removed as a member of the Committee. Notification shall be sent by first class mail by the secretary that the non-complying member has been removed from the County Committee.

2. Any member who fails to attend in person or by proxy three (3) consecutive duly called meetings shall be removed from the Committee, provided that prior to such removal, the member shall be sent a notice by electronic mail or first class mail by the secretary after non-attendance of the second consecutive meeting informing the member of his or her impending removal. Upon failure to attend the third consecutive meeting, notice will be sent by first class mail by the secretary informing the non-complying member that he has been removed from the County Committee.

3. The Chairman or any other member of the County Committee may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the other members of the County Committee, after being provided with notice that such removal will be sought, with the charges, in writing, signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the members of the County Committee; and allowing him thirty (30) days within which to appear and defend himself.

4. A member of an Official Committee is held to a higher standard of support for nominees of the Republican Party than an individual who merely participates in a mass meeting, party canvass, convention or primary. Therefore, a member of an Official Committee is deemed to have resigned his Committee position if he (a) makes a reportable contribution to and/or (b) knowingly allows his name to be publicly used by and/or (c) makes a written or other public statement supporting the election of a candidate in opposition to a Republican nominee in a Virginia General or Special Election, and/or (d) becomes an officer of any other political party. A majority of the elected officers of an official committee are charged with recognizing when this provision is in effect. Such member may be re-instated by a majority vote of the other members of the Committee. For the purposes of this section, "allows" shall mean that a member has either (i) affirmatively given permission for his name to be publicly used, or (ii) refused to publicly disavow the use of his name upon receiving notification by an official committee chairman that it is being used.

### SECTION F: Appeal

Any person having been removed by the County Committee pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Section E may appeal to the County Committee for reinstatement and an appeal may be granted by a majority vote of the County Committee at a regular meeting.

### SECTION G: Vacancies

1. In the event of death, resignation, removal, or inability to act of the County Chairman, Vice Chairman of Precinct Organization shall call a special meeting of the County Committee to be held within thirty (30) days for the stated purpose of electing a new County Chairman to fill the unexpired term.

2. Persons who have been recommended by the Membership Committee may be nominated to fill any vacancy at any regularly called meeting of the County Committee after due notice of such intent has been given in the call of the meeting.

### SECTION H: Officers

The officers of the County Committee shall be a Chairman, elected at the mass meeting, party canvass, convention, or primary, and the following officers who shall be elected from the committee membership at the first meeting of the County Committee following the election of the County Chairman and members of the County Committee.

Vice Chairman - Precinct Organization

Vice Chairman - Membership

Vice Chairman - Programs

Secretary

Treasurer

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Provided, however, that no paid members of campaign staffs or the paid staff of the Republican Party of Virginia shall be eligible to hold the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman - Precinct Organization, Vice Chairman - Membership, Vice Chairman - Programs, Secretary and Treasurer.

### ARTICLE VI - DUTIES

#### SECTION A: Duties of the Committee

1. The County Committee shall determine whether candidates for local and constitutional public offices shall be nominated by mass meeting, party canvass, convention, or primary, and whether unit chairman and committee members shall be elected by mass meeting, party canvass, convention, or primary.

2. It shall call all regular and all special mass meetings, party canvasses, conventions, and primaries, and make all arrangements therefore. Authority to make such arrangements (other than the date and time; and whether there shall be, and the requirements for, a prefilings) shall remain with the County Committee members.

#### SECTION B: Duties of Officers

##### 1. Chairman:

The County Chairman shall be responsible for the general execution and implementation of the programs and policies of the County Committee, commensurate with achieving the goals of the Party Plan. In addition, the County Chairman shall:

- a. Call mass meetings, party canvasses, conventions, and primaries in accordance with the Party Plan and preside over same until a temporary organization is effected;
- b. Represent the County Committee on the Republican Congressional District(s) Committee(s);
- c. Convene the County Committee as provided herein and more often when the needs of the Party so demand;
- d. Appoint two (2) qualified persons to make an annual audit of the books and financial records of the Committee at the end of each fiscal year, which persons shall report to the County Committee;
- e. Maintain an accurate roster of Republican voters in the County by precinct for use of the County Committee and candidates nominated for office. This roster shall not be made available to anyone other than those previously named without the express consent of the County Chairman;
- f. Serve as the County Committee's liaison with the State Board of Elections;
- g. Maintain the official copy of the State Party Plan, and make sure it is kept current and available to members;
- h. Nominate candidates to the vice chairmen positions, though nominations may be made from the floor by County Committee members, as well, with the entire Committee voting on these appointments. Vice Chairman positions shall be filled from the existing membership roster.

##### 2. The Vice Chairman:

- a. The Vice Chairman - Precinct Organization shall be in charge of the organization of all of the precincts in Fauquier County. He shall see that a precinct captain is appointed for each precinct and shall see that these precinct captains are properly trained, instructed and supplied. The Vice Chairman - Precinct Organization shall act as Chairman in the County Committee Chairman's absence.
- b. The Vice Chairman - Membership shall be responsible for recruiting party members and shall perform such functions as shall be assigned by the Chairman.
- c. The Vice Chairman - Programs shall be in charge of programs and special projects as assigned by the Chairman.

##### 3. The Secretary shall:

- a. Take minutes of all meetings of the County Committee and keep them in his custody.
- b. Have available for reference at all meetings current copies of County Committee Bylaws and the Party Plan.
- c. Keep an accurate roster of the attendance of the membership and notify the Chairman when a member becomes delinquent pursuant to Article V, Section E of these Bylaws.
- d. Deliver all official records in his custody to his successor within ten (10) days of the

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expiration of his term of office.

- e. Be responsible for such correspondence as directed by the County Chairman.
- f. Be responsible for mailing all meeting notices at the direction of the County Chairman or upon petition of one-third of the members of the County Committee.
- g. Keep on file all communications received and copies of all letters sent out.
- h. Keep an accurate roster of the names and addresses of all members and shall provide all members of the County Committee with a copy of same.

### **4. The Treasurer:**

a. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping and disbursement of all County Committee funds. The Treasurer shall be authorized to distribute funds under the following conditions:

i. In accordance with an annual budget approved by the County Committee at a regularly called meeting in the month of June, provided adequate funds are on hand to meet prior obligations as established by such a budget;

ii. Upon the direction of the Chairman or two of the Vice Chairmen, the Treasurer shall also have the authority to make expenditures up to a total of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00) in any one month.

b. The Treasurer and the County Chairman are empowered to open a bank account in the name of the Fauquier County Republican Committee and to make deposits and approved withdrawals from such account. The Treasurer shall present at each County Committee meeting a report covering the period since the preceding meeting. The Treasurer shall present an annual report to the County Committee at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer's books are to be audited at the end of the year by at least two (2) persons designated by the Chairman. The audit is to be certified as to correctness to the County Committee, with a copy to the Treasurer.

c. The Treasurer shall keep proper records, which are to be open to inspection by any member of the County Committee at all reasonable times, and upon reasonable notice. The Treasurer shall deliver all official records in his possessions to his successor within (10) days of the expiration of his term.

d. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance committee as herein provided.

### **SECTION C: Duties of Precinct Captains**

Precinct Captains shall be responsible for organizing the precinct on election day and maximizing candidates support. Precinct Captains shall also seek to identify Republican support prior to election day so that turn out is maximized. Members of the Committee from the precinct are to support the precinct captain in order to see that these goals are achieved.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

### **SECTION A: General**

The County Committee shall meet at least bi-monthly. Additional meetings as may be required shall be called by the County Chairman or upon petition of one-third of the members of the County Committee.

### **SECTION B: Meetings**

Meetings of the County Committee other than the regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting shall be held upon seven (7) days written notice with agenda enclosed, to the membership as recorded on the official membership roster prepared and maintained by the Secretary. Electronic Mail shall be deemed written notice for the purpose of this subsection. However, the Committee must provide an alternative form of delivery for any member who does not have regular access to electronic mail.

### **SECTION C: Proxy**

A member of the County Committee may be represented at any County Committee meeting by a proxy, subject to the following conditions:

1. No individual may cast more than one (1) vote on any motion at any meeting which he attends.
2. Any person who acts as proxy for another must meet the qualifications for membership on the County Committee as stated in Article V, Section A of these Bylaws and the requirements of the State Party Plan, and must represent the same election district as the member for which they hold proxy.
3. Ex-Officio members who are such by virtue of being a publicly elected official may not vote by

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proxy.

4. All proxies shall be in writing, signed by the maker, witnessed, and substantially in the following form:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Committee member), of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (address), do hereby appoint  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of proxy) of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (precinct, org., etc.) my attorney, to vote as my proxy  
at a meeting of the Fauquier County Republican Committee to be held  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_, or at any adjournment  
thereof, upon any question that may come before the meeting, with all the  
power I should possess if personally present.  
Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

5. Any proxy may be withdrawn by the Committee member giving it at any time prior to its exercise.

### SECTION D: Voting

1. Except as provided herein, in Article V, Section E, paragraph 3, and Article X, only a majority vote of those present in formal meeting is needed to pass motions related to the business of the County Committee.

2. The County Committee has the authority to nominate a candidate or candidates for office by two-thirds vote of those present in formal meeting after due notice, which is seven (7) days' notice, determined by postmark or date of Electronic Mail, of the meeting to all members of the Committee where the mass meeting or primary has failed to nominate such candidate or candidates.

3. At any election when there is more than one (1) candidate for a County Committee membership or office position, the vote shall be taken by paper ballot accomplished by roll call of the membership of the County Committee with each member coming forward to cast the paper ballot when his name is called.

### SECTION E: Notice and Quorum

Meetings of the County Committee shall be held upon seven (7) days written notice with agenda enclosed, to the membership as recorded on the official membership roster prepared and maintained by the Secretary. Electronic Mail shall be deemed written notice for the purpose of this subsection. However, the Committee must provide an alternative form of delivery for any member who does not have regular access to electronic mail. One-third of the voting members of the County Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### SECTION F: Conduct of Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the State Party Plan, these Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order, revised.

### SECTION G: Public Meetings

All County Committee meetings shall be held in a building appropriate for public use and shall be open to the public.

## ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

### SECTION A: Standing Committees

1. There shall be the following Standing Committees, the chairmen of which shall be appointed at the discretion of the County Chairman, with positions announced to the Committee after appointment, to be reflected in the minutes of the meeting which are sent out to all the members:

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- a. Finance
- b. Precinct Organization
- c. Candidates
- d. Nominating
- e. Research and Issues
- f. Rules and Resolutions
- g. Membership
- h. Programs
- i. Executive

2. The chairmen of said Committees shall select the membership of their respective committees with the exception of the Executive Committee which shall be selected by the County Chairman and shall include the officers of the committee, the chairmen of the standing committees, plus one at-large member, one precinct member, and the President of the Piedmont Republican Women's Club. There may be such additional special committees as are deemed advisable by the Chairman. The County Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all such committees except the Nominating Committee, and he shall fill any vacancy as it may occur. At his discretion, the County Chairman may appoint chairmen of special committees to the Executive Committee.

### SECTION B: Duties

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of a Finance Chairman, the Treasurer, and Committee Chairs. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for:

- a. Overall planning and supervision of the financial affairs of the County Committee, including fund raising.
- b. Preparation of an annual budget to be presented by the Treasurer to the Chairman prior to the annual meeting.
- c. Review of any proposals for expenditures not in accordance with the annual budget approved by the County Committee. Any such proposal must first at a County Committee meeting be presented, moved, seconded, and approved for consideration by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall present the expenditure proposal to the County Committee at the next scheduled meeting with its recommendation for approval as proposed, approval with changes, or disapproval. The County Committee will then vote on the Finance Committee's recommendation.
- d. An exception to the guidance stated in paragraph c. above, the Chairman (or majority vote of the Executive Committee) shall, if he or she determines there is either a need or an opportunity of such importance that the two-month process described in paragraph c. shall be waived, and the County Committee will vote on the proposal in the current month.
- e. Perform such other duties as shall be assigned by the County Chairman.

2. The Precinct Organization Committee shall consist of the Vice Chairman - Precinct Organization and the precinct captains. The Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining an organization for effective communication between individual voters and the leadership of the Republican Party, as well as a mechanism for accomplishing the objectives of the Republican Party.

3. The Candidates Committee shall consist of a Chairman and at least one (1) member of the County Committee from each Magisterial District. It shall be the duty of this Committee to actively seek out and encourage potential qualified candidates for all public offices, to acquaint all potential candidates with the requirements and duties of the office, to ascertain whether or not each potential candidate has means of raising the necessary funds for a successful campaign, and to present the names of all potential candidates to the County Committee. The Candidates Committee is not a selection committee, but rather shall encourage candidates for office from among all segments of the party and shall not reject any candidate. This committee shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned by the County Chairman.

4. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, one from each Magisterial District. The Committee shall be appointed as soon as possible following the organization of the County Committee as provided in Article V, Section D for a term of two (2) years. The Nominating Committee shall prepare and distribute pre-file forms and receive and process nominations submitted thereon, prior to the deadlines set by the County Committee, for election as:

- a. Member of the County Committee at biennial committee reconstitution
- b. Chairman of the County Committee at biennial committee reconstitution
- c. Delegate to county, district and state conventions
- d. Candidate for election to public office



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This committee shall examine the qualifications, or lack thereof, of all nominees and shall prepare a report thereon for presentation to the County Committee.

5. The Research and Issues Committee shall consist of a chairman and such other members as shall be deemed advisable. This Committee shall conduct continuing research on current issues which may be of interest and assistance to the County Committee, and to all candidates, to maintain files on the results of such research which shall be available to all members of the County Committee and to generally keep abreast of current issues. This Committee shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned by the County Chairman.

6. The Rules and Resolutions Committee shall consist of a chairman and such other members as shall be deemed advisable. The chairman of this committee shall serve as parliamentarian to the committee at large and as advisor on all applicable laws and regulations that may pertain to the business of the committee. This committee shall have the following duties:

- a. To maintain the Bylaws of the Fauquier County Republican Committee.
- b. To draft and recommend rules governing mass meetings, party canvasses or party conventions.
- c. To review resolutions for presentation to the County Committee. Resolutions for the adoption by the County Committee must first be presented without discussion at a meeting of the County Committee. After the proposed resolution is moved and seconded for consideration by the Rules and Resolution Committee, it shall be considered by the Rules and Resolution Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the County Committee. If the Rules and Resolution Committee approves the resolution, it shall be presented to the County Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting for adoption.

7. The Membership Committee shall consist of the Vice Chairman - Membership (who will serve as Chairman) and five other members from the Committee, preferably one from each magisterial district, who will be appointed by the Vice Chairman - Membership and who will serve at the pleasure of the said Vice Chairman. The County Chairman will be an ex-officio member.

a. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for recruiting members of the Committee needed to fill interim vacancies, maintaining membership records of the Committee, approving Associate Membership applications within 30 days of receipt of an application, and carrying out such other tasks as are assigned by the County Chairman. Three or more members shall constitute a quorum. The Membership Committee shall meet at the call of the Membership Committee Chairman or the County Chairman.

b. The Membership Committee may only recommend to the General Membership for approval nominees who are current Associate Members to fill interim vacancies. Should there be more than one Associate Member qualified for a particular interim fill position at the time of the Membership Committee recommendation, all may be considered by the General Membership for that position if so requested. All nominees must at a minimum meet the requirements of Article V, Section A and Section C, paragraphs 2 and 3 to fill precinct and at-large positions respectively.

## **ARTICLE IX - PLATFORM**

There are specific stands that the County Committee takes on particular issues that may vary from year to year. These shall be specified in a separate document called "The Platform of the Fauquier County Republican Committee," and shall not be part of the Bylaws. The Platform shall be subject to annual approval by the Executive Committee, and any changes proposed will be presented to the County Committee for approval by a simple majority. Each item, or stand, may be considered separately.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those members of the County Committee who are present and voting at a duly called meeting; provided that a copy of such proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership along with the official notice of such meeting.

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### **APPENDIX – COUNTY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD, TOWN COUNCIL, AND OTHER OFFICIALS SUBJECT TO NON-PARTY-AFFILIATED ELECTIONS**

1. The County Committee may endorse candidates for public office running in non-party-affiliated elections, subject to the provisions and procedures stipulated in this Appendix.
2. Any such candidate seeking an office for which no party nomination may be sought shall submit the request for County Committee endorsement to the Committee Chairman in writing. The Executive Committee shall consider the request and recommend to the County Committee whether to endorse the candidate.
3. The County Committee may endorse the candidate by two-thirds vote of those present in formal meeting per the procedure set forth in Article VII, Section D, paragraph 2 of these Bylaws.