



BYLAWS OF THE WAGONER COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

**As adopted at the County Convention
February 24, 2024**

PREAMBLE

The Wagoner County Republican Party ("WCRP") is recognized by the Oklahoma Republican Party ("OKGOP") as its official affiliate representing registered Republicans in Wagoner County Oklahoma. Pursuant to the rules of the OKGOP, the local County Committee (i.e., the WCRP County Committee), is the supreme Republican Party authority of the county. As such, it is charged with the duty of promoting the welfare and directing and controlling the affairs of the Republican Party in Wagoner County and is specifically authorized to promulgate additional rules as deemed necessary.

Therefore, we, the "Party Participating Members" (as defined below) of the WCRP, in County Convention duly assembled, establish, and adopt the following Bylaws for the WCRP, separate and apart from the rules of the OKGOP.

DEFINITION OF TERMS *(for the purposes of these rules)*

Wagoner County Republican: A legal resident of the County of Wagoner, State of Oklahoma, duly registered and recognized as a lawful Republican voter by the Wagoner County Election Board.

"Party Participating Members", Party, The Party, The Wagoner County Republican Party, "We," "Membership," "Participants," any term, acronym or abbreviated title representing Wagoner County Republican Party means the officially recognized, organized persons to include:

- (a) duly elected officers charged with the management of the conduct of business, organizational maintenance, and those activities and adjudications deemed to be "Best Interest" responsibilities.
- (b) duly appointed individuals charged to serve in advisory capacity to elected officers.
- (c) duly elected delegates charged to represent the will and interests of lawful and legally recognized Republican voters residing within the geographic boundaries of the defined political jurisdiction of Wagoner County, Oklahoma.
- (c) Registered Republican voters of Wagoner County who routinely attend organized Republican group gatherings conducted, sponsored, sanctioned by the duly elected County Party officers.
- (d) For the sake of administrative clarity, the body of voters who identify as Republican and who may regularly or occasionally vote in elections conducted by the Wagoner County Election Board, but do **NOT** participate in organized activities sponsored by the "Party Participating Members" are not subject to these rules and are not included in the definition of Party as that term and related terms in these rules, applies to "Party Participating Members".

A clear distinction is made between those individuals identified as "Party" in the OKGOP rule 3, and the "Party Participating Members" as defined herein. That distinction is an individual's direct and active participation in the process of defining group values, advocating for and defending those values in the conduct of Oklahoma Republican Party business and in the

administration of Oklahoma and United States government (i.e., participation above and beyond the two acts of registering and periodically voting.)

VISION

The vision of the Wagoner County Republican Party is evident in the Party's innovative management policies and practices since the initial moment in 2009 when Republicans, for the first time in Oklahoma State history, became the numerically predominate political Party in Wagoner County. Since that historic event, Party leadership has steered development of organizational policies and practices in a particularly unique, sometimes controversial, but continuously consistent direction. Pioneering revolutionary and innovative practices that clearly define the Wagoner County vision; the Party role has evolved toward defense of values and subsequently commitment of Party members and elected government officials toward that defense.

While the remainder of OKGOP has relied solely on passionate motivational rhetoric to achieve that end, Wagoner County has codified into County Party Rules, policy directing, and practices reinforcing, defense of values. Wagoner County Republican Party has been "The First" in the totality of the Oklahoma Republican Party to do so, sometimes in conflict with popular opinion of the majority of the OKGOP participating members.

Wagoner County is the FIRST County Republican Party in Oklahoma to codify into County Party Rules:

1. Establishment of a candidate vetting program employed in the Primary Election cycle. (2012)
2. Establishment of a Candidate Information Committee, created expressly to educate the voting public regarding Primary candidates' measured commitment toward defending County Party values. (2018)
3. The adoption of a "Delegate Responsibility" pronouncement, read aloud to each elected Party delegate expressing the Party's expectation for fulfillment of delegate responsibility. (2022)
4. The adoption of a "Leadership Pledge" for individuals elected and appointed to Party leadership positions, reinforcing commitment with a formal expression of expectation for fulfillment of leadership responsibility. (2024)
5. A bold declaration that, having been instructed by State Party Rule to act "in the best interest of the County Party," Wagoner County Republican Party reserves the exclusive right to determine and to unilaterally act upon that which THEY perceive to be in their own best interest. (2024) This declaration as Rule 1, is the necessary cornerstone supporting our past and future innovative accomplishments and establishes a commitment to go beyond the minimum established by OKGOP Rules.

These 5 "FIRSTs" in the history of the OKGOP clearly point toward a vision of "commitment for defense of values" as a crucial, indispensable element of the Wagoner County Party mission. Wagoner County Republican Party remains committed to an ideology. Our innovative, pioneering spirit is unfettered by the status quo.

MISSION:

The Wagoner County Republican Party has, in word and deed, refined its mission statement beyond the often-repeated OKGOP catch-phrase, "*get Republicans elected.*"

The Wagoner County Republican Party is intent on getting those Republicans elected who: demonstrate a commitment and a willingness to defend and promulgate in government office, Wagoner County Party values. To this end, the Wagoner County Republican "Party Participating Members" assume the responsibility to educate the electorate on the merits of the adopted county party values as the appropriate gauge of Republican candidate sincerity and commitment. In short, to make "disciples" of those professing their Republican identity to the Wagoner County Election Board.

RULES:

(Unless specifically defined within the textual content of an individual rule, this body of rules and the accompanying introductory paragraphs are only subject to alteration or abolishment by a majority vote of a duly convened, regular or special Wagoner County Convention.)

Rule 1 – Right of Self-Determination:

The Wagoner County Republican Party reserves exclusively, the right to determine and unilaterally act upon that which THEY deem "in the best interest" of the Wagoner County Party.

Rule 2 – Responsibility Pronouncements and Pledges of Commitment:

(a.) Delegate Responsibility Pronouncement. Wagoner County Republican Party Delegates to any Republican convention will be verbally advised of the inherent obligation and responsibility associated with the delegate position, at the time of their approved assumption of the delegate role. The following adopted Delegate Responsibility pronouncement will be read aloud, verbatim, in its entirety to all Wagoner County delegates, singly or in mass, at the moment of their approval as a "qualified delegate." A printed copy of the Delegate Responsibility Pronouncement will be made available to Wagoner County Delegates to read/observe as a cover page attachment to Wagoner County Delegate "sign-up and contact information" forms. The approved "Delegate Responsibility Pronouncement" reads as follows:

To "delegate" is literally or figuratively to send another in one's place, an idea that is reflected in the word's origin; it is a descendant of Latin *legare*, meaning "to send as an emissary." (Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary definition: Delegate)

Delegate Responsibility (Wagoner County and Oklahoma State GOP Conventions)

When you affix or cause to have your name affixed to the official list of delegates you are committing to represent a body of individuals who have placed their trust in you to represent their will and defend their values in a political process. Accepting the position of delegate carries an obligation to serve those who have appointed you to be their representative. You are

expected to participate in a process. You are expected to be prepared to satisfy all requirements to fulfill the obligation of delegate. You are expected to expend your own resources to serve. The acceptance of a delegate assignment makes the task you are being asked to perform a directed task and not a voluntary task. Do not enter into this obligation lightly.

(Textual content of Delegate Responsibility Pronouncement approved by Wagoner County Executive Committee, October 13, 2022)

(b) Leadership Pledge Wagoner County Republican Party Elected Officers, specifically: County Party Chair, County Party Vice Chair, District Committee members, State Committee members, and all other individuals appointed to serve as: members of the Wagoner County Party Executive Committee and the County Party Secretary and Treasurer shall recite an adopted pledge of commitment: (1) to the responsibility incurred by representative Party governance, (2) to defense of County Party values and (3) to behavior deemed in the "best interest" of the County Party. The "pledge" is not office specific, but generically applicable to all senior leadership roles deemed most influential on the fulfillment and execution of County Party vision, mission, and defense and promulgation of Republican ideology as expressed in Wagoner County Core Values. This pledge may be recited by a single individual or in mass. The pledge is predicated on a presumption that once recited, individuals may move from one of the defined leadership roles to another as need dictates, during the period coinciding with the defined regular term of office for elected officers. Renewal of pledges will occur for all individuals in the above-named leadership roles, in each succeeding, regularly scheduled change of Party administration.

(b.1) Elected officers shall recite the pledge at the conclusion of the election of County Officers at the County Convention, in the presence of the assembled convention delegates and while the Convention is convened, as a matter of record. The pledge will be administered by the County Convention Chair.

(b.2) Individuals appointed to leadership roles as County Party Secretary and County Party Treasurer, and individuals appointed to serve on the County Executive Committee shall recite the same adopted pledge at the next regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting following their acceptance of appointment. The pledge will be administered by the County Party Chair or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, during the business portion of the general membership meeting, as a matter of record.

(b.3) In the normal cycle of County Party Officer elections, the newly installed Chair and Vice Chair (newly elected or re-elected) have the privilege to retain existing, appointed individuals as County Party Secretary and County Party Treasurer and existing members of the County Executive Committee. In exercising that privilege of retention, the newly elected or re-elected Chair, or in the chair's absence, the Vice Chair, will issue a formal verbal announcement, identifying the continuing appointees and their position titles before the attendees of the regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting immediately following the decision to retain existing appointees in leadership roles. "Retained" appointees will recite the leadership pledge renewing their commitment in the same manner as described in Paragraph 2 (b.2) above.

(b.4) In the event an elected officer, or appointee to a position of County Party Secretary or County Party Treasurer, or the County Executive Committee is replaced out of the normal cycle of elections / appointments, the successors to those leadership positions, if they are

not already "pledged" officers or appointees, will recite their pledge before the attendees of the next regularly scheduled General Membership meeting immediately following their acceptance to serve; administered in the same manner as described in paragraph 2 (b.2) above.)

The adopted pledge to be administered, reads as follows:

I pledge on my personal honor and before this assembled body, to commit my best effort:

- (1) to fulfill the duties of the office to which I have been elected / appointed,
- (2) to actively engage in activities of the Wagoner County Republican Party wherever and whenever possible,
- (3) to contribute time, energy and personal resource in support of Party activities,
- (4) to advocate and defend the Core Conservative Values, as defined by the Wagoner County Republican Party Platform,
- (5) to encourage other Wagoner County registered Republicans to join and actively participate in organized Party activities,
- (6) to respectfully and faithfully serve as a public representative of the Wagoner County Republican Party in accordance with the rules set forth by this organization.

(Textual content of Leadership Pledge approved by Wagoner County Executive Committee, May 11, 2023.)

(Rule 2 -- "Responsibility Pronouncements and Pledges of Commitment" adopted in its entirety by majority vote of County Convention delegates, February 24, 2024.)

Rule 3 – Candidate Information Committee (CIC)

Part 1 - Candidate Information Committee

Composition and Appointment: There shall be a Candidate Information Committee ("the CIC") consisting of appointments by the County Chairman. Any County Committee member may also request to be appointed to the CIC, but such participation shall be at the discretion of the County Chairman, with such appointment not to be unreasonably withheld. Any such appointment denied may be appealed to the County Executive Committee. There should be an odd number of CIC members to avoid tie votes and the total number of members shall not exceed eleven (11) to keep the total number manageable.

No member of the CIC shall be permitted to participate in the consideration of any candidate(s) for which they have made a campaign contribution or otherwise demonstrated public support, nor any other candidate(s) running for the same office(s). Such determination shall be at the discretion of the remaining members of the CIC, with the County Chairman casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Authority: The establishment of a standing Vetting Committee was initially approved by a vote of the Wagoner County Republican Party at the 2012 County Convention. On February 10, 2018, that rule was abolished and replaced with the Candidate Information Committee.

CIC Duties: To determine to what extent candidates running as Republicans and seeking to represent Wagoner County truly represent the values of the Wagoner County Republican Party (“WCRP” or “the Party” or “Party”).

This process shall be fairly and evenly applied to all candidates. It may include, but not be limited to; questionnaires, follow-up interviews, background checks and, for candidates which have previously served in public office, a review of their past voting records and/or conduct in office.

The CIC is not intended to serve as an eliminator of dissenting views. Its purpose is two-fold:

1. First, to ensure Party resources, tangible and intangible, are used to support a political candidate running for elected office using the Republican title that demonstrate a convincing commitment to Wagoner County Republican values and the advancement of that ideology. This process will culminate in a pass/fail vote. A candidate will only receive a vote of “fail” for one of the following reasons.
 - a. A candidate does not participate by completing and returning their completed questionnaire and/or refusing to agree to respond to follow-up questions or a personal interview, if so requested. (See qualifying note below.)
 - b. A candidate is determined to be legally ineligible to run for office.
 - c. A candidate provides information to the CIC which is determined, in the view of the CIC, to not be true and accurate.
2. Second, to provide voters with a “conservative index” for each candidate based upon how they appear to represent the values of the WCRP.

1a Note: In order to qualify as having completed item 1a above, a candidate must complete a CIC Questionnaire and follow-up interview at least once every six (6) years. For any candidate not participating in the current election period but having done so within the required six-year period, their most recent completed questionnaire and interview will be posted to the Party’s website with a notation as to why a current one is not available.

At the conclusion of this process, each candidate will receive both a pass-fail vote and a conservative index based on the views of the CIC. Candidates “passing” the process will be permitted to participate in any Candidate Forum sponsored by the WCRP, hand out campaign literature at Party events; have a link added to the Party website to their own campaign website; and speak at-Party functions. Those “failing” the process for any reason will be denied such privileges during the primary period. The “primary period” being defined as the time between when candidates initially file for election and once the election to determine the Republican candidate for office is concluded (i.e., the primary or run-off election, whichever is applicable).

Results of this process will be publicized to the public by a posting on the Party’s website and/or to local media prior to the primary election. Participants’ completed information questionnaires and any other public-domain information obtained by the CIC will also be published on the Party website.

Meetings: The CIC may meet in person or converse by email or other secure electronic means (e.g., Zoom call, password protected bulletin board or chatroom). Committee meeting(s) will be held to determine the details of the process, as well as to discuss and agree upon findings.

Terms of Office: Membership on the CIC will run concurrently with the designated term of the County Party Chairman. Members can be removed for cause by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the members present at a properly called County Committee meeting.

Part 2 - Amendment of these County Rules on the Candidate Information Committee

Amendment of Rules by County Committee: These rules may be amended and changed by the County Committee, by a vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present and voting at the committee meeting called pursuant to five (5) days electronic notice to all members of the County Committee stating the purpose of the meeting with a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments to the rules.

Amendment of County Rules by County Convention: These rules may be amended and changed by a majority vote of any County convention by the following method. Any amendment proposed by a vote of a Biennial or Quadrennial Precinct Meeting shall be submitted to a vote at the next succeeding County Convention, if filed with the County Chairman within five (5) days after adjournment of said Precinct Meetings. Notice of amendments proposed by a Biennial or Quadrennial Precinct Meeting shall be given by the County Chairman by electronic notice to each delegate to said convention, at least ten (10) days prior to said County Convention.

(Revision of Rule 3 adopted by a majority vote of the County Committee on October 5, 2023)

(Textual content of total Bylaws document approved by Wagoner County Executive Committee, October 12, 2023. Wagoner County Republican Party Bylaws adopted in its entirety by majority vote of County Convention delegates, February 24, 2024.)