

Rules of the Missoula Republican Party (MRP)

I. MISSION

The Missoula County Republican Party (Central Committee) is established to assist and support the Republican Party candidates for local, state, and national elected offices.

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Montana Secretary of State
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II. AUTHORITY

These rules shall govern the organization, the conduct of meetings, and the business of the MCRCC, its officers, and committees. These rules are subject to the rules of the MTGOP and MCA 13-201 through 13-205.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

These rules and any amendments thereto, shall be effective when adopted by the MCRCC.

Upon the effective date of the rules and any amendments thereto, a copy of the rules and any amendments thereto shall be filed with the county election administrator pursuant to MCA 13-38-105.

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. *Membership*

1. The MCRCC shall consist of the duly elected precinct committeemen, committeewomen and officers. They shall hold office for two years from the date of their election, or until the next scheduled precinct election.

B. *Election of County Officers*

The MCRCC must hold an election convention for the purpose of organizing the Central Committee between February 1st and May 1st in each odd numbered year. The County Chairman shall mail notice of this requirement at least ten (10) days prior to the period that elections may commence. Such conventions shall be called and notice of the call must be given as provided by state law. The County Chairman shall preside at the county convention and no person other than a duly elected committeeman or committeewoman or officer of the MCRCC is entitled to participate in the convention. Only elected precinct committeeman and committeewoman will be allowed to vote.

1. County Officers to Be Elected
 - a) At such a convention, the MCRCC shall elect the following officers, who need not be precinct committeemen and

committeewomen, but who must be registered voters of Missoula County:

- (1) County Chairman
- (2) County Vice- Chairman
- (3) 2nd Vice-Chair (optional)
- (4) Secretary
- (5) Treasurer
- (6) State Committeeman
- (7) State Committeewoman
- (8) Congressional Committeeman
- (9) Congressional Committeewoman
- (10) Finance Chairman
- (11) Such other officers as may be deemed appropriate

2. *Call of Election*

- a) The Chairman of the MCRCC shall call the County Convention and not less than seven (7) days before the date of the convention, shall publish the call in a newspaper published at the county seat and mail or email a copy of the call to each precinct Committeeman, Committeewoman and officers.

3. *Conduct of Election*

- a) The Chairman of the MCRCC shall preside at the county convention. No person other than a duly elected precinct committeeman and committeewoman is entitled to vote in the convention.

4. *Proxies*

- a) Precinct committeemen or precinct committeewomen may appoint a proxy to represent him or her at the convention. No proxy shall be recognized unless held by a registered elector of the precinct represented by the committeeman or committeewoman. The holder of the proxy does not need to be the same sex as the issuer of the proxy.

5. *Credentials*

- a) Prior to convening the convention, a Credentials Committee shall inspect the credentials and proxies of convention delegates.

6. *Results of Election*

- a) Within five (5) days of the County Convention, but no later than May 6th, the MCRCC Secretary and Chairman shall submit a report of the convention results to the State Central Committee. Failure to file the report within the allotted time may result in the county delegation not being seated at the next State Convention.

V. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A. Call of Committee Meetings

1. Meetings of the MCRCC may be called by:

- a) The County Chairman;
- b) A majority of voting members of the County Executive Committee;
or
- c) A majority of voting members of the Central Committee.

**A call of the MCRCC (except for the call of a County Convention) shall be issued by email. The call shall be issued to all committeemen or committeewomen and the officers of the committee.*

B. Conduct of Committee Meeting

1. Parliamentary Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order, as currently revised, shall govern all meetings and conventions, insofar as they are not inconsistent with the Rules of the MTGOP or the rules of the MCRCC. The Missoula County Chairman may appoint a parliamentarian.

2. Order of Business

- a) Meeting called to order by Chairman
- b) Invocation
- c) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- d) Introduction of guests
- e) Old Business
- f) New Business
- g) Other Business
- h) Elections and Appointments
- i) Announcements
- j) Adjournment

3. Items of Business

a) Call to Order

- (1) The Chairman shall call the meeting to order. Members of the MCRCC shall give the Chairman their attention. All members shall direct their questions through the chairman.

b) Invocation

- (1) The Chairman may request a member of the Committee to give the Invocation. The Chairman may appoint a Chaplain.

c) Pledge of Allegiance

- (1) The Chairman shall request someone to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

d) Introduction of Guests

- (1) The Chairman shall welcome any guests attending the meeting. Guests shall be introduced by the Chairman or committee member who invited the guest. Guest speakers

may also be introduced by the Chairman and invited to speak to the committee.

e) *Old Business*

- (1) The Chairman may request that the secretary read the minutes from the last meeting of the MCRCC. The minutes may be amended by the Committee or adopted as read.
- (2) The minutes may be distributed via email.

f) *Treasurer's Report*

- (1) The Chairman may request that the Treasurer give a report. The Treasurer will prepare a report and give a copy to the Chairman and Secretary at each meeting. Such report shall include the current balance of the treasury and the current expenses to be paid. Bills for expenses prior approved by the Executive Committee must be submitted to the Treasurer in a timely manner prior to the committee meeting in order to be included in the report.
- (2) The Treasurer will prepare a annual report for the Executive Committee and give a copy to the Chairman and Secretary.
- (3) A copy of all reports the Treasurer files with the Office of Political Practices will be kept with the Secretary of the MCRCC.

g) *Committee Reports*

- (1) The Chairman may request that standing and special committees report to the MCRCC.

h) *New Business*

- (1) *The Chairman may indicate matters of new business since the last MCRCC meeting. Such business may include notification of decisions and recommendations made by the state Central Committee (MTGOP) and the MCRCC Executive Committee as well as new events that require the attention of the committee, future fundraising opportunities, and future elections. The Chairman may appoint new committees to study and report on new business issues.*

i) *Other Business*

j) *Elections and Appointments*

***Elections and Appointments are non-debatable issues.**

(1) *Elections*

- (a) *Elections shall be held at County Conventions as required by the Rules of the MTGOP. The County Chairman may appoint a nominating committee to nominate candidates for elected positions. The*

nominating committee may nominate more than one candidate for each position.

- (b) Candidates nominated shall have their names placed on a ballot for consideration by the Central Committee members. Nominations may be made from the floor by any MCRCC voting member. A space will be made available on the ballot for the "write-in" vote or any floor nominee.*
- (c) Each candidate nominated shall be given an equal opportunity to address the Committee members with a nomination acceptance speech prior to the election, unless candidates are voted in by acclamation.*

(2) Vacancies

- (a) The MCRCC is empowered to fill vacancies. A candidate may be nominated by any committee member to fill an empty Committeeman or Committeewoman position or office. The candidate must be present to be nominated. The candidate may accept the nomination by addressing the Committee and stating the reasons for accepting the nomination. All candidates nominated will be vetted by the Committee in the 30 days prior to their election, which will occur at the next regularly scheduled MCRCC meeting.*
- (b) If only one candidate is nominated for any position, the MCRCC may, without objection, elect that candidate by acclamation.*
 - (i) Acclamation is to be defined as a vote for a candidate by unanimous support by the Body.*

VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- A. Republican Party members who currently hold local and state government elected positions representing the voters of Missoula County may be considered Ex Officio Members of the MCRCC. Ex Officio Members are encouraged to attend MCRCC meetings.

VII. DOCUMENTATION OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Documentation of MCRCC Meetings, County Conventions, and Elections is a function of the Secretary who shall keep a book of minutes including adopted Treasurer's Reports for the

MCRCC. Each Secretary of the MCRCC shall pass on the book of minutes to the succeeding Secretary. A copy of all reports filed with the Office of Political Practices will be kept for the records of the MCRCC.

VIII. TREASURY

All funds collected for the MCRCC shall be deposited for the MCRCC by the Treasurer or Chairman. Funds shall be deposited for the Committee by the Treasurer or Chairman. Funds shall be used in such a manner as to support the Mission of the Central Committee in its support of Republican Party candidates and the normal course of business that ensues.

IX. MEMBER RECOGNITION

The County Chairman may authorize the use of funds to be used to express the gratitude or the sympathy of the MCRCC members in accord with social protocol.

X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The MCRCC may consist of all Central Committee elected officers. The County Chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee unless another officer has been appointed chairman of that committee's assigned work. The County Chairman or the appointed Chairman of the committee shall report the recommendations of the Executive Committee to the MCRCC.

See Rules of The Montana Republican Party, Page 11, Section G: "Each County Central Committee may adopt its own rules of the determination of membership of its Executive Committee and the function of such committee."

XI. STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES

Delegates to the State Delegate Convention shall be elected by the MCRCC by eligible voters of that committee. No fewer than 4 and no more than 25 shall be elected. The County Chairman must notify the State Chairman of the names of the county delegates at least ten (10) days prior to the convention. All delegates must be registered for the convention. Those persons receiving the most numbers of votes so cast shall be elected to the State Delegate Convention.

Chairman Vondene Hopkins Kopetski appointed the following to be on the Rules Committee:

Thelma Baker, Chair
 Nicolas Ream
 Bill Hilshey
 Jill Chapman

Kelsey Cooley

Revisions as inserted were made at a meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, April 30, 2019.