



## **Wagoner County Republican Party Standing Rules (In addition to State Party Rules)**

[Adopted on February 10th, 2018 by the WCRP County Committee]

### **Part 1 - Candidate Information Committee**

**Composition and Appointment:** There shall be a Candidate Information Committee (the "CI Committee") consisting of appointments by the County Chairman. Any County Committee member may also request to be appointed to the CI Committee, 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 CI Committee 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 CI Committee 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 candidates running for the same office(s). Such determination shall be at the discretion of the remaining members of the CI Committee, 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. This rule change, if adopted, changes the name of this standing committee to the Candidate Information Committee.

**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.

This process will be fairly and evenly applied to all candidates. It may include, but not be limited to; questionnaires, 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.

This CI Committee is not intended to serve as an eliminator of dissenting views. The purpose is two-fold;

- 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 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.
  - A candidate is determined to be legally ineligible to run for office.
  - A candidate provides information to the CI Committee which is determined, in the view of the CI Committee, to not be true and accurate.

- Second, to provide voters with a “conservative index” for each candidate based upon how they appear to represent the values of the Wagoner County Republican Party.

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 CI Committee. Candidates “passing” the process will be permitted to 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 (upon the approval of the County Chair). Those “failing” the process for any reason will be denied such privileges.

Results of this process will be presented to the County Committee and publicized to the public by a posting on the party’s website and to local media prior to the primary election. Participants’ completed information questionnaires and any other public-domain information obtained by the CI Committee will also be published on the party website.

**Meetings:** The CI Committee may meet in person or converse by email or other secure electronic means (e.g. 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:** The CI Committee will run concurrently with the designated term of the 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 member of the Precinct delegation, at least ten (10) days prior to said County Convention.