

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE REPUBLICANS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Preamble to the Constitution:

This constitution provides for the existence and operation of The Ohio State University chapter of the College Republicans. College Republicans are the sole point of contact on campus for students to access the Republican Party. This chapter shall provide all students equal access to the opportunities that can be afforded by the chapter. The Ohio State University College Republicans shall also function as a constant Republican presence on the campus and communicate the messages of the Republican Party to the university community. It will represent the elected officials and candidates for general election endorsed by the Franklin County Republican Party, Ohio Republican Party, and the Republican National Committee.

## Constitution:

### **Article I:** Membership & General Chapter Meetings

**Section I:** This chapter shall qualify as members any person(s) enrolled as a student at The Ohio State University, Main Campus, who have paid the annual membership dues, to be determined by the Treasurer and approved by the Chairman. The Executive Committee may create additional qualifications, including but not limited to registration as a Republican elector and renunciation of membership in other partisan organizations. All members may vote in elections and on amendments or resolutions when present, so long as the member has paid dues one month prior to any election. This exception may be waived with a majority vote by the Executive Committee.

**Section II:** Regular chapter meetings shall be held no fewer than five times per academic semester, sans Summer Term. All members must be notified by the Executive Committee of meeting times no less than twenty-four hours in advance. Regular meetings are to be held as open

meetings; non-members may attend all meetings except those in which elections are held. Minutes of regular meetings will be made available upon request by members; attendance will be tabulated for each regular meeting.

**Section III:** The regular chapter meetings will be considered a meeting of the General Body and shall be conducted by the Executive Committee Chairman. Regular meetings must also provide time for reports from officers including but not limited to: Secretary, Treasurer, Tribunes. Reports from the officers listed above will be provided upon request and delivered in a timely manner as determined by the Chairman.

**Article II:** Executive Committee Officers & Meeting Protocol

**Section I:** There shall be an Executive Committee in the chapter consisting of the following elected officers: Executive Committee Chairman, Executive Committee Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Committee may also have up to four elected Tribune positions, up to the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman may also appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms and any other position that he deems necessary. Any appointed member must be confirmed by a vote by the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Section II:** The Executive Committee shall act as the governing body for the chapter and will steer the general activities of the chapter. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly. All elected and confirmed officers must be present at these meetings; all appointed officers must be present when summoned by the Chairman. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be closed meetings and minutes released only on condition of an unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, a 3/5 vote of the General Body, or if university policy shall ever mandate it.

**Section III:** The Executive Committee Chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Executive Committee. In voting matters, the Secretary, Treasurer, Tribunes, and Vice-Chairman shall each hold one vote. The Chairman has both a vote and the tiebreaking vote. The votes shall be conducted by roll call vote and recorded by the Secretary and the Vice-Chairman.

**Section IV:** The appointed positions to the Executive Committee shall have the right to attend meetings and speak. Any appointment may be rescinded for any reason by the Chairman.

**Section V:** The Executive Committee shall have the power to assemble Standing Committees by a majority vote, with members drawn from any General Body member. Such Standing Committees have authority to only advise the full Committees on the issue for which the Standing Committee was formed and can be dissolved at any time by the Chairman.

**Section VI:** The number of Tribunes must be set one month before the election, with the Chairman giving full notice to the Executive Committee how many Tribunes will be needed in the following year. The number shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Article III:** Delineation of Duties and Separation of Powers for Executive Committee Officers and Appointed Officers

**Section I:** The Executive Committee Chairman shall act as the president of the chapter and the chief officer and ambassador to the university community. He shall preside over General Body meetings and shall only vote at said meetings to break a tie, which he must do. His vote and decision will be binding and irrevocable. Presiding over both General Body and Executive Committee meetings shall include

direction of debate and discussion as well as holding the Chair's privilege. He shall also notify all members of the Executive Committee of their meeting times. The Chairman shall also appoint temporary replacements for expected absences such as study abroad or extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the Chairman and confirmed by the Executive Committee. If the Vice Chairman is the position being filled and a vote results in a tie, the Treasurer's vote shall be binding and irrevocable. A Chairman may at times allow the Vice-Chairman to assume the roles of the Chairman if absent from Chapter functions so long as the absence is not prolonged, and if he gives ample notice to the Executive Committee in advance.

**Section II:** The Executive Committee Vice-Chairman shall act as the deputy officer of the chapter and shall assume the duties of the Executive Committee Chairman in the event of his absence at a General Body meeting. He may vote at General Body meetings. The Executive Committee Vice-Chairman shall work with all other officers and oversee their work as necessary. In the event of the permanent absence of the Executive Committee Chairman, he shall succeed him in that office, and a special election will be held to fill the office of Vice-Chair. This election will be conducted by the General Body and all members.

**Section III:** The Secretary shall hold the following duties at both Executive and General Body meetings: record minutes of meetings, records current membership, records vote totals at all meetings, and shall collaborate with the Treasurer to create the list of eligible voters in an election or vote on amendments and resolutions. The Secretary, or his designee, shall also be tasked with notifying all members of the General Body meetings no less than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting. Furthermore, the previous General Body meeting's minutes and relevant documents, i.e. PowerPoint, Internship Information, etc., in the communication to the members of the General Body prior to the upcoming meeting. The Secretary shall maintain and use the email lists

for the organization. The Secretary shall be responsible for registering the organization for campus events.

**Section IV:** The Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of the General Body. Duties of the Treasurer will include presiding over and tracking all financial matters concerning the chapter, managing the chapter's accounts, balancing the checkbook, and giving a budget once a semester to the Executive Committee. This budget will be available to any member of the General Body upon request. The Treasurer must also be able to run any financial report within reason by a requested majority vote of the Executive Committee or General Body.

**Section V:** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall have two duties: call all meetings to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and/or an invocation and preside over all elections and the filing process for said elections. The Sergeant-at-Arms does not have attendance rights to the Executive Committee meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be in charge of any special election and any vote to amend the constitution. If there is no Sergeant-at-Arms, the Treasurer shall take over all roles, except for overseeing any Treasurer election, in which case, the Vice-Chairman shall oversee any Treasurer election.

**Section VI:** The Tribune shall be the assistant to the Chairman and the Executive Committee as a whole. The Chairman may assign duties to the Tribune with regards to recruitment or involvement events (i.e. door to door events, membership drives). The Tribune will be assigned a role or functional area to oversee, such as social events and fundraising. The Tribune does have attendance rights and voting rights to the Executive Committee meetings.

**Section VII:** Publication rights and rights to use the name of the organization, including but not limited to titles either appointed or elected, are limited. The Chairman and his designees have the right to

Speak publicly in the organization's name. Other members may also be extended this right limited to a specific function by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. Written publication in the organization's name, with the exception of emails to the General Body or social media posts corresponding to an assigned position, must be approved by the Executive Committee. Violation of this section is cause for immediate removal from the chapter, decided by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for regular members, and a majority vote for an Executive Committee member who misuses the chapter's name.

**Article IV:** Elections, Filing for Elections, and Tie-breaking Rules

**Section I:** Chapter elections shall take place at a chapter meeting during Spring Semester of each academic year, the date to be no later than the first Wednesday of February or CPAC of the American Conservative Union, whichever comes later. All members who pay dues one month before the election shall be considered qualified electors, and elections shall be held in the following order for these Constitutional officers: Tribunes, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Committee Vice-Chairman, and Executive Committee Chairman. The Treasurer shall be in charge of determining who is an eligible elector, and shall give that list to the Sergeant

**Section II:** To be eligible for election as Executive Committee Chairman, the member must have recorded no less than two consecutive prior semesters of membership and previous experience on the Executive Committee; the experience requirement may be waived on petition of the applicant to the Executive Committee and a simple majority of the Executive Committee in support. A member must have been a dues paying member for two consecutive semesters to run for Chairman or Vice-Chairman. To be eligible for any other elected office, the member must have recorded no less than one consecutive prior semester of membership. Candidates must also file a signed statement of candidacy with the Sergeant-at-Arms during the annual filing period,

to begin no less than fourteen days following the November General Election in that year and will close promptly on the last Wednesday in January following the first official day of class in the Spring Semester. Members may also only declare candidacy for one office. This filing period can be extended by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section III:** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preside over the Election Meeting. Elections shall be held by secret paper ballot, and a simple majority of those present shall signify victory for any candidate. Votes shall be tabulated by an Election Committee, to consist of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and two General Body Member chosen by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Results of the election shall be recorded by the Secretary following tabulation, and he shall announce the results, to be confirmed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Section IV:** If a majority is not achieved upon the first ballot, the vote is repeated until a majority is achieved. If after five votes, no majority can be achieved, the Executive Committee shall vote in a closed session to determine who shall be the victor. The decision is binding and irrevocable.

**Section V:** In the case that an office is vacant, excepting that of the Executive Committee Chairman to which the Executive Committee Vice-Chairman shall succeed, a special election shall be held. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall determine the rules and conduct of the special election. These rules shall be posted within fourteen days of realizing a special election is necessary.

**Section VI:** In the event of the permanent absence of a majority of the elected Executive Committee, the General Body shall convene to hold a Section VI Emergency Election. In this case, the nominations will be opened at the beginning of a meeting by a member invoking a Section

VI Emergency Election. The General Body will then elect the positions needed following the rules stated previously in Article IV. Election eligibility requirements may be waived in this case.

**Article V:** Removal from office

**Section I:** Executive Committee members shall perform all duties as described in Article III. If for any reason a member is unable to fulfill his or her duties, there shall be a vote within the Executive Committee for his or her removal.

**Section II:** In the case of a removal, the replacement of the removed committee member will follow the special election protocol outlined in Article IV.

**Section III:** Grounds for removal include but are not limited to: representing the organization in such a way that diminishes the reputation, absence at two or more General Body meetings, absence at one or more Executive Committee meetings per semester, failing to complete the duties stated for the office as described in Article III, or violations of Section VII of Article III.

**Section IV:** Tribunes can be removed by a simple majority vote of the remaining Executive Committee if Article V, Section III is invoked. All other positions can be removed by a 2/3 vote. These decisions are final. Any member removed from office by this process can be barred from running for any office in the future by a simple majority vote of those present at a General Body meeting.

**Section V:** General membership is open to all students at The Ohio State University. Therefore general members shall not be removed from general meetings for any reason unless their behavior is contradictory to university policy. Upon which, the member will be removed with a majority vote of the Executive Committee. To be considered a voting



general member for offices of the Executive Committee, a member must fulfill the requirements stated in Article 1, Section 1. Non-members do not have guaranteed rights to access chapter communications such as emails, and an individual may be removed from receiving communications by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Article VI:** Transition between Administrations; Confirmation of the Appointed Officers

**Section I:** There shall be a transition period between the regular election and the swearing in of the Executive Committee-elect that will last from the election date until the first Wednesday of March. During said transition period, the Executive Committee and Executive Committee-elect shall meet together at least once to discuss the transition of power. The Executive Chairman-Elect can call the former Chairman back for a period of one month to help him conduct meetings. The outgoing Sergeant-at-Arms shall swear in all members of the Executive Committee-elect.

**Section II:** The Executive Committee Chairman shall appoint his choice for the office of Sergeant-at-Arms by the first Wednesday of September.

**Article VII:** Affiliation with the Ohio College Republican Federation, Appointment of Advisors

**Section I:** The Ohio State University chapter of the College Republicans shall be a charter member of the Ohio College Republican Federation.

**Section II:** At the first meeting of the Executive Committee during each Spring Semester, there shall be a debate of the chapter's due affiliation with the Ohio College Republican Federation. Following debate, the Executive Committee shall hold a vote to re-federate; a simple majority of the Executive Committee shall win.

**Section III:** The Ohio State University chapter of the College Republicans shall appoint a faculty advisor each Spring Semester in accordance with the University's requirements for such. The term will be one year and shall be approved by the Executive Committee by a majority vote. The advisor may be appointed to consecutive terms by the same procedure.

**Section IV:** The Executive Board shall be given the authority to assist in founding sister chapters at other institutions of higher education in the State of Ohio and shall also be given the authority to collaborate with other existing chapters both affiliated and unaffiliated with the Ohio College Republican Federation.

**Article VIII:** Endorsements

**Section I:** The chapter may award endorsements in elections of the Undergraduate Student Government, Ohio College Republican Federation, and the College Republican National Committee. The chapter may also award endorsements to state and federal office if eligible under Ohio College Republican Federation rules. These allowed endorsements must be debated by the General Body at a meeting and may only be awarded by majority vote. Mock elections and straw polls are not considered to be endorsements of the chapter.

**Article IX:** Chapter Governance, Member Rights, and Dissolution

**Section I:** The chapter shall govern in accordance with this Constitution; any un-discussed matters may be resolved through amendment or by the Executive Committee.

**Section II:** Members of the chapter shall have access to minutes of the General Body meetings, a copy of this Constitution, and all meetings of the General Body. Members shall not be permitted to attend meetings of

the Executive Committee unless summoned and are to receive reports of these meetings via the current Treasurer or Secretary.

**Section III:** This chapter may be dissolved unless the chapter fails to meet for two full academic semesters, sans Summer Term. In the event of dissolution, the currently serving elected and confirmed Executive Committee shall share equally both the remaining assets and/or debts/liabilities accrued by the chapter.

**Section IV:** In the event of mishandling of chapter assets, especially finances, the responsibility for the mishandled assets shall be borne by the Executive Committee Chairman and the Treasurer.

**Section V:** All financial transactions by the club are to be handled by reimbursement, unless approved by the Treasurer. The Treasurer must approve all reimbursements. The Executive Committee reserves the right to force repayment on any purchases if the purchase is later deemed to be a misuse of chapter funds.

**Section VI:** Resolutions may be passed by majority vote at a General Body meeting.

**Article X:** Non-Discrimination

**Section I:** This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with the Ohio State University's non-discrimination guidelines.

**Article XI:** Amendment and Ratification Procedure

**Section I:** To amend this Constitution, an Executive Committee member shall offer an amendment. The amendment must be posted for

two weeks, at which time a vote on the amendment is allowable. The Executive Committee may approve by a 3/4 majority vote, at which time the amendment is temporarily adopted. The General Body must then be notified within forty-eight hours. At the next General Body meeting, any member may offer a motion to disapprove of the amendment. If the amendment is rejected by a 2/3 vote of voting members, the amendment shall not be adopted. The General Body shall have up to two meetings to disapprove of the amendment. If no disapproval motion succeeds, the amendment shall pass.

**Section II:** This Constitution shall be ratified by a 2/3 vote of a present membership during Spring Semester of 2019 at a General Body meeting. A quorum of voting members can be requested and shall be approved on a majority basis. Upon ratification of this Constitution, all prior Constitutions are considered null and void. The current officers of this term shall be retained until the next constitutionally provided election date.