

# BY-LAWS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AG REPUBLICANS

We believe in the principle of representative government as set forth in the Constitution of the United States and articulated by the Republican Party; and we believe the Republican Party to be the Party of best suited to promote the interests of Agricultural throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States. We, therefore, join together to form and constitute a political committee known as the PENNSYLVANIA AG REPUBLICANS and to pledge ourselves to work for the advancement of agricultural through the Republican Party and its candidates.

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the political committee constituted by these by-laws shall be the Pennsylvania Ag Republicans hereinafter referred to as the Ag Republicans.

## ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION

Affiliation - The Ag Republicans shall be affiliated with the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania and may be affiliated with the Republican National Committee and such other Republican organizations as shall be authorized by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Chair of the Republican State Committee.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership – Membership in AG REPUBLICANS shall be open to all residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are associated with agricultural.
2. Dues – Dues for membership shall be established by the membership at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IV – AREA ORGANIZATION

1. The areas into which Ag Republicans shall be organized shall be based on the organizational structure of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania, and shall be as follows:

Northwest – Counties of Erie, Warren, McKean, Crawford, Venango, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Mercer, Lawrence, Clarian and Jefferson.

Southwest – Counties of Butler, Armstrong, Indiana, Beaver, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Cambria, Washington, Green, Fayette and Somerset.

Central (North) – Counties of Potter, Clinton, Clearfield, Lycoming, Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, and Columbia.

Central (South) – Counties of Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Adams, York, and Lancaster.

Northeast – Counties of Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Pike.

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Northeast-Central – Counties of Luzerne, Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe, Lehigh, and Northampton.

Southeast – Counties of Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia.

2. Area Leaders-At the Annual Meeting, Area Leaders shall be appointed by the Ag Republican Chair. Area leaders shall serve on the Membership Committee and shall serve as a communications link between the membership in the area and the Ag Republicans.
3. County Leaders – County Leaders shall be selected by the Area Leader in the consultation with members of the Ag Republicans in the various counties comprising the area. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Area Leader from providing that the membership of the Ag Republicans in a particular county may elect their County Leader or providing for other manner of selection.

## ARTICLE V – POLICIES

1. Policies – All public policies of the Ag Republicans shall be adopted by the Executive Committee and shall be advocated and administered by the Chair of the Ag Republicans.
2. The Ag Republicans shall make no public endorsement in a Primary Election, but encourages all Ag Republicans to get behind their candidate of choice. However, the day after the Primary Election, voters have spoken and the Ag Republicans stand behind the party nominee and will not take any position that conflicts with a position or policy adopted by the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania or its Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

1. Qualifications of Officers – All candidates for election as officers shall be duly registered Republican electors in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and shall have been a member of the Ag Republicans for at least one year. The individual must be actively engaged in agriculture or agribusiness with the exception of Treasurer. The position of Treasurer may be filled with a person who has a strong interest in agriculture and understands its importance with knowledge of campaign finance law. No person holding elective or appointive state or federal office shall serve as an elected officer of Ag Republicans.
2. The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee to surface candidates for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member At Large. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall report at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
3. Elections – All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote every odd numbered year for a two year term. Should there be no majority, a run-off vote shall be taken.

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4. Chair – It shall be the duty of the Chair to preside at all meetings of the Ag Republicans; to direct its affairs; to appoint all standing committees; and to represent the Ag Republicans on any committee of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania.
5. Vice Chair – The Vice-Chair in the absence or disability of the Chair, shall perform the duties of Chair. The Vice-Chair shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair, the Chair with the consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Vice-Chair to serve the unexpired term.
6. Secretary – The Secretary shall keep all records of the Ag Republicans and its Executive Committee and shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. In the event of the vacancy in the office of Secretary, the Chair, with the consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Secretary to serve the unexpired term.
7. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be elected by the members. The Treasurer shall serve as Chair of the Finance Committee. He/She shall collect and receive all funds of the Ag Republicans. He/She shall keep the accounts in detail and prepare all reports which may be required by these By-Laws and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Disbursements shall be made by check and shall be signed by the Treasurer or Chair. Although one signature is needed on a check; the Chair should also be an account signer in the event the Treasurer is unavailable.
8. Terms of Office – The terms of office of all elected officers shall commence on the day of their election and shall be for two years until their successors are elected.
9. Removal – Whenever it appears that any officer or member of the Executive Committee of the Ag Republicans is opposing the nominated Republican candidates or the established policies of the Ag Republicans, the Chair shall appoint a committee of three members of the PA Ag Republicans, not from the same area, to investigate the charges. Upon notice to the person so charged, a meeting shall be held and a report of the findings of the committee shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Ag Republicans and the Chair of the Republican State Committee. In the event the committee finds the charges to be true, the Chair, with the consent of the Chair of the Republican State Committee, shall declare the office vacant and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in these By-Laws.

### ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

1. Executive Committee – The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Member at Large elected by majority vote of the general membership at the Annual Meeting every odd numbered year for a two-year term. The Chair of the Republican State Committee shall be a member of the Executive Committee, ex-officio.

Any member of the Executive Committee missing three consecutive meetings of the Ag Republicans of the Executive Committee shall automatically cease to hold such office except in the case of illness and except that the Executive Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of those present, waive this provision.

- A. Responsibilities – The Executive Committee shall direct all Ag Republicans activities throughout the Commonwealth and it shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Ag Republicans between membership meetings.

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- B. Meetings – The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as shall be determined by the Chair who shall give at least ten (10) days written notices of the time and place of the meetings. In the event of an emergency, the Chair may convene the Executive Committee by telephone.
- C. Quorum – A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 2. Standing Committees – The Standing Committees of the Ag Republicans shall be Membership, Finance, Public Policy, and Public Relations. Each Standing Committee shall have a chairman and at least two members appointed by the President with the approval of Council. Each Standing Committee shall meet at least once a year.
  - A. The Membership Committee – The Membership Committee shall include the Area Leaders and additional members as the Chair may determine. This committee shall serve as a communications link with members in the six areas of the Ag Republicans.
  - B. The Finance Committee – The Finance Committee shall prepare an annual budget for fundraising each year through dues, solicitations, and fundraising events.
  - C. The Public Policy Committee – The Public Policy Committee shall be responsible for developing positions on issues of concern to Ag Republicans. The Committee shall hold at least two public meetings each year to solicit input from the agricultural/rural community and shall establish candidates' nights to make candidates for office aware of rural issues.
  - D. The Public Relations Committee – The Public Relations Committee shall promote awareness of Ag Republicans and rural issues with the news media and the public. It shall be responsible for all publications of Ag Republicans.
- 3. Ad Hoc Committee – The Ad Hoc Committee may be appointed by the Chair as necessary.

### ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

- 1. Annual Meeting – The Chair of the Ag Republicans shall call an annual meeting which shall be held during the first 90 days of the calendar year. In addition, the Chair, with the consent of the Executive Committee, may call such meetings of the Ag Republicans as shall be necessary.
- 2. The call for the Annual Meeting shall be issued at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 3. At the Annual Meeting, each person who is a due paying member for the immediate preceding year shall be entitled to cast one vote.

Quorum – A quorum shall consist the majority present

- 4. Agenda – The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be established by the Chair with the consent of the Executive Committee except that the Agenda for the Annual Meeting conducted in an odd-numbered year shall include the election of officers and member of the Executive Committee.

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## ARTICLE IX – HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters – The Headquarters of the Ag Republicans shall be located at the same location as the Headquarters of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania.

## ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments – These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting at an Annual Meeting of the Ag Republicans.
2. All proposed amendments to these by-laws must be submitted to the Executive Committee of the
3. Ag Republicans 45 days prior to the annual meeting, and copies of such proposed amendments shall be forwarded to all members with the Annual Meeting.

## ARTICLE VI – PROCEDURES

1. Suspension – These by-laws may be suspended at any meeting of the Ag Republicans by a vote of three-fourths of the PA Ag Republicans present and voting.
2. Procedure – The provisions of Roberts Rules of Order, as revised, shall govern procedure at all meetings except to the extent that these by-laws provide otherwise.