

# SCGOP Rules Clarifications

## South Carolina Republican Party Rules

### RULE 2

## INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION OF RULES; AMENDMENT; DISTRIBUTIONS; DEFINITIONS

SCGOP Rule 2(f): **Voting requirement to seek party office above the precinct level at County Convention**

(f) All elections to a party office at all levels of organization shall be decided by a majority vote unless otherwise directed by the rules; all delegates shall be elected by plurality vote. Candidates must be a member of a precinct or convention body to be eligible for election by the body at each respective level. Candidates for party office above the precinct level, as well as for delegate to the State and National Conventions must have voted in at least two (2) of the three (3) most recent statewide Republican primaries, either in this or any previous state of residence, provided they were old enough to have done so.

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SCGOP Rule 4(a)(b) – **Concerning Precinct ReOrg location being “within the county”**

#### (b) Reorganization

- (1) Organized precincts shall meet during the month of March at an appropriate place within the county at a time and day set by the County Executive Committee of each non-general election year, or at such other time and date as may be required by law for reorganization.
- (2) Only those precincts previously certified or recognized as duly organized shall conduct reorganizational meetings.

#### Notes:

1. The CXC establishes (votes) on the Date & Time
2. Precincts must meet somewhere within the county is required, but not in the same location
3. During ReOrg 2023, all 31 precincts with Oconee County were previously certified and recognized

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SCGOP Rule 4(a)(c) – **Concerning Precinct ReOrg Activity**

#### (c) Proceedings

In all organization and reorganization meetings of precinct, business may be conducted as follows:

- (1) The meeting shall be called to order by the precinct president or vice-president, if the president is not present, in an organized precinct. In an unorganized precinct, the meeting shall be called to order by such person as may have been designated by the county chairman (or State Chairman, if applicable) to arrange the meeting, and if none, then by some person in attendance who is eligible for membership in the precinct. See Rule 4(c)(3) for eligibility requirements.

- (2) A temporary president, a temporary secretary, and a committee on credentials for the purpose of organizing or reorganizing shall be elected.
- (3) The credentials committee shall report the names of those in attendance who are eligible for membership and who have signed the membership roll, verifying that each member is in fact eligible for membership. Membership eligibility is determined by the member having a current, valid voter registration certificate in that precinct, and either (1) the person having voted in the election designated for the purposes of delegate allocation set forth in Rule 4(c)(5) or (2) the person being elected to membership at a precinct
- (4) When organized, a permanent president, one or more vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and a county committeeman to the county executive committee (a minimum of five (5) officers) may be elected. One person may not hold more than one office unless there are fewer than five people present at the meeting. Such committees as may be desired may be created. Precinct officers do not assume the duties of their office until after the county convention set forth in Rule 5(b) has been held, unless they are elected from a precinct not organized during the month of March under regular precinct reorganization.

Notes:

1. Individual precincts (officers and newly elected officers) are responsible for carrying out the Precinct ReOrg meetings
2. Whether those meetings occur under one roof for the entire county, or at multiple locations within the county - the precinct officers will be conducting their own meetings. (Anderson County does the same)
3. If no officers are present, the rules speak to the meeting being called to order by "some person in attendance who is eligible for membership in the precinct"
4. The opportunity for larger precincts (50 plus members expected) to hold their Precinct ReOrg meetings at locations closer to their precincts will be given. The OCRP will pay site rental fees for March 15<sup>th</sup>

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SCGOP Rule 4(a)(c) – **Concerning Precinct ReOrg Make-Up**

- (11) The county chairman shall also set a date for a make-up meeting no later than five (5) days prior to the county convention for precincts that have failed to organize or re-organize or that need to conduct further business, including the ability of precincts to fulfill their delegate allotment to the county convention. The make-up meeting for all precincts shall be held in one central location in the county and shall be properly advertised. In the delegate election process for the make-up meeting, delegate positions shall be filled first from among individuals who attend the meeting in person, then by individuals whose membership is set forth in the poll list of the preceding primary election and/or those who are absent from the meeting but who have submitted the properly signed forms. No member absent from the meeting may cast a vote, but they may be voted for and considered a candidate.

Notes:

1. Precinct ReOrg Make-Up must be in "one central location in the county"
2. To be "properly advertised" is noted only for Precinct ReOrg Make-Up and not ReOrg itself, but no specific details are given for what constitutes "properly advertised"

SCGOP Rule 5(b)(1) – **Concerning County Convention**

(b) County Convention

- (1) In every non-general election year, the County Convention shall be called by the County Executive Committee in each county having an organization recognized by the State Executive Committee. The convention shall be held during the month of April, no less than 14 days following precinct reorganization meetings, and the specific date, time and location of the convention shall be set by the County Executive Committee. A notice shall be caused to be published by the County Executive Committee once a week for two consecutive weeks, not more than three nor less than two weeks before the actual day of the convention in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The list of delegates certified by the president and secretary of each precinct shall constitute the temporary roll of the County Convention (7-9-70).

Notes:

1. The proceedings for County Convention duplicate Precinct ReOrg, apart from including a specific "how to" requirement for advertising, which was done in 2023, and will be done again in 2025
  2. On Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, we should receive the actual numbers for precinct delegates from the SCGOP
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SCGOP Rules Silent – **Concerning Nomination of Officers Elected at County Convention**

Reference OCRP Bylaw 3: County Organization

- 3c. **Candidates:** Any member desiring to be a candidate for office of County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, or State Executive Committeeman shall convey their intent in writing to the OCRP Chair and Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the biennial convention. As long as the candidate meets the qualifications to be a convention delegate and has not violated State Bylaw 15 or 16, their name shall be placed in nomination at the convention.

Notes:

1. The SCGOP rules are silent with regards to a county officer nomination process
2. OCRP Bylaw 3c outlines a preferred method of advising in writing beforehand; however, nominations may also be made on the convention floor as historically done