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RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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MODERATE PARTY OF RHODE ISLAND

By-Laws

I. PREAMBLE

The Moderate Party of Rhode Island ("MPRI") is a Rhode Island political party committed to electing people dedicated to improving the quality of life of Rhode Island residents by focusing not on divisive social issues but instead on the critical core issues of the Economy, Ethics, Education, and the Environment.

II. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Any person otherwise qualified to vote in the State of Rhode Island may become a registered member of the MPRI by submitting a valid voter registration card to the proper canvassing authorities. If at some future time, the MPRI is not qualified to appear in the ballot as a party in a particular election cycle, then anyone signing the membership list and not affiliated with another ballot qualified party in Rhode Island shall be a member. People over the age of 16 who are residents of Rhode Island but who cannot vote here may become MPRI members by actively participating in party activities and affirming their wish to join.

2.2 Candidates for elective office appearing on the ballot as MPRI candidates must be members of MPRI and meet the residency and other requirements set forth in the Rhode Island Election Code.

III. STRUCTURE

3.1 The general membership of the MPRI, expressing its will through the Primary ballot or at a General Membership Meeting or Convention, shall make final decisions. Along with Primaries, Conventions, and General Membership Meetings, a variety of bodies may convene to conduct the affairs of the MPRI as set forth herein. The MPRI shall conduct at least one (1) General Membership Meeting(s) each calendar year. The MPRI shall conduct a State Convention in accordance with Rhode Island law, and any such Convention will be considered a General Membership Meeting for that calendar year.

3.2 The MPRI shall have a State Committee. Effective upon the passage of these By-Laws, Mr. Ken Block will serve as Chair and may also appoint up to twenty (20) other members of the State Committee who will serve at the pleasure of the Chair. Commencing with the first General Membership Meeting in the year 2011, the members of the State Committee shall be composed of its Officers; one (1) representative from each affiliated city or town political party committee; any incumbent state general officers or members of the General Assembly then in office; up to ten (10) members

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appointed by and at the pleasure of the Chair; and up to ten (10) at-large members elected at a General Membership Meeting for two (2) year terms.

The State Committee may delegate its functions to the Executive Committee or to the Chair. The Executive Committee or the Chair may assume all powers and duties not otherwise assumed by the State Committee.

A quorum of the State Committee shall consist of eight (8) of its members so long as the Chair is present. If the Chair is not present, a quorum of the State Committee shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible members.

3.3 OFFICERS: Effective in 2011, the State Committee shall elect a Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary who shall serve as Officers of the State Committee. In addition, a First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary may also be elected as Officers. Terms are two (2) years. One person may hold multiple offices. Prior to 2011, the Officers of the State Committee shall be named by the Chair and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair and/or the Executive Committee.

~~Any Officer vacancies can be filled by interim appointment by and at the pleasure of the Chair until a vote at the next General Membership Meeting or State Committee meeting.~~

3.4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Effective upon the passage of these By-Laws, the Executive Committee shall include Mr. Ken Block as Chair and up to ten (10) other individuals selected by him, to serve at his pleasure. Commencing with the first meeting of the State Committee in the year 2011, the Executive Committee shall be composed of the Officers and up to eight (8) members of the State Committee, as the State Committee shall select, so long as the total size of the Executive Committee does not exceed eleven (11) members. The Chair of the State Committee shall also serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee, but other roles within the Executive Committee shall be filled as the Executive Committee shall so decide.

The Executive Committee may propose budgets to the General Membership, expend funds, make public statements, and take action on the key issues of concern to the MPRI. The Executive Committee may also form committees and recruit membership to those committees, assist MPRI members in the work of committees and settle any disputes that may arise within those committees. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the notification of the General Membership regarding MPRI meetings and conventions as well as insuring that those meetings are properly run and facilitated.

~~A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a simple majority of its members so long as the Chair or a Vice Chair is present. If the Chair~~

or a Vice Chair is not present, a quorum of the State Committee shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of eligible members of the Executive Committee.

Among other things, unless directed otherwise by the State Committee, the Executive Committee shall be empowered, in situations in which there is no MPRI incumbent seeking re-election in a race, and no clear statement of intent by any candidate(s) to run in a Primary, to review, select, and name the MPRI candidates to appear on any statewide ballot. Additionally, in accordance with Rhode Island law, and decisions made during the formation of the MPRI, which shall be ratified upon passage of these By-Laws, the MPRI will not conduct any Primary elections in the 2010 election year and all MPRI candidates in that year shall be selected by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may appoint an Executive Director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall carry out such administrative responsibilities of the MPRI as may be assigned by the Chair or the Executive Committee.

3.5 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS: ~~State Conventions and General Memberships Meetings held by MPRI shall be considered equivalent, with both meetings having the authority to establish the MPRI's policies and platform. State Conventions shall be held in even years for the purpose of adopting a platform and for the transaction of other business as may properly come before the Convention. The nominees of MPRI for senators and representatives in the United States Congress, for the five (5) general statewide elective offices, and for the Rhode Island General Assembly, as selected by the State Committee or by primary ballot, shall be delegates to the State Convention of MPRI.~~

3.6 DECISION MAKING: All decision-making bodies of the MPRI shall seek consensus as frequently as possible, but shall have the ability to conduct votes when necessary. Administrative decisions shall be by majority vote. Decisions on substantive or political issues, whether in a platform or otherwise, shall require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in order to pass. The various bodies described herein shall have the authority to create committees to take on various tasks.

3.7 STANDING COMMITTEES: The State Committee, in order to coordinate administrative and structural activities of the MPRI, may establish Standing Committees, which are committees that remain in session until or unless deemed unnecessary for the functioning of the MPRI and until dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee. Standing Committees shall be responsible for the creation of bylaws to govern their affairs and conduct. Such bylaws shall not be inconsistent with these By-Laws or Rhode Island state law. The various Standing Committees may

propose budgets and request funding from the MPRI, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Standing Committees shall report to the Executive Committee, State Committee, State Convention, and General Membership Meetings. All members of the MPRI are eligible to serve on Standing Committees.

3.8 GEOGRAPHIC COMMITTEES: MPRI members may organize themselves into working groups or committees of all kinds, including committees based on legislative district, congressional district, town, city, ward, county, or any other form of voting district(s). All MPRI members wishing to be involved in the activities of such particular committees or working groups are eligible to do so, provided that when the committee is based on voting districts, MPRI members must be qualified electors within the voting district for which that committee was formed. When the State of Rhode Island has specific laws governing the activities, or manner of activity, of any particular type of committee, or the election of its members, the applicable state laws shall be followed in all such situations. Any such geographic working groups or committees shall create their own bylaws for the functioning of that group in harmony with these By-Laws and Rhode Island state law. These committees or groups shall register themselves with State Committee and Rhode Island governmental bodies as required or appropriate.

~~**3.9 CITY, TOWN, AND WARD COMMITTEES:** MPRI voters in each ward of the cities of the state shall, in every even-numbered year, at a Primary election, elect a ward committee for each ward to the extent required by law; provided however, that the ward committees in the city of Providence shall be elected quadrennially. MPRI voters in each town of the state shall, in every even-numbered year, at a Primary election, elect a town committee for the town to the extent required by law.~~

Effective upon the passage of these By-Laws, and until the first MPRI Primary election, in 2012 or thereafter, the initial formation and organization of any city, town, and district committees shall be through appointment by the MPRI Chair, who shall assist in the structuring and registration of the committee. Each city, each town, and each district committee shall file with the Secretary of State and with the local board a list of its officers and members within ten (10) days of its formation.

3.10 ROBERTS RULES: To the extent not covered by law, these By-Laws, or special rule established by the body, MPRI bodies will be conducted in accordance with the current Roberts Rules of Order.

3.11 EMERGENCY POWERS OF CHAIR: Whenever any MPRI body, officer, or member cannot act or fails to act, or whenever ambiguities in the law or these By-Laws do not delineate whom is to act in a particular

situation, the Chair is vested to the fullest extent allowable by law to perform whatever role and take whatever action deemed necessary and appropriate to protect and advance the interests of the MPRI.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS

4.1 ENDORSEMENT BY LOCAL COMMITTEE: Endorsements by local committee shall be made prior to the last State Committee meeting or MPRI Convention held before June 28th of any given election year. The local endorsements shall be reviewed at that State Committee Meeting or Convention and can be overturned by a vote of at least three-quarters (3/4) of the voting members at the State Committee.

When local endorsements have been approved, the endorsements shall then be filed with the appropriate local board or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, not later than 4:00 p.m. of the day after the last day for filing declarations of candidacy.

Each town, ward, and city committee shall file with the appropriate local board the list of endorsed candidates in that town, ward, or city, in accordance with any applicable state law. Each district committee shall file the list of endorsed candidates with the board of canvassers in the of the city or town of residence of the senatorial or representative candidate, except that if the candidate is a resident of the City of Providence the endorsement shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

4.2 ENDORSEMENT BY STATE COMMITTEE: The State Committee or Convention shall be empowered to make all endorsements for candidates seeking statewide or Congressional office(s). The State Committee or the Convention shall be empowered to make all endorsements for others offices that are not made by the appropriate local committees.

All candidates seeking endorsement by the MPRI shall submit such requests prior or at the time of the meeting of the State Committee or Convention, in accordance with any rules established by those bodies or by Rhode Island state law.

Statewide or Congressional endorsements shall be made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members at the State Committee or Convention. Endorsements for local candidates shall also be made by the State Committee, provided that no MPRI local committee has submitted candidates for review, and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible members of the party present at the State Committee Meeting or Convention. Eligible members are those that live in the appropriate district.

The Executive Committee shall be the authorized body to register endorsements, and to notify the appropriate local board, or the Secretary of

State if required, for local candidates in any contingency in which the appropriate town, city or district committee neglects, fails or does not exist to do so. The endorsements shall be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. on the second day after the final day for filing declarations of candidacy. The candidate(s) endorsed by the State Committee or Convention shall appear as the endorsed candidate(s) on the primary ballot in the event of a contested Primary.

To the extent that there are any endorsements made by the MPRI in the 2010 election, they shall be made solely by the Executive Committee.

4.3 Any endorsement duly made may be withdrawn only by the Executive Committee by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the Executive Committee members in attendance at any meeting, for good cause stated, so long as sufficient members are in attendance to constitute a quorum.

V. PRIMARY ELECTIONS

5.1 Whenever there is a contest for an MPRI position on the ballot within any voting district, a Primary election shall be held in such voting district and the names of all candidates for such office shall appear on the Primary ballot. Notwithstanding this section or any other section to the contrary, MPRI will not conduct a statewide primary election in the year 2010 and statewide endorsements will be made solely by the Executive Committee for that year.

VI. AMENDING THE BYLAWS

6.1 These By-Laws shall govern the manner in which MPRI functions. A Standing Committee shall be formed to continually address the content of these By-Laws and to further develop these By-Laws as deemed necessary by that Committee. Proposed changes to the By-Laws shall be submitted in writing thirty (30) days before the State Committee Meeting in which the changes shall be voted upon.

All proposed changes shall be published in the notice that announces the State Committee Meeting in which the changes shall be discussed. An amendment to these By-Laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor of the amendment(s) by the State Committee in order to be enacted. By-Law amendments(s) passed by the State Committee can be overturned by a majority vote at a General Membership Meeting.

Adopted October 28, 2009