



**Oath of Party Loyalty and Ethical Conduct**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby swear or affirm that during my term of office:

- a. In a partisan general election in which the Republican Party has a candidate, I will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate other than the Republican Party’s nominee;
- b. In a non-partisan election (other than a judicial election) in which a registered Republican is participating, I will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate other than a registered Republican;
- c. In a contested Republican primary election, I will not support the nomination of one Republican candidate over another in my capacity as a Republican Executive Committee member unless the Party has voted to endorse under RPOF Rule 8. This rule does not preclude me from supporting in any manner my personal Republican candidate of choice, provided I do not express such support with public reference to my title or office within the Republican Party of Florida; and
- d. I will abide by the principles of ethical behavior contained in the Code of Ethics of the Republican Party of Florida as set forth in Appendix B to the RPOF Rules of Procedure.

County/Precinct/District: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Code of Ethics of The Republican Party of Florida**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of the *Code of Ethics* of the Republican Party of Florida (hereinafter RPOF) is to serve as a standard of conduct for Party leaders including but not limited to the State Party Chairman, Officers of the State Party, State Committeemen, State Committeewomen, County Chairmen, County Republican Executive Committees, employees of the State Party, and any organization or entity chartered by RPOF. This Code sets forth standards of ethical behavior for Party leaders in conducting the affairs of the Republican Party of Florida.

The *Code of Ethics* also incorporates standards of ethical behavior governing the personal behavior of Party leaders as it relates to achieving the objectives of the Republican Party of Florida. The paramount principle upon which this Code rests is personal responsibility.

Embraced within the standard of responsibility is the notion that the State Party Chairman, Officers, State Committeemen, State Committeewomen, County Chairmen, County Republican Executive Committees, employees of the RPOF, and any organization or entity chartered by RPOF must manage and direct the operations of the Republican Party with integrity.

All who are governed by this Code must direct and lead the Party in an appropriate manner and employ ethical methods to achieve the Party's overall mission and objectives.

#### **I. Definitions**

The definitions as set forth in this Code are meant to provide a framework for understanding and enforcement of the provisions set forth herein. As used in this Code the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. "Ethics" - means a set of standards of conduct that guide decisions and actions of individuals within an organization with reference to right and wrong.
- b. "Confidential" - means limited to persons authorized to use such information, documents, and communications intended for limited dissemination or use.
- c. "Conflict of Interest" - means a circumstance where a person's personal or business interests give the perception of, and/or potentially or actually conflict with that person's obligation(s) to RPOF such that it may interfere with his or her exercise of judgment and duties to RPOF.
- d. "Disclosure" - means to notify formally the appropriate committee or duly authorized officer or agent of the Republican Party of Florida of a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest or breach of ethical standards as set forth in this Code.

- e. “Duty of Loyalty” - means that individuals must put the interests of the Republican Party of Florida, above all self-interest. Specifically and by way of example, no Party leader is permitted to profit personally or compete with the interests of the Party.
- f. “Duty of Responsibility” - means that officers and Party leaders must exercise reasonable care, skill, and diligence in every activity in which the business of RPOF is conducted. Good faith and honesty are major tests in determining whether reasonable care has been exercised.
- g. “Party Leader” - means a person who holds a position within the Republican Party of Florida, either by appointment or election as contemplated under the Party’s Constitution, By-Laws, or Florida Statutes.
- h. “Waiver”- means a decision by an authority within the Party organization or duly authorized officers to permit a person to whom this Code applies to continue participation in or employment with the Party after disclosure of an actual or perceived conflict of interest. The decision to waive the Party’s conflict of interest rules shall be made after full disclosure of the information and the judgment of the committee or duly authorized officer that the risks to the Party are either non-existent or do not pose circumstances of sufficient severity to warrant removal of the person or other action.

## **II. General Responsibilities of the Republican Party of Florida:**

A Party Leader shall:

- a. Strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety;
- b. Uphold the Code of Ethics of the Republican Party of Florida;
- c. Conduct all personal and professional activities with honesty and integrity, respect, fairness, and good faith in a manner that will reflect well upon the Republican Party of Florida;
- d. Comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the management and operations of RPOF affairs;
- e. Avoid financial and all other conflicts of interest;
- f. Use this Code to further the interests of the Republican Party of Florida and not for selfish or personal pecuniary reasons;
- g. Refrain from participating in any activity that demeans the credibility and dignity of the Republican Party of Florida except when such participation is necessary to expose unethical or illegal conduct ;
- h. Enhance the dignity and image of the Republican Party of Florida through positive public information programs; and
- i. Promote ethical behavior within the organization through education in standards of conduct and principles of ethics.

**III. The State Party Chairman and Officers of the Republican Party of Florida shall:**

- a. Promote and adopt a program for educating everyone to whom this Code of Ethics applies regarding the importance of this Code of Ethics to the overall operation of the Republican Party of Florida. Said program shall include a module on appropriate leadership skills;
- b. Disclose to the Ethics Committee any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest which would interfere with carrying out their duties as officers of the RPOF;
- c. Develop and implement a uniform pledge of ethical conduct for all members of the State Executive Committee, County Executive Committees, RPOF employees and other organizations chartered by the RPOF.

**IV. The State Committeemen, State Committeewomen, and County Chairmen Shall:**

- a. Work to promote ethical concepts among members of county executive committees;
- b. Disclose perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest to the Ethics Committee;
- c. Maintain confidentiality of information as appropriate;
- d. Report known instances of conduct that constitute a perceived, potential, or an actual breach of the Code to the Ethics Committee Chairman or any other RPOF elected official

**V. The County Republican Executive Committees, Employees and any organization or entity chartered by RPOF shall:**

- a. Strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety in all affairs;
- b. Disclose perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest to the appropriate supervisor or person designated by the RPOF management;
- c. Report any breaches of this Code by others to the appropriate supervisor or person designated by RPOF management;
- d. Maintain the confidences of communications and information received during the course and scope of employment and for three (3) years after termination of employment.

**VI. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**—The Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida shall provide a method for members of the State Executive Committee, its officers, County Republican Executive Committees, employees of the RPOF, and any organization or entity chartered by RPOF to voluntarily disclose perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest. This method of disclosure shall be made known by the State Party Chairman to all concerned within twenty (20) days of the State Party Chairman taking office.

**VII. Waiver of Conflicts of Interest**—This Code recognizes that not all circumstances represent an actual conflict of interest such that a party leader’s personal interests would be in conflict with his/her duties and obligations to the Republican Party of Florida. In such situations, an officer, State Committeeman/Committeewoman, County Chairman,

County Republican Executive Committee member, RPOF employee, or any organization or entity chartered by RPOF may voluntarily disclose a perceived, potential, or actual conflict of interest and petition the Ethics Committee for a waiver of said conflict. Upon a vote of the Ethics Committee, the decision shall be submitted to the Executive Board of the Republican Party of Florida for final approval or disapproval.