

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Rules of the Virgin Islands Republican Territorial Caucus

Authorized by the Territorial Committee of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands at its regular meeting of July 30, 2016, and adopted by the Caucus Committee at its meeting of August 2, 2016.

Rule No. 1

(a) With the election of a state chairman, national committeewoman, national committeeman, 19 members of the Territorial Committee from the electoral district of St. Thomas-St. John, and 19 members of the Territorial Committee from the electoral district of St. Croix necessary due to the legal uncertainty of the Joint Board of Elections refusing to conduct a full primary election, the convening of a Republican Territorial Caucus within 90 days of July 13, 2016, is jointly authorized by the Republican National Committee and the Territorial Committee of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands. For purposes of article XII, section 1 of the *Rules, Principles, and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands*, the Republican Territorial Caucus is a convention.

(b) The Republican Territorial Caucus shall be governed by *The Rules of the Virgin Islands Republican Territorial Caucus*, which supersede the *Rules, Principles, and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands* for the purposes of convening and conducting the aforesaid Republican Territorial Caucus.

Rule No. 2

(a) The state chairman of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands shall appoint a Caucus Committee consisting of three members to serve as the Republican Territorial Caucus. The state chairman of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands shall designate the chairman and vice chairman of the Caucus Committee from among the appointed members. The chairman and vice chairman of the Caucus Committee shall reside in separate electoral districts.

(b) The Caucus Committee shall select one location in the electoral district of St. Thomas-St. John and one location in the electoral district of St. Croix to serve as district caucus precincts. These locations shall be open to any registered and qualified Republican voter for voting during the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time on August 13, 2016. Pursuant to article X, section 1(e) of the *Rules, Principles, and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands*, the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands, by and through the state chairman, shall pay all costs involved in securing district caucus precincts.

(c) The Caucus Committee shall prepare the ballot for the Republican Territorial Caucus. Pursuant to article X, section 1(e) of the *Rules, Principles, and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands*, the Republican Party of the United

States Virgin Islands, by and through the state chairman, shall pay all costs involved in preparing and printing the ballot. A sufficient number of ballots shall be distributed to the district caucus supervisor of each district caucus precinct on the day of the Republican Territorial Caucus and prior to the commencement of voting.

(d) The chairman and vice chairman of the Caucus Committee shall sign the call to caucus for the Republican Territorial Caucus with public notice published on the official website of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands. A copy of the duly-issued call to caucus shall be forwarded by the state chairman or secretary of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands to the duly-serving members of the Territorial Committee and subsequently transmitted to the Republican National Committee.

(e) The chairman of the Caucus Committee shall appoint the district caucus supervisors, sergeant-at-arms, and other deputies and caucus officials as deemed necessary for the conduct of the Republican Territorial Caucus. A person need not be a registered Republican to be eligible for appointment.

(f) The Caucus Committee may adopt all such policies, procedures, regulations, and rules as necessary for the conduct of the Republican Territorial Convention provided such policies, procedures, regulations, and rules are not inconsistent with these rules.

(g) The chairman of the Caucus Committee shall appoint a Caucus Disputes Committee consisting of three members to hear any disputes arising out of the Republican Territorial Caucus. The chairman of the Caucus Disputes Committee shall designate the chairman and vice chairman of Caucus Disputes Committee from among the appointed members. A person need not be a registered Republican to be eligible for appointment.

(h) All disputes and challenges arising out of the Republican Territorial Caucus must be submitted to the Caucus Committee by United States Postal Service registered mail on or before 11:59 p.m. on August 15, 2016. The Caucus Committee shall then transmit any properly received and timely filed dispute or challenge to the Caucus Disputes Committee. The Caucus Disputes Committee may meet in-person or via linked telecommunications technology to consider a properly received and timely filed dispute or challenge. Any decision by the Caucus Disputes Committee is final and not subject to appeal. The burden of proof necessary to sustain a dispute or challenge rests upon the challenger, who must provide tangible evidence.

Rule No. 3

(a) All voters and candidates in the Republican Territorial Caucus must be actively registered Republican voters, be on the electoral rolls of the United States Virgin Islands, and be bona fide residents of the United States Virgin Islands. No person convicted of a felony or other high crime and misdemeanor, including, but not limited to, crimes of fraud and moral turpitude, stand for election as a candidate.

(b) No tax or fee shall be levied upon any person to vote.

Rule No. 4

Supervision of the district caucus precincts and implementation and enforcement of these rules shall be the responsibility of a district caucus supervisor. District caucus supervisors shall be familiar with these rules.

Rule No. 5

(a) Eligibility to participate in and cast a ballot shall be verified by a district caucus supervisor. Prospective voters shall present a valid Virgin Islands government-issued photo identification upon demand of the district caucus supervisor.

(b) No absentee, provisional, or proxy voters are qualified to participate.

Rule No. 6

(a) Candidates for member of the Territorial Committee shall comply with the eligibility requirements of Rule No. 3. No person convicted of a felony or other high crime and misdemeanor, including, but not limited to, crimes of fraud and moral turpitude, shall be eligible to stand for election as a candidate. A candidate shall file a notarized nominating petition with the Caucus Committee via United States Postal Service registered mail containing the original signatures of no fewer than 10 registered Republican voters, all of whom must reside in the electoral district of the candidate, using the nominating petition prescribed by the Caucus Committee on or before 11:59 p.m. on August 7, 2016. A candidate shall also file a signed pledge affirming their support of the Republican nominee for president of the United States of America using the form as prescribed by the Caucus Committee.

(b) Candidates for state chairman, national committeewoman, and national committeeman shall comply with the eligibility requirements of Rule No. 3. No person convicted of a felony or other high crime and misdemeanor, including, but not limited to, crimes of fraud and moral turpitude, shall be eligible to stand for election as a candidate. A candidate shall file a notarized nominating petition via United States Postal Service registered mail containing the original signatures of no fewer than 20 registered Republican voters using the nominating petition prescribed by the Caucus Committee on or before 11:59 p.m. on August 7, 2016. A candidate shall also file a signed pledge affirming their support of the Republican nominee for president of the United States of America using the form as prescribed by the Caucus Committee.

(c) Candidates for state chairman, national committeewoman, national committeeman, and member of the Territorial Committee may appear on the ballot as a ticket under the name of the candidate for state chairman if the ticket nominates a complete slate of candidates for election. A candidate running on a ticket shall declare their slate affiliation using the form prescribed by the Caucus Committee.

(d) No person may seek election as a candidate for more than one party office.

(d) Persons signing a candidate's nominating petition shall meet the eligibility requirements of Rule No. 3(a).

Rule No. 7

(a) Each registered Republican voter, appearing on the electoral rolls of the United States Virgin Islands on the day of the call to caucus, shall be allowed to cast one ballot. A voter may cast either one straight-ticket vote for a slate of candidates or vote for individual candidates not exceeding one vote for state chairman, one vote for national committeewoman, one vote for national committeeman, 19 votes of the Territorial Committee from the electoral district of St. Croix, and 19 votes of the Territorial Committee from the electoral district of St. Thomas-St. John. Any ballot containing votes mixed between the straight-ticket and individual candidate sections is spoiled and shall not be counted.

(b) A record of each registered Republican voter casting a ballot shall be recorded in lists maintained at each district caucus precinct. No person shall be allowed to cast more than one ballot. All lists shall be open to inspection at the close of voting.

(c) Questions of voter eligibility shall be determined by the district caucus supervisor.

(d) No provisional, absentee, or proxy ballots shall be allowed.

Rule No. 8

(a) The Caucus Committee shall provide one ballot box at each district caucus precinct. Such boxes may be of cardboard construction. The district caucus supervisor shall ensure that the ballot box is empty at the commencement of voting.

(b) Each registered Republican voter, provided they meet the eligibility requirements of these rules, shall be given an official ballot and allowed to cast their vote in private. Each such voter shall then deposit the ballot in the ballot box provided for such purpose by the Caucus Committee.

(c) As soon as practicable after the conclusion of voting, the district caucus supervisors shall empty the ballot boxes and proceed to count the votes. As soon thereafter, the results of the counting shall be reported in writing to the Caucus Committee. The report shall include the total number of voters, the number of ballots casts, and the number of ballots rejected or spoiled. All ballots, including spoiled ballots, voter participation lists, and count sheets shall be preserved until the Caucus Committee certifies the results as final.

(d) Final certification of the results of the Republican Territorial Caucus shall be given by the Caucus Committee upon receiving the report of the Caucus Dispute Committee.

(e) Any tie in the results shall be determined by a flip of the coin.

(f) A ballot shall be spoiled if (1) the ballot contains lewd, impertinent, or extraneous markings; (2) if the ballot is substantially torn or defaced; (3) if the ballot bears obvious evidence of tampering; (4) if more votes are cast than the number of candidates to be elected; and (5) if votes are cast for both a ticket and individual candidates.

(g) No electioneering shall take place within district caucus precincts.

(h) A candidate for state chairman, national committeewoman, and national committeeman may send a designated representative to observe the counting of ballots, but said representative shall not interfere with or object to the counting of ballots. Any dispute or challenge must be filed in compliance with Rule No. 2. Any person seeking to observe the counting of ballots on behalf of a candidate for the aforesaid offices shall present credentials designating them as representatives of their candidate to the district caucus supervisor for accreditation. The credentials must bear the original signature of the candidate.

(i) The Caucus Committee shall be empowered to promulgate additional rules, regulations, and procedures based upon generally accepted election practices.

Rule No. 9

Upon final certification of the results of the Republican Territorial Caucus, the chairman of the Caucus Committee shall notify the state chairman-elect, national committeewoman-elect, national committeeman-elect, and members-elect of the Territorial Committee. Such winners shall assume their offices in a manner consistent with the *Rules, Principles, and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands*.