

## FAQs About Reorganization

What is the SC Republican Party Precinct Reorganization? Under state law, political parties must reorganize every two years. This is the process the State of SC uses to certify political parties in order for Candidates to run for Office and recognize viable political parties within the State.

Why does the SC Republican Party reorganize every two years? In South Carolina we do not register voters by political party. Reorganization is the process the State of SC uses for political parties to certify their party with the State to hold primary elections, have a spot on the general election ballot, identify supporters, and recruit candidates.

How can I get involved? Getting involved is easy. The locations will be published in The Charleston City Paper for reorganization on March 4<sup>th</sup> that will tell voters the time and place to meet throughout Charleston County. The information will also be printed in our newsletter, Elephus Maximus, and at our website, [www.charlestongop.org](http://www.charlestongop.org).

What do we do when we get there? This will be the most disorganized time of the reorganization effort and it's the process that brings out the leaders. There will be someone there to help get things started. Each precinct will then get together and elect precinct officers. The final goal is to elect Precinct officers who at a minimum should include: A Precinct President, Precinct Committeeman, and a Precinct Secretary (this job may also be held by the Precinct President or the Precinct Committeeman if there are not enough voters to fill the position.) You will need a temporary "leader" (see below) until officers are elected. If your group is small you can quickly elect the officers from among yourselves. If groups are smaller than 5, individuals may hold more than one position. Each precinct needs to be sure they have a Precinct Secretary even if they only have one person organizing. If your group is large, individuals should be nominated and voted upon. Remaining members are elected to serve as delegates or alternate delegates. Once all delegation slots are filled, remaining individuals may still become members of the County Party.

Here are the rules:

- 1) The meeting shall be called to order by the club president or vice-president, if the president is not present, in an organized club. In an unorganized club, the meeting shall be called to order by such person as may have been designated by the county chairman to arrange the meeting, and if none, then by some person in attendance who is eligible for membership in the precinct club. Here's where leadership plays a role.
- 2) A temporary president, a temporary secretary, and a committee on credentials for the purpose of organizing or reorganizing shall be elected. If a precinct has less than 3 members you may skip this process but you should verify that everyone is a registered voter in the precinct.

- 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. Members having a current, valid voter registration certificate in the precinct determines membership eligibility.
- 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 club meeting.
- 5) Delegates and alternates to the county convention shall be elected from among the members of the precinct club in attendance and/or those whose membership is set forth in the poll list of the preceding primary election. An equal number of alternates may also be elected. The club secretary and club president shall certify the names of precinct club members, precinct club officers and delegates and alternates, along with their own certifications, to the county.
- 6) If a voter cannot attend reorganization or the make up date, the voter may give his/her reorganization form to another voter of the precinct for presentation at the event. However, only those actually present may be elected officers of the precinct. The absent member may serve as a precinct delegate or alternate and attend the convention. The absent member must be a registered voter and the reorganization form must be filled out correctly to include the voters Voter ID number. The Precinct Secretary must certify that the information on the form is correct.
- 7) Except for organization and reorganization meetings, the president or five (5) members may call special meetings of the club at any time by giving at least forty-eight (48) hours public notice.

What do Precinct Officers do? The Precinct Committee represents the precinct at the monthly meetings by attending the meetings and helping the local party in its support of the State Party. Many things are voted upon including how funds are spent, rules, and resolutions, etc.

The Precinct President attends meetings when the Committeeman cannot to make sure the precinct is represented at the County Party level. The Precinct President also helps the County Party during election cycles by contacting voters and ensuring Republican voters get to the polls and vote. The Precinct President should take time to get to know the Republican Voters in his/her precinct. The Precinct President may hold Precinct Meetings with voters, if he/she desires in accordance with Rule 7 above.

The Precinct Secretary (may be a dual job if the precinct is small) is responsible to sign all Precinct Reorganization Forms, ensuring they are properly completed and turned in to the properly designated person or, if no designate is identified, to make sure the Forms are returned to the County Chairman after reorganization.

Delegates attend the convention and vote on the County Officers. Delegates to the State Conventions are selected from the Precinct Delegates. Precinct delegates may attend meetings and may provide input regarding the party's operation, including disbursement of funds, rules and resolutions that will be voted on by Committeeman.

Members may also attend meetings and are welcome to participate in discussions regarding Party business.