

# **YOU are the life of the Party.**

Hello Delegates and Alternates:

Below, you will find the State GOP Emergency Bylaws that were approved on March 20, 2020 by the State Executive Committee. Included with the Bylaws is also an explanation for the Bylaws temporary changes.

**Colorado Republican Committee Colorado Republican Executive  
Committee Friday | March 20, 2020**

## **COLORADO REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE EMERGENCY BYLAWS**

Pursuant to authority granted by Executive Order # D 2020 005 and House Bill 2020-1359 and as a result of the March 18, 2020 Colorado Public Health Order prohibiting all gatherings of more than ten people for the next thirty days, at an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee held via telephone Friday, March 20, 2020, the Colorado Republican State Central Committee hereby adopts the following temporary emergency bylaws which will govern Republican assemblies and conventions in Colorado for the remainder of the 2020 cycle.

Adopted by CRC Executive Committee 03/20/2020.

### **EMERGENCY BYLAW # 1 – NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

All notice including “call” requirements applying to any district or county assembly and convention which was originally properly noticed, or was not yet required to be noticed, pursuant to then-applicable rules or bylaws may be amended by the relevant District or County Chairman for the remainder of 2020. Any district or county assembly and convention which in the judgment of the relevant district or county chairman must be moved and/or rescheduled may be so moved and/or rescheduled with three calendar days’ notice. Notice for all moved and/or rescheduled district and county assemblies and conventions must be sent to all delegates and alternates for whom the chair has an email address and may be made by electronic means.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #2 – QUORUM REQUIREMENTS**

All quorum requirements applying to any district or county assembly and convention are hereby waived for the remainder of 2020 with the exception that all district and county assemblies and conventions must have the participation of at least three delegates in order to be able to conduct business.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #3 – CO-LOCATION AND DATE REQUIREMENTS**

All requirements that any district assembly be co-located with other district assemblies and/or county assemblies and conventions are hereby waived for the remainder of 2020.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #4 – ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING/VOTING PROCESSES**

All district and county central committees or district and county assemblies and conventions may provide for alternative credentialing, nominating, and/or voting procedures as permitted by House Bill 2020-1359. Such procedures may be adopted by a vote of the district or county officers. Such procedures may alternatively be adopted by a district or county assembly or convention by a majority vote of the members present and voting. All assemblies and conventions may use more than one voting method.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #5 – PROXIES AT DISTRICT AND COUNTY ASSEMBLIES**

Notwithstanding any prohibition in any district or county bylaw or rule, all district and county assemblies and conventions may permit members to participate by proxy with each member physically present carrying no more than five proxies and any delegate permitted to participate remotely prohibited from carrying a proxy. Each proxy shall, at a minimum, identify the delegate granting the proxy, the delegate receiving the proxy, and any voting instructions for the delegate carrying the proxy. Any district or county assembly and convention acting to allow members to participate by proxy must do so by a question separately presented to the body prior to the elevation of any alternates and may only be voted on by those delegates physically present.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #6 – MEETING FORMATS**

All district and county central committees or district and county assemblies and conventions may meet using an alternative meeting platform, provided a

verifiable record of all remote access and participation is made. The verifiable record of all remote access and participation shall be maintained for 6 months to be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW # 7 – NOMINATIONS**

District or county officers may set a nomination deadline in advance of their assembly and convention.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #8 – ALTERNATES AT COUNTY AND DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES**

All district and county assemblies and conventions may dispense with the elevation of alternates if alternative credentialing and/or voting procedures are adopted such that substantially all delegates have the opportunity to participate in the assembly and convention. Nothing in this emergency bylaw shall prevent alternates to any Congressional District Assembly & Convention from running for National Delegate.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #9 – EXTENDED DISTRICT AND COUNTY ASSEMBLIES**

Pursuant to House Bill 2020-1359, all district and county assemblies and conventions shall be completed no later than April 11, 2020, and may be held over a period of no more than seven calendar days.

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #10 – CONTESTS OF DESIGNATIONS BY DISTRICT**

## **OR COUNTY ASSEMBLIES**

Any delegate or candidate who wishes to contest the designation of any candidate to the primary ballot by district or county assembly and convention must within two days of the adjournment of the district or county assembly and convention at which the designation was made, present such contest to the state Executive Committee with simultaneous notice to all candidates for designation at the assembly and convention in the race subject to contest and to the district or county chair. The state Executive Committee will make a recommended determination of all such contests to the Colorado Republican State Central Committee which will make the final determination of all such contests at its pre-assembly meeting.

## **EMERGENCY BYLAW # 11 – COMPLETED ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS**

These Emergency Bylaws shall not affect the result of any district or county assembly and convention completed before, on the day of, or on the weekend following their adoption, except that pursuant to Governor's Executive Order # D 2020 005 any district or county which held its assembly and convention in violation of any then-applicable notice or quorum requirement or which adopted alternative credentialing and/or voting processes is hereby ratified so long one day's notice was given of such assembly and convention.

## **EMERGENCY BYLAW #12 – NOTICE FOR STATE ASSEMBLY & CONVENTION**

All provisions of the Bylaws of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee governing the date and form of notice for the Colorado Republican State Assembly & Convention may be set aside for the remainder of 2020 by the State Chairman. In the event the State Chairman determines it necessary to change the date or location for the State Assembly & Convention, he shall give at least three days' notice of such change via e-mail to all district and county chairmen, all members of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee, and all state assembly and convention delegates and alternates for whom the state party has an email address and shall post such notice on at [www.cologop.org](http://www.cologop.org).

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW # 13 – ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALING/VOTING PROCESSES AT STATE ASSEMBLY & CONVENTION**

Notwithstanding any provision of the Bylaws of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee, the State Chairman may provide for alternative credentialing and/or voting procedures permitted by House Bill 2020-1359. If the State Chairman determines to provide for such procedures, he must announce such procedures at least 7 days before the State Assembly & Convention by e-mail to all district, county chairman, members of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee, and all state assembly delegates and alternates for whom the state party has an email address and by posting notice of such procedures to [www.cologop.org](http://www.cologop.org).

#### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #14 – ALTERNATES AT STATE ASSEMBLY AND CONVENTION**

Notwithstanding any provision of the Bylaws of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee, the State Chairman may, in connection with the provision of alternative credentialing and/or voting procedures under Emergency Bylaw #11, bar alternates from attending the State Assembly & Convention and may suspend the practice of elevating alternates to take the places of absent delegates. Nothing in this Emergency Bylaw shall prevent alternates from running for National Delegate

### **EMERGENCY BYLAW #15 – VACANCIES IN DESIGNATION**

If, after a good-faith effort to use the authority granted by these Emergency Bylaws any assembly and convention is, in the opinion of its chairman nonetheless unable to meet or complete its business as a result of the order of a competent public authority or the unavailability of meeting space, the district or county chairman shall request permission from the State Chairman no later than April 5, 2020 or the date of the affected assembly and convention (whichever comes later) to allow the appropriate vacancy committee to fill the resulting vacancy in designation as provided by House Bill 2020-1359. Upon receipt of written approval from the State Chairman, the appropriate vacancy committee shall fill the resulting vacancy in designation pursuant to law.

### **EMERGENCY BYLAW # 16 – INTERPRETATION**

These Emergency Bylaws shall take precedence over the Bylaws of the Colorado Republican State Central Committee, any rules of the Colorado Republican Party, and the Bylaws or Rules of any County or District Republican Committee. In the event of a conflict, the rule deemed to be in conflict with the

Emergency Bylaws shall be deemed inoperative and ineffective to the extent of such prohibition without invalidating any of the other provision or portions thereof.

## **EMERGENCY BYLAW #17 – EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL**

These Emergency Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon their adoption by the Colorado Republican State Central Committee. All of these Emergency Bylaws are automatically repealed effective December 31, 2020. They may be repealed at an earlier date by a simple majority vote to the Colorado Republican State Central Committee or the Colorado Republican State Executive Committee.

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### **Brief Explanation of the Colorado Republican Committee Emergency Bylaws**

Without HB2020-1359, Colorado Republicans around the state would legally be unable to hold assemblies and conventions, due to a variety of executive and other orders coming from Governor Polis, the Colorado Department of Health, and county health departments. The goal of these emergency bylaws is to enable our counties and districts to still hold assemblies and give a voice to the grassroots as we have always done in Colorado.

**Emergency Bylaw #1** This allows the relevant chairman to reschedule an assembly or convention without the usual 10-15 days' notice. If that notice was



insisted on, many counties would no longer be able to hold an assembly or convention with the ever-changing and fluid nature of our situation. All delegates and alternates should be notified of the changes in whatever means is possible, though email and phone calls (electronic means) are now broadly allowed due to the changing nature of county health orders.

**Emergency Bylaw #2** Many districts and counties do not have quorum requirements, but if they do, those are waived, though no one person will be able to conduct an assembly or convention alone. Full participation is encouraged wherever practicable.

**Emergency Bylaw #3** Self-explanatory.

**Emergency Bylaw #4** The key word here is “MAY.” This bylaw gives the relevant officers the ability to adopt alternative credentialing, nominating, or voting methods as necessary. HB 1359 allowed us to make a way for counties and districts who generally require in-person voting to expand the options for all delegates to still participate electronically, through drive-by/drop-off voting, or other means. This bylaw ensures the grassroots still has a voice in assemblies and conventions where in-person gatherings have been banned through executive orders from the Governor.

**Emergency Bylaw #5** HB 1359 required that districts and counties allow – not require – no more than five proxies.

**Emergency Bylaw #6** This bylaw enables all counties and districts to still have a meeting, even if their bylaws requires in-person meetings under usual

circumstances. It also requires that verifiable records be kept for six months to ensure transparency.

**Emergency Bylaw #7** The key word here is “MAY.” We believe each county or district’s officers understand their unique situation the best and should have the freedom to implement deadlines as needed.

**Emergency Bylaw #8** The key word here is “MAY.” If a county or district chooses to use an electronic meeting system that enables nearly 100% of all delegates to participate, they may no longer need alternates. However, the right of CD Alternates to run for National Delegate is still preserved.

**Emergency Bylaw #9** HB1359 extended the usual deadline for assemblies. This bylaw also allows counties and districts to hold a vote open for no more than seven days with the goal of allowing them freedom to find a way to allow for the maximum level of participation so all voices are heard.

**Emergency Bylaw #10** Quick responses are essential for candidates seeking a place on the primary ballot. This bylaw guarantees an expedited response to any candidate concerns.

**Emergency Bylaw #11** This bylaw protects our counties and districts who have been doing an incredible job scrambling to find a way to hold assembly or convention in the midst of all the changing executive orders from the state and county governments. We recognize our local leaders have had to respond to extraordinary circumstances, and as long as they gave one day’s notice of changes, their results are ratified.

**Emergency Bylaw #12** This bylaw requires the State Chairman to give at least three days' notice of any date or location change for the State Assembly and Convention, and to send such notice to all email addresses for the district and county chairmen, members of the SCC, and all delegates and alternates that are on file with the state party. Additionally, notice will be posted on the state website.

**Emergency Bylaw #13** This bylaw requires the State Chairman to give at least seven days' notice for any credentialing or voting procedure changes for the State Assembly and Convention and requires the same notice to be given as Emergency Bylaw #12.

**Emergency Bylaw #14** This bylaw recognizes that there may still be a state executive order banning a specific number of persons from gathering in April, but it still preserves the right of all State Alternates to run for National Delegate. Furthermore, if a voting method is used, such as mail-in ballot, every Delegate would have an opportunity to cast a ballot from their home. The turnaround time to get those ballots back in and elevate alternates would not fit within the 7-day window required by state statute.

**Emergency Bylaw #15** This is a last-resort bylaw that ensures the Republican Party will have candidates on the primary ballot. The language makes it clear that a vacancy committee shall not have the authority to designate a candidate for the ballot unless all other efforts have been made by the county or district and have failed.

**Emergency Bylaw #16** Without this bylaw, the majority of county and district assemblies would not go forward in Colorado.

**Emergency Bylaw #17** This bylaw ensures these emergency bylaws are temporary and automatically repealed at the end of the year. They also may be repealed at an earlier date by a vote of the SCC or SEC.

**Thank you for the life you put into our Party!**

Sincerely,

Vickie Tonkins

Chair, El Paso County Republican Party