

THE RULES OF THE HOUSE  
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE  
100<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

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## **RULE 1 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP**

**INCLUSION.**—All Republican Members of the House of Representatives, and other members as determined by the Conference, shall be members of the House Republican Conference.

**EXPULSION.**—A 2/3 vote shall be necessary to expel a member of the Republican Conference from the Conference.

Expulsion proceeding shall be consistent with rules, practices, and precedents of the House of Representatives.

## **RULE 2 REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP GROUP**

**PARTY LEADER.**—The Conference shall nominate a candidate for Speaker, and shall elect the Republican Leader and the Republican Whip.

**CONFERENCE OFFICER.**—The Conference shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Conference.

**COMMITTEE OFFICERS.**—The Conference shall elect a Chairman for the Committee on Policy, for the Committee on Research, and the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

**ELECTED LEADERSHIP.**—The elected Republican Leadership of the House of Representatives shall consist of the following:

1. Republican Leader
2. Republican Whip
3. Chairman of the Republican Conference
4. Chairman of the Committee on Policy
5. Chairman of the Committee on Research
6. Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference
7. Secretary of the Republican Conference
8. Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee

**DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP.**—The designated Republican Leadership in the House of Representatives shall consist of the following:

1. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Rules
2. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Ways & Means
3. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Appropriations
4. Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Budget

**LEADERSHIP ISSUES.**—The Republican Leader may designate certain issues as “Leadership Issues.” Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as the issue evolves.

A Member of the elected and designated Republican Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and resources of the Leadership shall be utilized to support that position.

**LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LIMITATION.**—The Republican Leader and Whip and the Chairman of the Republican Conference, Committee on Policy, Committee on Research, and the National Republican Congressional Committee shall not serve on more than one standing committee of the House of Representatives and in no case shall any of these individuals serve as Ranking Minority member of a standing committee of the House of Representatives.

If a member shall, at any time, cease to serve in any of the Leadership positions named above, he or she may resume his or her position on the standing committee on which he or she previously served.

### **RULE 3 ORGANIZING CONFERENCE**

**ORGANIZING CONFERENCE.**—The organizational meeting of the Republican Conference shall be called by the Republican Leader in accordance with 2 U.S.C. section 29(A)(1). The meeting shall be held on or after the first day of December but not later than the twentieth day of December in accordance with 2 U.S.C. section 29(A)(1).

The Leader, in consultation with the elected Leadership of the preceding Congress, shall designate the temporary presiding officer to serve until such time as the election of a Conference Chairman is concluded.

**ORDER OF ELECTIONS.**—At the organizational meeting of the Republican Conference the order of elections shall be:

1. Speaker
2. Leader
3. Chairman of the Republican Conference
4. Republican Whip
5. Chairman of the Committee on Policy
6. Chairman of the Committee on Research
7. Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference
8. Secretary of the Republican Conference
9. Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee

### **RULE 4 ELECTIONS**

**VOTES BY SECRET BALLOT.**—All elections, where contested, shall be decided by secret ballot, and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

**NOMINATIONS.**—The order of nomination of candidates for the various offices shall be determined alphabetically based on the surname of the nominees for each office.

For each Leadership nomination there shall be one nominating speech (not to exceed three minutes in length), and there may be two seconding speeches (each not to exceed one minute in length).

**BALLOTING PROCEDURES.**—When there are more than two candidates for any office and none receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be dropped from the ballot on each succeeding vote until one candidate receives a majority of the votes, a quorum being present.

### **RULE 5 CALLING AND SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

**CALL FOR MEETING.**—Meetings of the Republican Conference may be called by the Chairman of the Conference after consultation with the Republican Leader at any time. A meeting shall be called upon written request of 50 Members addressed and delivered to the Chairman. Such meeting shall be called as soon as practicable. Whenever possible, 24 hours' notice regarding a meeting shall be given to Members of the Conference.

**LEADER'S ANNUAL MEETING.**—The Republican Leader shall hold an annual meeting at the beginning of each session of congress at which the Republican Leadership reports to the membership on their plans for the upcoming year.

## **RULE 6      AGENDA OF MEETINGS**

**ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS.**—The Republican Leader, or his designee, may present any resolution to the Republican Conference for its immediate consideration.

The Republican Conference Chairman, or his designee, shall present to the Republican Conference for its immediate consideration any resolution submitted to the Conference Chairman on the petition of 50 or more Members in accordance with the rules of the Republican Conference; provided that any such resolution shall be circulated to the entire Republican Conference at least 48 hours prior to the Conference meeting.

All resolutions brought before the Republican Conference shall be referred by the Chairman to the appropriate committee of the Conference for consideration, except as provided above.

## **RULE 7      ADMITTANCE TO MEETINGS**

The Chairman of the Conference has the discretion to decide whether meetings of the Conference shall be open or closed. The Conference may determine by vote to overrule the decision of the Chair.

The Chairman shall have the discretion to designate Leadership staff or other eligible persons to attend Conference meetings. Those individuals shall be excused at the discretion of the Conference Chairman.

Upon timely notice from the Chairman of the Conference, an executive session of the Conference may be called. This meeting shall be closed to all persons except Members of the Conference.

## **RULE 8      CONFERENCE JOURNAL**

The Secretary of the Conference shall keep a journal of the Conference proceedings. Journal entries shall be signed by the Conference Secretary and the Conference Chairman.

The journal shall be open for inspection at the request of any member of the Conference.

## **RULE 9      CONFERENCE PROCEDURE**

**SUSPENSION PROCEDURE.**—Two-thirds of those Members present, a quorum being present, may suspend the Conference rules.

All motions to suspend the rules shall be seconded by a majority, if demanded.

Suspensions, to the extent practicable, shall be consistent with the rules, practices and precedents of the House.

**RULES OF THE HOUSE.**—The rules of the House of Representatives, insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the proceedings of the Republican Conference.

## **RULE 10      QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Conference shall constitute a quorum consistent with the rules of the House.

## **RULE 11 RECORDED VOTES & VOTING PROCEDURES**

SECRET BALLOT.—On demand of one person and the support of five others the vote on any matter properly pending before the Conference shall be taken by secret ballot.

RECONSIDERATION.—When a motion has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order for any member of the majority, in the same or succeeding Conference, to move for the reconsideration thereof. The procedures for reconsideration shall be consistent with the Rules of the House.

## **RULE 12 STANDING COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS \***

\* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

## **RULE 13 CLASSIFICATION OF COMMITTEES \***

\* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

## **RULE 14 RESTRICTIONS ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS \***

\* This rule is under the jurisdiction of the Lagomarsino Task Force.

## **RULE 15 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Committee on Committees shall recommend to the Republican Conference the Republican Members of the standing committees of the House of Representatives.

VACANCY.—The Committee on Committees shall recommend directly to the House of Representatives the Republican Members to fill vacancies on standing committees which occur following the organization of a congress. Whenever possible, a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

## **RULE 16 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

NOMINATION.—The Republican Leader shall nominate the Republican members of the Rules Committee.

The Republican Leader shall nominate the Ranking Republican member of the Rules Committee.

These nominees shall be submitted to the Conference along with the other nominees from the Committee on Committees.

REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATION.—If the Republican Conference rejects the nominee for Ranking Member to the Rules Committee, the Republican Leader shall again submit a nomination to the Republican Conference.

RETENTION OF SENIORITY RIGHTS.—A member newly assigned to the Rules Committee shall have the option of being “on leave with seniority” from one standing committee on which he or she serves. At such time as service on Rules Committee shall cease, such member shall have the right to return to active membership on that standing committee with the relative seating and seniority accumulated during his or her tenure on the Rules Committee.

## **RULE 17 PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.—The Republican Committee on Committees shall nominate the Member to serve as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

Existing House rules regarding limitation of service pertain to the Ranking Minority Member of the Budget Committee. The term of service for the Ranking Minority Member shall be consistent with the rules of the House pertaining to the Chairman of the Committee.

**LEADERSHIP MEMBER.**—The Republican Leader shall choose one Member to serve in the designated Leadership position on the Committee.

The person designated by the Republican Leader will serve as the second highest ranking Republican on the Committee.

**NOMINATION OF OTHER MEMBER.**—Two members of the Appropriations Committee and two members of the Committee on Ways & Means shall also serve on the Budget Committee.

## **RULE 18 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT**

No Member shall serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for more than three consecutive terms.

[NOTE: It was agreed that this provision would begin with the 101st Congress. The Committee on Committees would be responsible for the implementation of this provision.]

## **RULE 19 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE RANKING MINORITY MEMBERS**

**NOMINATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES.**—The Committee on Committees shall nominate the Republican Members who shall serve as Ranking Minority members. The Member nominated by the Republican Committee on Committees for this position need not be the member with the longest consecutive service on the committee, and such nominations shall be out of order except as recommended in the report of the committee.

**VOTING PROCEDURE.**—The Conference shall vote by secret ballot on each recommendation of the House Republican Committee on Committees for the position of Ranking Minority member. The Call of the Conference at which such balloting will take place shall name and list the individuals recommended by the committee.

**REJECTION AND NEW NOMINATIONS.**—If the Republican Conference fails to approve a recommendation of the House Republican Committee on Committees, the matter shall be automatically recommitted without instructions to that committee.

**OBLIGATION OF RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.**—The Ranking Minority Member on each committee has an obligation to ensure that the managerial responsibilities on the Floor of the House of Representatives for each measure on which the Republican Conference has taken a position are managed in accordance with such position.

**MOTION TO RECOMMIT.**—The Ranking Minority Member on each committee should consult with the Republican Leader regarding any proposed motion to recommit to be considered on the Floor of the House of Representatives in order that, to the extent possible, such motion to recommit would reflect the majority view of the Republican Conference.

## **RULE 20 FILLING VACANCY IN RANKING COMMITTEE POSITION**

A vacancy which occurs during a session of Congress for the position of Ranking Minority Member shall be filled in accordance with Conference Rule 19.

Whenever possible a vacancy shall be filled within thirty days while Congress is in session.

## **RULE 21 LIMITATIONS ON NUMBER OF RANKING COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than one standing, select, joint, or ad hoc committee.

## **RULE 22 APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

The Republican Leader shall recommend to the Speaker all Republican nominees to joint and select committees as shall be ordered by the House from time to time.

## **RULE 23 COMMITTEE ORGANIZING CAUCUS**

Each committee shall have an organizing caucus of the Republican members before the organizing meeting of the full Committee. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall call the meeting, giving at least three days' notice to all Republican members of the Committee.

## **RULE 24 PERIODIC COMMITTEE CAUCUSES**

Meetings of the committee caucuses may be called by a majority of the Republican Members of the Committee or at the call of the Ranking Minority Member. A majority of the members may request the meeting provided such request is in writing and states the subject matter to be discussed at the meeting. The meeting must be called within ten days after receipt of the petition, and after notification to the Ranking Member and all Committee members.

## **RULE 25 ELECTION OF RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The selection of Ranking Minority Members of the committee's subcommittees shall be at the discretion of the Ranking Minority member of the full Committee.

The Ranking Minority Member shall publish the procedures to be followed in selecting subcommittee Ranking Minority members and individual subcommittee assignments.

## **RULE 26 RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Vacancies of subcommittee Ranking Minority Members shall be filled according to the procedures established and published by the various committees in accordance with Rule 25.

## **RULE 27 RESTRICTIONS ON RANKING SUBCOMMITTEE POSITIONS**

- A. No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than one standing, select, or ad hoc committee and of more than one subcommittee of any standing, select, or ad hoc committee except that upon recommendation of the committee on committees and approval of the Conference this provision may be waived for those Members for whom the provision was waived in the preceding Congress. All Members shall be in compliance with this rule when the membership of the standing committees are constituted in the 102nd Congress.
- B. No individual shall serve as Ranking Minority Member of more than two subcommittees of the standing, select, and ad hoc committees upon which such Member serves and in no event shall the two be subcommittees of the same committee except that upon the recommendation of the Committee on Committees and approval of the Conference this provision may be waived for those Members for whom the provision was waived in the preceding Congress. All Members shall be in compliance with this rule when the membership of the standing committees are constituted in the 102nd Congress.

## **RULE 28 COMMITTEE ON POLICY**

The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory committee to the membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chairman of the Committee on Policy or the Republican Leader, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chairman may invite to the meetings. The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chairman of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Republican Leader, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

COMPOSITION.—The Committee on Policy shall be composed of:

1. One Member from each of eight regions apportioned by the Conference as equally as possible. The Republican Members of Congress from the states of each region shall meet in caucus and shall select from their number, by secret ballot, the member of the Committee on Policy and shall report their selection to the chairman of said Committee.
2. Two members of the Freshman class and two members from the Sophomore class.
3. The House Republican Leadership, as elected and designated by the House Republican Conference.
4. A maximum of seven members-at-large appointed by the Republican Leader.

SENIORITY.—The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

## **RULE 29 COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH**

The Committee on Research shall be an advisory committee to the Members of the House Republican Conference.

Its functions shall be to perform and supervise research for Republican Members of the House, and to assist in preparing research and information for their use.

COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall have a maximum of 22 Members including the Members of the House Republican Leadership.

The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by Members of the House Republican Conference. The remaining Members shall be selected by the House Republican Leadership, which selection shall be subject to confirmation by the House Republican Conference. The Republican Leadership shall, include two Member representatives of the Freshman class in their selection of Members for the Committee.

TASK FORCES.—Subject to the approval of the House Republican Leadership, which shall consult with the ranking Members of various standing committees, the Committee on Research may appoint task forces comprised of any Republican Members of the House and may make such rules as are necessary for the conduct of the Committee on its Task Forces.

## **RULE 30 THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

COMPOSITION.—The National Republican Congressional Committee shall be composed of Members selected by the Republican delegations from the several States.

The voting strength of each Member shall be equal to the number of Republican Members of the House of Representatives elected to a Congress from his or her State.

The elected Republican Leadership shall serve as ex-officio Members of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Two Members elected by the Freshman Class and one member elected by the Sophomore Class shall be included as Members in the Organization of the National Republican Congressional committee.

The Reading Clerk shall call the Roll by states, and each state shall report its Member of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

DUTIES.—The duties of the National Republican Congressional Committee shall be to:

Act as counsel and advisor to the Members of the House Republican Conference, furnish support services to the extent consistent with the House Rules, and have oversight in election campaigns in all general and special elections for membership in the House of Representatives.