

Steps and Timeline for Reorganizing County, District, and State Officers in Indiana Republican Party

1. Reorganization of County Officers

Timeline:

- The county reorganization must take place on the **first Saturday in March** following a presidential election year (Rule 4-7).
- The meeting must be held between **9:00 AM and 1:00 PM**. (Rule 4-7)
- County Chairmen are required to call this meeting, with notices sent out by **February 1** to all eligible precinct and vice-precinct committeemen, who were either elected in the May Primary of the presidential election year or appointed by **December 15** (Rule 4-7).

Steps:

1. Call to Meeting:

The County Chairman is responsible for calling the reorganization meeting by **February 1**.

If the Chairman fails to call the meeting, the responsibility falls to the **Vice-Chairman**, then to the **Secretary**, and then to the **Treasurer**, or ultimately the **District Chairman** if none of the above act (Rule 4-8).

2. Filing Candidacies:

Chairman candidates must file a **written declaration of candidacy** with both the County Secretary and State Secretary at least **72 hours prior** to the meeting (Rule 4-10).

If no one files, nominations will be made from the floor during the reorganization meeting.

Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer: No specific filing requirement is given for these positions.

Nominations can be taken directly from the floor during the meeting, and there is no 72-hour pre-filing rule that applies to these positions (Rule 4-10 only mentions Chairman).

"I highly recommend filing your candidacy in the same manner as the Chairman candidates and/or verifying this with your current county chair, just to be safe. While it's common for nominations for Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer to be taken from the floor, if the County Chairman later clarifies that a 72-hour prior filing was required for these positions, having already filed will ensure you meet the requirements and avoid any issues."

Election Process:

- **Voting:** (Rule 4-13) The election for County officers is conducted by **secret ballot**, with a **majority vote** needed to elect each officer. The sequence for electing officers is:
 - **Chairman**
 - **Vice-Chairman**
 - **Secretary**
 - **Treasurer**
- **Gender Rule:** The County Chairman and Vice-Chairman must be of **opposite genders**. (Rule 4-13). This rule does not apply to the positions of **Secretary** or **Treasurer**.
- If only one candidate is running for an office, the committee may suspend the secret ballot and elect the candidate by **acclamation** (unanimous agreement by voice or show of hands) (Rule 4-13).

Reporting Results:

- Within **72 hours** after the meeting, the County Secretary must forward the results of the elections to the **State Secretary**, along with required copies of the meeting minutes and sign-in sheets (Rule 4-12).

2. Reorganization of District Officers

Timeline:

- District reorganization meetings are held the **Second Saturday in March** after the County reorganization meetings in a presidential election year (Rule 5-7).
- The meeting must be held between **9:00 AM and 1:00 PM**. (Rule 5-8)

Steps:

1. Participants:

- The District Committee is composed of **County Chairmen** and **County Vice-Chairmen** from each county in the district (Rule 5-3). These members participate in the election of district-level officers.

2. Filing Candidacies:

- **Chairman:** Like the county level, candidates for **District Chairman** must file a **written declaration of candidacy** with both the District Secretary and State Secretary at least **72 hours prior** to the meeting. (Rule 5-13)

- **Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer:** No specific pre-filing timeline is mentioned for these positions. Nominations can be taken directly from the floor during the meeting.
 - *“I highly recommend filing your candidacy in the same manner as the Chairman candidates, just to be safe. While it's common for nominations for Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer to be taken from the floor, if the County Chairman later clarifies that a 72-hour prior filing was required for these positions, having already filed will ensure you meet the requirements and avoid any issues.”*

Election Process:

- **Voting:** The election for District officers follows the same secret ballot process used at the county level, requiring a **majority vote** to elect each officer (Rule 5-14). The officers are elected in this order:
 - **District Chairman**
 - **District Vice-Chairman** (Gender Rule applies, Rule 5-14, 1-17)
 - **Secretary**
 - **Treasurer**

Gender Rule: The **District Chairman and District Vice-Chairman** must be of opposite genders, as required by the **Gender Rule** (Rule 1-17, 5-7). This rule does not apply to the Secretary or Treasurer.

Submission of Results:

- Results of the election must be submitted to the **State Secretary immediately after the adjournment of the meeting** (Rule 5-12).

NOTE FOR SPLIT COUNTIES: If you are a **county that is split** between two different congressional districts, please note **Rule 5-5** of the party rules.

Key points:

- In counties split between two or more congressional districts, the **County Chairman** may appoint **one male and one female district representative** after the county reorganization.
- The **County Chairman** must file the appointment notice with the **State Secretary within 72 hours** after the county reorganization. Without this filing, the representative cannot participate in the district reorganization.
- The representatives serve and vote at the pleasure of the **County Chairman** for the duration of their term, which lasts until the next county reorganization meeting unless removed earlier.

- If a district representative cannot attend a meeting, they can appoint a **proxy**, except for reorganization meetings or officer vacancy elections.
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3. Reorganization of State Officers

Timeline:

- State Committee reorganization meeting is held the **second (2nd) Thursday in April following a presidential election year.** (Rule 6-21)
 - **(Note: 2024 RULE CHANGE** This meeting used to be the on the second (2nd) Wednesday that falls after the second (2nd) Saturday in March following a presidential election year.)
- The meeting must be held between **9:00 AM and 1:00 PM.** (Rule 6-22)

Steps:

Participants:

- The State Committee is made up of **District Chairmen** and **District Vice-Chairmen** (Rule 6-2). These individuals vote to elect state-level officers.

Filing Candidacies:

- **Chairman:** candidates for **State Chairman** must file a **written declaration of candidacy** with the State Secretary at least **72 hours prior** to the meeting. (Rule 6-23)
- **Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer:** No specific pre-filing timeline is mentioned for these positions.

Election Process:

- **Voting:** The election for State officers follows a secret ballot process, requiring a **majority vote** for each position (Rule 6-25). The officers are elected in the following order:
 1. **State Chairman**
 2. **State Vice-Chairman** (Gender Rule applies)
 3. **Secretary**
 4. **Treasurer**

Gender Rule: The **State Chairman and Vice-Chairman** must be of opposite genders, according to the **Gender Rule** (Rule 6-25, 1-17). This rule does not apply to the positions of Secretary or Treasurer.

Eligibility Requirements for County, District, and State Officers

Qualified Primary Republican:

- All candidates for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer must be **Qualified Primary Republicans**. This means they must have cast a Republican ballot in the two most recent primary elections in which they voted (Rule 1-24).

Residency Requirement:

- At the **County Level**, officers must be **qualified electors** of the county (Rule 4-11).
- At the **District Level**, officers must be qualified electors within the district (Rule 5-15).
- At the **State Level**, may be chosen either from the membership of the State Committee or from the membership of the Republican Party in the state at-large.

No Proxies for Reorganization Elections:

- **Proxies are not permitted** for reorganization meetings to elect officers, ensuring that only present members cast votes for leadership positions (Rule 1-27).

Resources used for this article:

[Indiana Republican Party Rules \(Sept. 2024 Version\)](#)

[Precinct Committeeman Handbook 2024](#)

