

Legislative District 23

Republican Committee

Precinct

Committeeman

Handbook



“The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks...”

-Samuel Adams

www.ld23gop.org

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WHAT IS A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN?

A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN IS THE PARTY OFFICIAL DIRECTLY ELECTED BY THE REPUBLICAN VOTERS.

A Precinct Committeeman (PC) represents the Republican Party to the people and is the primary and personal contact between voters, candidates, and elected officials.

Precinct Committeemen (PCs) are committed, patriotic, “grassroots” volunteers, whose job is to educate Republican voters in the precincts and ensure that those voters cast their informed votes in each election.

PCs have a personal stake in the outcome of elections and are engaged in reshaping America’s future. Strong district and precinct organization is the foundation of the Republican Party. This determines whether elections are won or lost and PCs are a vital part of this process. Precinct committeemen spread the Republican message of lower taxes, fiscal responsibility, individual freedom, and a strong national defense.

PCs also have the opportunity to attend Party functions, from the regular monthly district meetings to county and state meetings, where you will be kept informed about Party activities and issues. This will enable you to understand the issues and the solutions and be an authoritative resource for your neighbors, friends, and family.

An informed PC will be in a position to correct any misinformation about the Republican Party and our conservative message.

PCs, and only PCs, are eligible to vote in the internal Party leadership elections, the elections for district, county, & state leaders as well as delegates to Party conventions. These leaders determine the direction of the Party and the policies and positions included in the Republican Party platform, which is reviewed and revised every four years. Precinct Committeemen are a key element of representative government.

HOW TO BECOME A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

Arizona is divided into 30 Legislative Districts (LDs). Twenty of those are in Maricopa County.

We are in Legislative District 23 (LD23), which has 57 precincts. A precinct is a geographical area established by law for election purposes. By state law, each precinct is allotted one precinct committeeman, plus an additional one PC for each 125 registered voters (or major fraction thereof) of the specific political party in that precinct.

The more registered Republicans in a precinct, the more PCs are allowed in the precinct.

LD 23 currently has a quota of 650 PCs to represent the over 73,000 registered Republicans in the District.

There are two ways to become a Precinct Committeemen:

- 1] Run as a candidate for the office of PC in the primary election, held every 2 years in August.
- 2] Be nominated to fill a vacancy by the District Chairman and be certified by the County Board of Supervisors.
(This second way would occur if too few PCs are elected in the primary election, or if a PC moves away or otherwise stops being a PC.)

The term of a PC is two years or until the next primary election, whichever comes first.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

As noted above, precincts are organized into Districts. All of the PCs in an LD are members of the District Republican Committee, a political organization created under and subject to state law. The District Committee is led by a District Chairman who, along with other officers (First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected by the PCs.

The District organization is governed by District and County Bylaws as well as Arizona Revised Statutes.

A precinct committeeman has a variety of possible activities and responsibilities. Some PCs may be extremely motivated, active, and participate in the full spectrum of roles. Others may be more limited in what they are able to do, but every PC is encouraged and expected to contribute to the overall effort.

The activities of a PC cover a broad range & can include:

- being a vigorous supporter of the United States Constitution and our founding principles;
- circulating petitions to qualify Republican candidates for the ballot;
- learning and actively supporting the Republican Party platform;
- contacting (canvassing) Republican voters in your precinct and establishing a connection with them;
- enlisting Independent voters who believe in Republican principles to join us;
- contacting your legislators to relay your opinions and those of Republicans in your precinct;
- registering new Republican voters;
- educating voters about issues and advocating for Republican principles;
- using social media to spread the Republican message;
- distributing campaign literature, yard signs, etc. for Republican candidates;
- encouraging Republican voters to be certain to vote in every election, reminding them that every vote counts;
- attending local District, county, and applicable state meetings to participate in the process with fellow PCs;
- recruiting other volunteers and new PCs to join our mission;
- collaborating with fellow PCs in GOTV (get-out-the-vote) activities;
- writing letters to the editor, calling talk radio, talking to your friends and neighbors;
- taking pride in the knowledge that you are working to preserve the miracle that is America!



In 1787, at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government had been created. Franklin replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

In short, your job as a Republican PC is to keep the republic!

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

The following pages highlight excerpts from the 2016 Republican Party Platform on key issues:

PREAMBLE

“We believe in American exceptionalism. We believe the United States of America is unlike any other nation on earth. We believe America is exceptional because of our historic role — first as refuge, then as defender, and now as exemplar of liberty for the world to see. We affirm - as did the Declaration of Independence: that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We believe in the Constitution as our founding document. We believe the Constitution was written not as a flexible document, but as our enduring document. We believe our constitutional system - limited government, separation of powers, federalism, and the rights of the people — must be preserved uncompromised for future generations. ... We believe that people are the ultimate resource — and that the people, not the government, are the best stewards of our country’s God-given natural resources. ... We seek friendship with all peoples and all nations, but we recognize and are prepared to deal with evil in the world.”



“This platform lays out — in clear language — the path to making America great and united again.”

“People want and expect an America that is the most powerful and respected country on the face of the earth.

The men and women of our military remain the world’s best. They have been shortchanged in numbers, equipment, and benefits by a Commander in Chief who treats the Armed Forces and our veterans as a necessary inconvenience. The President and the Democratic party have dismantled Americans’ system of healthcare. They have replaced it with a costly and complicated scheme that limits choices and takes away our freedom.

They refuse to control our borders but try to control our schools, farms, businesses, and even our religious institutions. ... The President has been regulating to death a free market economy that he does not like and does not understand. He defies the laws of the United States with which he does not agree.

And he appoints judges who legislate from the bench rather than apply the law. “

“We, as Republicans and Americans, cannot allow this to continue.

This means removing the power from unelected, unaccountable government. This means relieving the burden and expense of punishing government regulations ...

and returning to the people and the states the control that belongs to them.”



“Every time we sing, “God Bless America,” we are asking for help. We ask for divine help that our country can fulfill its promise. We earn that help by recommitting ourselves to the ideas and ideals that are the true greatness of America.”

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

ECONOMY, JOBS, & TAXES

“We are the party of a growing economy that gives everyone a chance in life, an opportunity to learn, work, and realize the prosperity freedom makes possible. Government cannot create prosperity, though government can limit or destroy it. Prosperity is the product of self-discipline, enterprise, saving, and investment by individuals, but it is not an end in itself. Prosperity provides the means by which citizens and their families can maintain their independence from government, raise their children by their own values, practice their faith, and build communities of cooperation and mutual respect. It is also the foundation for our nation’s global leadership, for it is the vigor of our economy which makes possible our military strength and our national security.” (page 1)

“Republicans consider the establishment of a pro-growth tax code a moral imperative. More than any other public policy, the way government raises revenue — how much, at what rates, under what circumstances, from whom — has the greatest impact on our economy’s performance. ... Getting our tax system right will be the most important factor in driving the economy back to prosperity. The current tax code is rightly the object of both anger and mockery. Its length is exceeded only by its complexity. We must start anew. ... It cannot be engineered from the top down, but must have a common sense approach, and be simplified.” (page 1)

“Wherever tax rates penalize thrift or discourage investment, they must be lowered. ... We will not divide the American people into winners and losers. ... We will seek simplicity and clarity so that every taxpayer can understand how much of their income is consumed by the federal government. ... We oppose tax policies that deliberately divide Americans or promote class warfare. Because of the vital role of religious organizations, charities, and fraternal benevolent societies in fostering generosity and patriotism, they should not be subject to taxation and donations to them should remain deductible.” (page 2)

“Competitiveness equals jobs. ... Private investment is a key driver of economic growth and job creation. ... we propose to level the international playing field by lowering the corporate tax rate to be on a par with, or below, the rates of other industrial nations. We believe American companies should be headquartered in America. We should reduce barriers to accomplishing that goal. ... We need better negotiated trade agreements that put America first. ... When those agreements do not adequately protect U.S. interests, U.S. sovereignty, or when they are violated with impunity, they must be rejected.” (page 2)

“Our goal is to advance responsible home-ownership while guarding against the abuses that led to the housing collapse. We must scale back the federal role in the housing market, promote responsibility on the part of borrowers and lenders, and avoid future taxpayer bailouts.” (page 4)

“Our national debt is a burden on our economy and families. ... We must impose firm caps on future debt, accelerate the repayment of the trillions we now owe in order to reaffirm our principles of responsible and limited government, and remove the burdens we are placing on future generations. A strong economy is one key to debt reduction, but spending restraint is a necessary component that must be vigorously pursued.” (page 8)

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

A REBIRTH OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

“We are the party of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The Declaration sets forth the fundamental precepts of American government: That God bestows certain inalienable rights on every individual... and that American government is to operate with the consent of the governed. We are also the party of the Constitution, the greatest political document ever written. We reaffirm the Constitution’s fundamental principles: limited government, separation of powers, individual liberty, and the rule of law. ... we continue to encourage equality for all citizens and access to the American Dream. Merit and hard work should determine advancement in our society, so we reject unfair preferences, quotas, and set-asides as forms of discrimination. ... In a free society, the primary role of government is to protect the God-given, inalienable rights of its citizens. We affirm that all legislation, regulation, and official actions must conform to the Constitution’s original meaning as understood at the time the language was adopted.” (page 9-10)

“We will not recognize as binding upon the United States any international agreement forged without the constitutionally required assent of two-thirds of the United States Senate.” (page 10)

“We further affirm that courts should interpret laws as written by Congress rather than allowing executive agencies to rewrite those laws to suit administration priorities.” (page 10)

“We, therefore, support the appointment of justices and judges who respect the constitutional limits on their power and respect the authority of the states to decide ... fundamental social questions.” (page 11)

FIRST & SECOND AMENDMENTS

“We pledge to defend the religious beliefs and rights of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard the religious institutions against government control. ... We support laws to confirm the longstanding American tradition that religious individuals and institutions can educate young people ... and participate in public debates, without having to check their religious beliefs at the door.” (page 11-12)

“We support the public display of the Ten Commandments as a reflection of our history and our country’s Judeo-Christian heritage and further affirm the rights of religious students to engage in voluntary prayer at public school events...” (page 12)

“We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a natural inalienable right that predates the Constitution and is secured by the Second Amendment.” (page 12)

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

“We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund Organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts...” (page 13)

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

NINTH & TENTH AMENDMENTS

“The Ninth Amendment to the Constitution declares that ‘[t]he enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage other retained by the people.’ We call upon legislators to give full force to this fundamental principle.” (page 15)

“Federalism is a cornerstone of our constitutional system. ... The Constitution gives the federal government very few powers, and they are specifically enumerated ... We pledge to restore the proper balance and vertical separation of powers between the federal government and state governments ... We encourage states to reinvigorate their traditional role as the laboratories of democracy.” (page 15-16)

HONEST ELECTIONS

“Honest elections are the foundation of representative government. We pledge to protect the voting rights of every citizen. ... we support legislation to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote and secure photo ID when voting. We strongly oppose litigation against states exercising their sovereign authority to enact such laws” (page 16)

“The members of our Armed Forces must not be denied the basic rights that they are defending for others. Our troops, wherever stationed, must be allowed to vote in a timely manner.” (page 16)

ENERGY

“Our country has greater energy resources than any other place on earth. ... Government should not play favorites among energy producers. ... We support the development of all forms of energy that are marketable in a free economy without subsidies, including coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and hydropower. ... “We oppose any carbon tax.” (page 19-20)

GOVERNMENT REFORM

“We pledge to make government work for the people, rather than the other way around. Much of what the federal government does can be improved, much should be replaced, and much needs to be done away with or returned to the states.” (page 23)”

“We support the following test: Is a particular expenditure within the constitutional scope of the federal government? If not, stop it. Has it been effective in the past and is it still absolutely necessary? If not, end it. Is it so important as to justify borrowing, especially foreign borrowing, to fund it? If not, kill it.” (page 23)

“To preserve Medicare and Medicaid, the financing of these important programs must be brought under control before they consume most of the federal budget, including national defense.” (page 23)

“Of the many reforms being proposed, all options should be considered to preserve Social Security.” (page 24)

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

IMMIGRATION & THE RULE OF LAW

“Our immigration system must protect American working families and their wages, for citizens and legal immigrants alike, in a way that will improve the economy. ... we support English as the nation’s official language, a unifying force essential for the advancement of immigrant communities and our nation as a whole.

... America’s immigration policy must serve the national interests of the United States... (page 25)

“Illegal immigration endangers everyone, exploits the taxpayers, and insults all who aspire to enter America legally. We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed it. The executive amnesties of 2012 and 2014 are a direct violation of federal law ... These unlawful amnesties must be immediately rescinded...” (page 25-26)

“Because ‘sanctuary cities’ violate federal law and endanger their own citizens, they should not be eligible for federal funding.” (page 26)

REGULATION: THE QUIET TYRANNY

“We are determined to make regulations minimally intrusive, confined to their legal mandate, and respectful toward the creation of new and small businesses.” (page 28)

EDUCATION

“Parents are a child’s first and foremost educators, and have primary responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a right to direct their children's education, care, and upbringing. ... We reject a one-size-fits-all approach to education and support a broad range of choices for parents and children at the state and local level. We likewise repeat our longstanding opposition to the imposition of national standards...” (page 33)

“We support options for learning, including home-schooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools.” (page 34)

PATIENT CONTROL AND PRESERVING QUALITY IN HEALTHCARE

“Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of the dishonestly named Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare. ... It must be removed and replaced with an approach based upon genuine competition, patient choice, excellent care, wellness, and timely access to treatment. ... We must recover the traditional patient-physician relationship based on mutual trust, informed consent, and confidentiality.” (page 36)

“We support state and federal legislation to cap non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits, thereby relieving conscientious providers of burdens that are not rightly theirs and addressing a serious cause of higher medical bills.” (page 37)

REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES

Some final excerpts from the 2016 Republican Party Platform:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“The conduct of the Department of Justice has included refusal to enforce laws, stonewalling Congressional committees, destroying evidence, reckless dealing with firearms that led to several deaths on both sides of our border, and defying a citation for contempt. The next president must restore the public’s trust in law enforcement and civil order by first adhering to the rule of law himself.” (page 39)

“The essential role of federal law enforcement personnel in protecting federal property and combating interstate crime should not be compromised by diversion to matters properly handled by state and local authorities.” (page 39)

NATIONAL DEFENSE, MILITARY, AND VETERANS

“Quite simply, the Republican Party is committed to rebuilding the U.S. military into the strongest on earth, with vast superiority over any other nation or group of nations in the world. We face a dangerous world, and we believe in a resurgent America.” (page 41)

“Military families must be assured of the pay, healthcare, housing, education, and overall support they have earned. ... We must ensure that the nation keeps its commitments to those who signed on the dotted line of enlistment.” (page 43)

“We support the rights of conscience of military chaplains of all faiths to practice their faith free from political interference. ... A Republican commander-in-chief will protect the religious freedom of all military members, especially chaplains, and will not tolerate attempts to ban Bibles or religious symbols from military facilities.” (page 43)

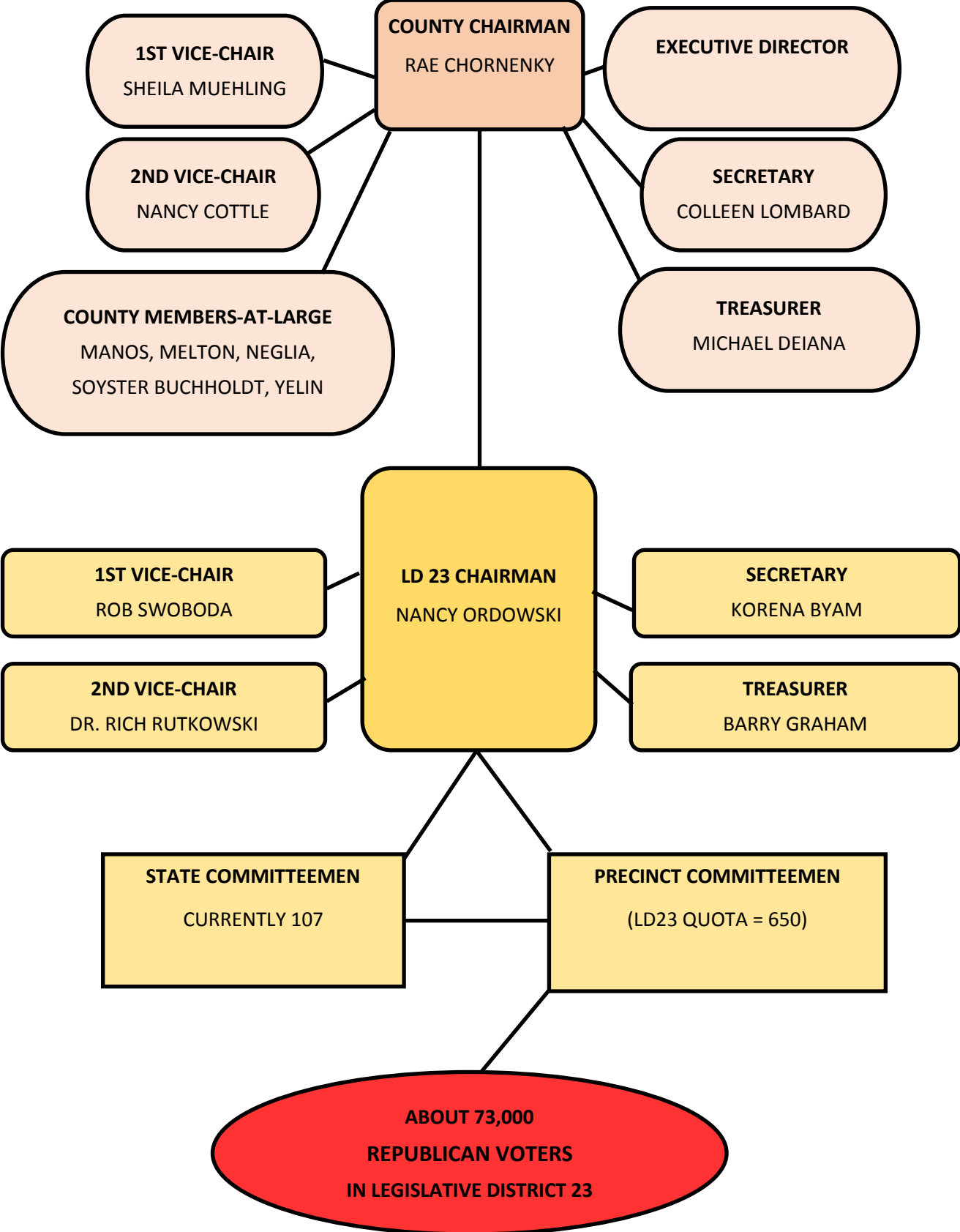
“America has a sacred trust with our veterans, and we are committed to ensuring them and their families’ care and dignity. ... Our wounded warriors, whether still in service or discharged, deserve the best medical care the country can provide.” (page 45)

ISRAEL

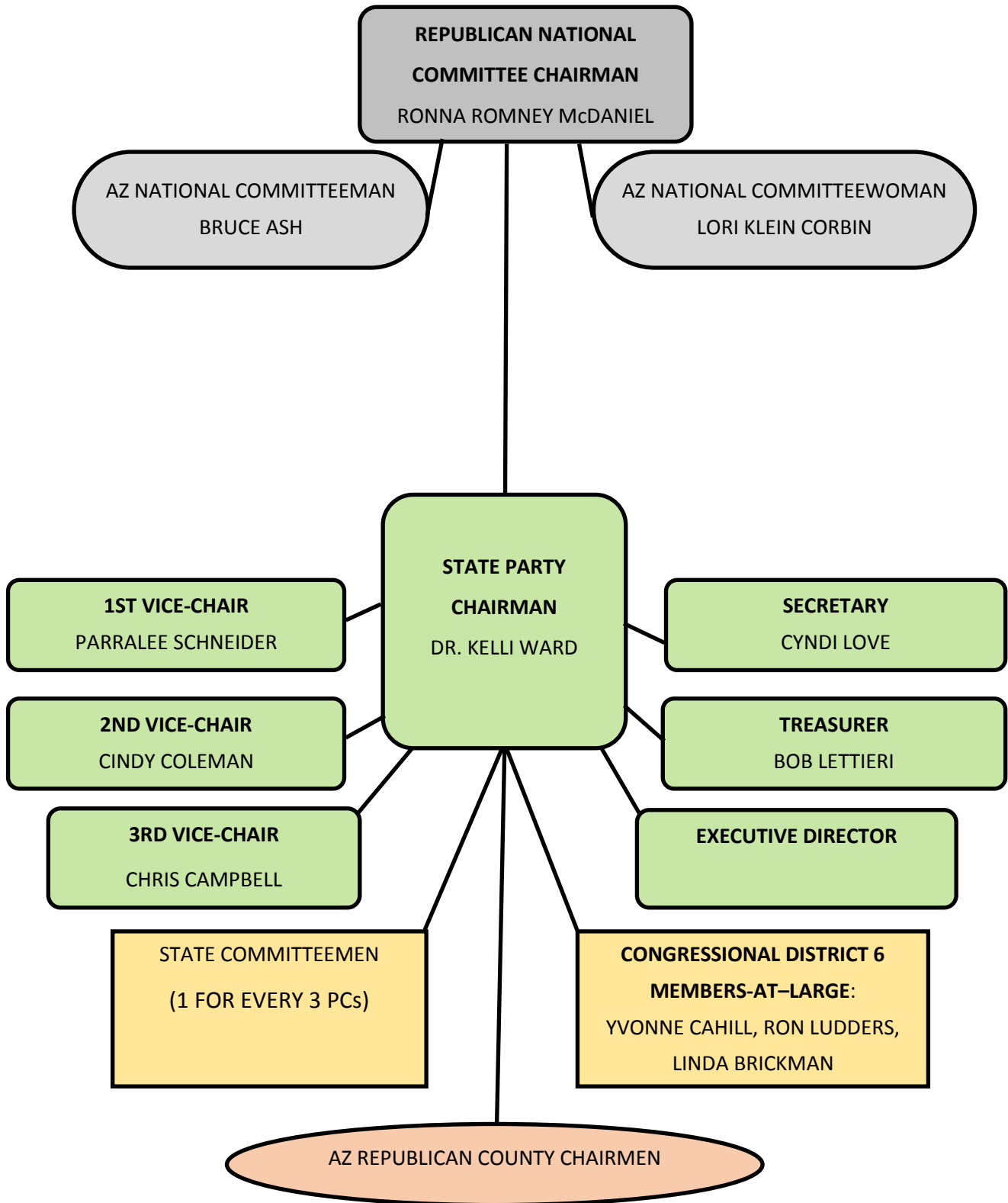
“We reaffirm America’s commitment to Israel’s security and will ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge over any adversaries. ... Our party is proud to stand with Israel now and always.” (page 47)

The above principles and policies represent a summary of several “planks” of the Republican Party platform. The complete platform document can be found at www.ld23gop.org. An effective Precinct Committeeman should have an understanding of what we, as Republicans, believe and support, and enthusiastically share and explain that vision for America with others. Educate them, motivate them, encourage them to join our noble cause!

MARICOPA COUNTY & LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 23 PARTY STRUCTURE



NATIONAL & ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY STRUCTURE



STAYING INVOLVED AND ACTIVE

VISIT

www.ld23gop.org

on a regular basis for information on upcoming events, meetings, and links to useful resources.

Most communication from the District is by e-mail, so be sure to provide your complete contact information to ld23gop@gmail.com.

ATTEND

LD23 monthly meetings which are usually held on the second Thursday evening of the month (but please check the web site for exact dates, times, and location).

Listen & learn to informative and entertaining speakers.

Enjoy the company of those who share our mission.

CONNECT & COMMUNICATE

with your friends, family, neighbors, & voters.

Discuss the issues and help them understand why this matters to them.

BELIEVE AND TAKE PRIDE

in our country, its founding principles, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and your part in keeping them alive for future generations.



Some timeless words from past Republican Presidents:

“...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

-President Abraham Lincoln

“If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under.”

-President Ronald Reagan

This Precinct Committeeman Handbook was compiled by Dr. Richard Rutkowski and most recently updated in January, 2019.

Special thanks to Barbara Medal, LD26 Precinct Committeeman, for her contribution to its content.