

Precinct Committee Officer Manual

Published By
Washington State Republican Party
Chris Vance
Chairman

January 1, 2003

Message from the Chairman

Dear Precinct Committee Officer:

Thank you for your dedication to the Washington State Republican Party. The world of politics is ever changing and you, the PCO, are the driving force behind our party.

In 2002, the Washington State Republican Party gained a majority in a legislative chamber, the state Senate, for the first time in four years. The new majority in the state Senate will prove to the people of Washington that the Republican Party can make Washington state a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Through the efforts of PCOs like yourself, the WSRP turned out the highest percentage of Republicans since 1994 and received more state House votes statewide than the Democrats. This is encouraging news as we prepare for the 2004 presidential, gubernatorial, and U.S. Senate races.

You are essential to the political process. Your activities, whether they be identifying new Republicans, registering new Republicans, or ensuring a Republican votes, are why we won the state Senate and the reason why we will win in 2004.

Thank you for your dedication to our party. It is an honor to serve as your state chairman and I look forward to working with you to elect more Republicans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Vance", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Vance
Chairman

Table of Contents

Statement of Principles	1
Introduction	2
The Party Structure	4
Roles and Duties of the PCO	6
Building Your Precinct	8
Mapping Your Precinct	9
Precinct Canvassing	10
The Voter Data Center	12
Elephant Hunt	16
Precinct Caucus	19
PCO Newsletter	20
Election Officials	21
Poll-Worker Requirements	22
Absentee Voter Drive	23
Doorbelling	24
The Poll-Watcher Program	26
Get-Out-The-Vote	27
After The Elections	28
Origin of Republicans	29
The Beginning	32
Origin of the “GOP”	34
The Symbol of the Republican Party	35

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We are Republicans because...

We believe the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

We believe in equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

We believe free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

We believe government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

We believe the most effective, responsible and responsive government is the government closest to the people.

We believe Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

We believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

We believe the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which governs least.

We believe Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.

Consider where we stand. And if you agree, join us as we work toward a better tomorrow for all the people of Washington.

INTRODUCTION

The Republican Party exists because of a common belief in the strength of the individual. We espouse and practice respect for the right of the individual to determine his or her own destiny. Party members work to ensure that governments do not fall prey to collectivism as they administer our democratic principles.

Our Constitution guarantees that the rights and freedoms of each individual are protected and not lost to the bureaucracy of government. If we are to maintain our vigilance in protecting these constitutional rights, we must begin with the individual.

Precinct Committee Officers, elected to serve their Republican neighbors as representatives to the party, are the first building block in the foundation of the Republican Party. Creating a strong grassroots organization the Republican Party can open doors to people within many local communities.

“You don’t win elections on Election Day. You win them by what you do all year round, by the day-to-day goodwill you generate in each precinct.”

-Jake Avery, Chicago political boss

You are Important!

Your job as a Republican precinct committee officer is an extremely important one. In many respects, you are the Republican Party within your neighborhood. You represent the Republican voters in your precinct. You play a pivotal role in selecting and electing Republican candidates for a wide variety of responsible positions, ranging from United States Congress to city council to school board. You are the first and in many ways the most important link in the chain that makes up our representative form of government.

You Can Make a Difference

By becoming a precinct committee officer, you have made a commitment to making a difference. You will share the ups and downs, the joy of victory and the agony of defeat. Most important of all, you will share the final sense of accomplishment that comes with electing good public officials, with making our Republic work effectively and with making a difference.

Be Flexible

The suggestions contained in this handbook have proven helpful over the years for committee officers across Washington, but they are suggestions, not rules cast in concrete. There is no single formula for success in the political arena. Your good judgment and knowledge of your individual precinct should be your guide in deciding which suggestions will work for you. Your goal is to inform the voters, identify favorable voters and get them to the polls. How you attain this goal, however, will be determined by your own experience and creativity, coupled with guidelines contained in this handbook. Each county party chairman may manage their counties differently. It is important to contact your county chairman, attain a copy of their political plan, and work your precinct in a way that fits into the county plan.

Remember, getting 25 more Republican votes in a precinct with only 35 percent Republican support is equally important as in a precinct that is 65 percent Republican. Every Republican vote counts!

THE PARTY STRUCTURE

Precinct Committee Officers form the grassroots base of the Republican Party for the county, state and nation.

The Precinct

The Republican Party begins with the individual voter, who elects a precinct committee officer to serve as his/her liaison with the Party organization. In order to be elected as a PCO, a registered voter living in the precinct must file as a candidate with the County Auditor during the statutory filing period. There is a \$1 filing fee. His or her name will appear on the general election ballot in the precinct. An elected PCO serves a two-year term. A person may be appointed to a particular precinct by the Legislative District chair or the County chair according to the by-laws of that particular committee.

The District

In counties with several legislative districts, a district organization brings PCOs together on a regular basis to exchange ideas and information. Larger counties are composed of many political subdivisions (cities, county council district, school districts, etc.). To coordinate and administer activities these counties have legislative district organizations. Most activities are organized through these district organizations. This ensures that the District Chair is part of an effective countywide team and has the support of his/her district. The District Chair organizes the rest of the district staff.

The County

You, the PCO, and all the other PCOs are the County Central Committee. You will meet in December or January of alternate years to elect the officers (County Chairman, Vice Chairman, State Committeeman and woman, etc.). They will be in charge of leading the county organization for the next two years and will represent you as members of the Republican State Committee.

The State

The 117 voting members of the Republican State Committee elect a State Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party. The State Chairman is the party's Chief Executive Officer and manages the party's business on a daily basis. State Party officers serve two-year terms. In addition, the State Committee members meet by Congressional District and elect two people from among themselves to serve on the State Executive Board. The State Executive Board, consisting of the 18 Congressional

District members, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, Vice Chairman and Chairman, oversee implementation of State Party programs on behalf of the State Committee, develop party policy and review the party's finances.

The Nation

The Republican National Committee consists of three representatives from each state and four territories; the National Committeeman and Committeewoman (elected by the State Committee in the year of each Presidential election) and the State Party Chairman.

ROLES AND DUTIES OF THE PCO

The Precinct Committee Officer is the representative of the Republican Party at the grassroots level.

At a minimum, a PCO accepts certain responsibilities, including:

- Distribute candidate information to neighbors and engage in Get-Out-The-Vote activities in preparation for Election Day;
- Maintain and update the list of registered voters in the precinct;
- Select officers of the county's Central Committee;
- Nominate precinct election officials; and
- Conduct a Precinct Caucus

A strong and effective party looks to its PCOs to perform at least the above tasks. These duties may take a minimum of ten hours per year. Accomplishing additional tasks will make all our efforts more effective. This manual will describe the “nuts and bolts” of how to create a successful precinct organization. Although there are things you can do in every month of the year each task takes very little time.

A few hours a month is all it takes to create a strong precinct. These few hours will allow you to build a rapport with your neighbors such that they will come to you for advice on political issues and candidates, whether they are preparing to vote or writing to their representative in government or to the local newspaper.

There are a number of things a good PCO will do:

- Represent the precinct voters to the Republican Party; and represent the party and its candidates and officers to the precinct voters.
- Attend County Party meetings, help formulate policy, and recruit party candidates and volunteers.
- Help register voters, update the voter list, urge voters to turnout, pass out absentee ballots to those who need them, and stress the importance of each vote.
- Support all Republican candidates after the Primary Election.
- Attend meetings of your county or legislative district and stay informed of issues in your area.
- Assist with fund-raising events when possible.
- Volunteer to help on various campaigns.
- Doorbell your precinct before each election with literature on candidates and issues.

- Stay involved in the community in which you live. In addition you will be part of the county or district volunteer force. You will be notified of meetings and political activities, including doorbelling in various precincts. Participate to the extent your time permits.

This may seem like a long list, but the tasks of the PCO are spread out over the year, meaning that you should never be overwhelmed by work. If, however, you put some things off, you may find that activities pile up. Trying to accomplish all of these tasks within a few weeks is both agonizing and discouraging. It helps to have a long-term plan-making your job easier and much more effective. Furthermore, many of the events, such as fund-raisers and meetings, can be enjoyable. Volunteers from your precinct will be happy to work with you in making your precinct solidly Republican.

BUILDING YOUR PRECINCT

In the State Of Washington, it is not necessary to declare political party affiliation when registering to vote or even when voting in a primary election. How then do we know who the Republicans are?

Some voters join the Republican Party through membership at the state or county level. Others belong to affiliated groups like the Women's Federation, Young Republicans or College Republicans. Still others declare their party affiliation when they attend precinct caucuses.

Hundreds of thousands of people, however, consider themselves Republicans, vote regularly, but are never identified by party. Helping to identify Republicans in every precinct and getting them to the polls is the most important job of the precinct committee officer.

Plan for Success

Good planning is the key to attaining any worthwhile goal. This holds true in business, family life, civic activities and especially politics. Your overall goal is to ensure that every voter in your precinct who supports Republican candidates gets to the polls on Election Day. To accomplish this goal, you must first accomplish the tasks mentioned in the role of the precinct committee officer. Accomplishing these tasks will be much less formidable if you develop a calendar and timetables.

The Calendar Should Include:

- Dates fixed by state law (Caucus Day, Election Day, etc.)
- Dates of party activities (Lincoln Day Dinner, pre-election literature drops, etc.)
- Target dates for accomplishing each of your precinct tasks (voter registration drive, precinct canvass, volunteer recruitment, etc.)

In developing your timetable, start with the date of a particular activity and determine the tasks that must be accomplished to make the activity a success. Now, simply work backwards from the date and determine what needs to be done, the time it takes to do it and how many people are needed to get it done. Once you have developed the steps necessary to accomplish your task, mark the day you need to begin work.

MAPPING YOUR PRECINCT

A precinct map showing every house in your precinct is very useful when organizing your precinct. An outline of your precinct including the streets is available from the Republican district organization, the County Party or County Auditor. This map will show you where the precinct boundaries are. Your job is to fill in the various houses within the boundaries. As a PCO you should be an authority on the geographic area you represent. The map will also help you when doorbelling, creating walk-lists, and spotting those who have voted and those who have not on Election Day.

How to Map a Precinct

- 1) Secure a precinct map from one of the sources listed above. If the map is not large enough you can draw your own. Don't worry about drawing it to scale. This map is simply a tool. You can even draw the precinct lines with a pen or colored pencil on a road map, marking churches, schools, hospitals and apartment buildings with another color or another shape, such as a triangle.
- 2) While drawing your map it is useful to have someone drive you around the precinct while you mark all of the houses on the map. List all the addresses possible on the map. You will want to leave room to mark people's names after you do your precinct canvass. You can also use colored pencils to color the houses depending on their party affiliation.
- 3) Keep the map up to date. If somebody moves, remove the name but leave the address and fill in the new name after you do a follow up with the new occupants. An updated and complete precinct map will be an excellent resource for you around election time.

Resources Available

- Precinct map from County Republican Central Committee
- List of registered voters (can be found on the Voter Data Center)
- List of identified Republicans available from the County Republican Central Committee (can be found on the Voter Data Center)

PRECINCT CANVASS

Canvassing your precinct will allow you to turn out the largest vote during the election because you will know who the Republicans in your precinct are. Often elections depend not on how many Democrats or Republicans there are, but who does a better job of getting their supporters to the polls. A precinct canvass will help you maximize the number of people you get to the polls.

Purpose

- Identify voters in your precinct by party affiliation
- Find and register all the unregistered Republicans in your precinct
- Recruit Republican volunteers
- Locate favorable voters who would like to request an absentee ballot

Things you must do:

- Be brief, and a good listener.
- Be friendly – this person is a neighbor regardless of party affiliation.
- Have all the answers if possible. If you cannot answer a question, admit it, but promise to get the information and call back again. Leave an appropriate piece of literature, if possible.
- You must confine yourself to general Party principles and not specific issues.
- Be sure to indicate that the Republican precinct organization is at the service of each voter, leaving your name and phone number for their use.

Things you must not do:

- Never begin the conversation, “Are you a Republican or Democrat?”
- Never get into controversial issues.
- Never argue.
- Never make derogatory remarks about any Republican organization, candidate or Republican officer holder.
- Do not make any statements about opposition candidates that you cannot prove.

Typical Questions from Voters

Know the answers to these questions that you may be asked by voters when you are canvassing your precinct:

Where do I vote?

What precinct am I in?

When is the General Election?

What does the Party stand for? *You may be able to furnish the voter with literature available from your county headquarters or State Party office.*
Who are the candidates and what is their background? *Any additional information regarding a candidate should be directed to the candidate or the campaign.*

What can I do to help the Party?

Where do I get bumper stickers, buttons and campaign literature?

Who is the county chairman/ state chairman/ legislative district chairman?

How do I find out if I am registered to vote?

How do I register to vote?

Where do I register to vote?

THE VOTER DATA CENTER

What is the Voter Data Center?

The Washington State Republican Party entered a new technological era in the 2001 Election Cycle with the development and implementation of the Voter Data Center (VDC). In the simplest terms, the VDC is an online version of our state's voter file -- the information used by Republican candidates, our state and county parties and precinct committee officers to communicate with voters through Election Day.

With the VDC, PCOs now have access to the most up-to-date voter information for their precinct almost 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The exception is when the party must rebuild the data center with new information from the county auditors. Likewise, county and district parties have the same unimpeded access to, or "ownership" of, their voter file year-round. And, during campaign season, Republican candidates have similar access to the file for the county, congressional district, or legislative district they are running in.

Please contact your county chairman for a contract to access the VDC.

Why was the Voter Data Center created?

The VDC was created so that you, the PCO, can have direct access to your precinct's voter list with the hope that you will use the system to continually update and improve the file -- and to help turn out the vote on Election Day.

In previous years, the WSRP would produce computer disks of county or district voter files for campaigns and county parties to utilize. As you can imagine, this process was slow and cumbersome, and did not facilitate the easy improvement of the voter file.

With the VDC, counties and campaigns now have unrestricted, unfettered access to their voter files. With this access, it becomes possible for information in the file to be continuously updated and improved. As a result, campaigns and party organizations can utilize the most up-to-date information when reaching voters.

PCOs are absolutely crucial to making the VDC a success. Once you have access to your precinct, you can begin using the VDC to improve your precinct voter file. In turn, campaigns and local, county and state party organizations will immediately benefit from the information you generate. As a result, we'll reach more voters and elect more Republicans to office each year.

Using the Voter Data Center

Once you, the PCO, have completed the request forms and signed the user agreement provided to you by your county chair, the Washington State Republican Party will issue you a **Login** and **Password**.

You'll need access to the **Internet** to access the Voter Data Center. If you do not have access to the Internet, please work closely with your district or county party to get the materials you'll need to start communicating with voters in your precinct.

Once you have logged in with the Login and Password provided by WSRP staff, you'll select your precinct and come to a Main Menu of options. As a PCO, you will likely use two main options. They are described below.

1. The Precinct Walking List

First, you'll want to create a Precinct Walking List. Click on the words "Precinct Walking List" from the Main Menu. Once again, you'll select your precinct and choose "Print Walking List" at the bottom of this page.

At this point, you'll need to select which voters you want included in this list. The default setting includes all voters. Initially, that's likely what you'll want to use. However, we have built in many choices so that you can create the specific list you want at any time.

Once you've selected the voters you want included in your Precinct Walking List, enter your name or initials in the "Prepared For" box, and use your mouse to click on the "Make Your Adobe Walking List Print File Now" button. The VDC will now start creating this list you've chosen. This may take anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes, depending on your Internet connection speed.

The next screen will tell you that your file is ready. Use your mouse and click on the words "View Adobe Print File." In order to view, print or save this file to your computer, you will need a program called Adobe Acrobat Reader. Many computers come with this file already installed. If you do not have it, you can download the file, free of charge, from this page. If you already have Adobe installed, the VDC will then show you the file you asked it to create.

Note: This may sound complicated on paper, but when you access the system and try it for yourself, you'll no doubt realize that it's quite easy and very user-friendly.

2. Editing Voter Information

As a PCO, one of your duties is to maintain and update your precinct voter file. The best way for you to do this is by adding or correcting certain information, including: identifying voters as Republican, Democrat or Independent; correcting the voter ID of persons listed incorrectly; and adding or correcting phone numbers. These activities are all part of the “Elephant Hunt” program.

There are two ways to edit or add information about a voter. Your first option is to select “Individual Voter Lookups” from the main menu. Then, using a voter’s name or street address, you can look up an individual voter’s file. This will contain information about party affiliation, address and phone number, and other information useful to Republican campaigns.

You’ll find that some information can be updated or changed and some can’t. Generally, you should be looking at phone numbers and party affiliations, as this information will benefit Republican campaigns the most. Add or edit the information you have (either that you know or that you have learned by talking with the voter), and then use your mouse to click on the “Update” button to save it to the system. You’ll need to click “Update” for each voter whose information you alter.

The second method for updating voter information is to select “Registered Voters” from the main menu. Then, choose your precinct again, and the VDC will create for you a list of all registered voters in your precinct (organized alphabetically by their last name). To edit, select the “Edit” button to the far right of the voter you’d like to update. If you are changing a party identification, remember to select “Save” at the bottom so the information is changed in the system. If you are adding or correcting a phone number, enter the number in the appropriate box, then click on the “New Phone” box and finally “Save.”

Again, it’s much easier than it sounds in this instruction guide. The best way to learn is to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the system. If you need help, contact your county chair or our political staff at the WSRP for assistance.

CAUTION: All changes to the Voter Data Center are recorded, and will be periodically reviewed and verified by WSRP staff. Please be certain that any information you alter or add is accurate. Because our county and state parties, and our Republican candidates, rely on the information in the Voter Data Center, intentional misuse or abuse will not be tolerated and will almost surely result in the revocation of your access. To avoid problems, please double-check your data before adding it to the VDC.

ELEPHANT HUNT 2004

The Elephant Hunt projects you may undertake include:

1. Identifying existing registered voters (2 points each)
2. Looking up phone numbers (1 point each)

Below, you will find helpful information on making Elephant Hunt a success for your county – and consequently, for your Republican candidates!

Voter Identification Phone Calls and door-to-door identification

The most efficient way to perform voter identification is simply to call and ask. But, we encourage PCOs to go door-to-door and identify voters. Door-to-door identification not only gets you acquainted with your neighbors and precinct, but also provides an opportunity to register new Republican voters at houses not on the Voter Data Center walking list.

To implement your plan you will need to print out a call or walking list of unidentified voters in your precinct. This list may be obtained from the online Voter Data Center. It can include a number of fields including the name, address, and phone number of every registered voter with no party identification on record.

The local PCO can then call each of the numbers listed on their call sheet or walk to each unidentified home on the list. Volunteers should make certain they are talking to the registered voter listed. If a household has more than one registered voter make sure you mark the identification for the voter you talked to.

Follow this guide to identify a voter's political preference – ***and do not deviate from it:***

- 1 = Strong Republican
- 2 = Leans Republican
- 3 = Independent
- 4 = Leans Democrat
- 5 = Strong Democrat
- 6 = Undecided/Refused to say
- 0 = Unidentified

The script should **always** be as follows:

“Looking back over the past few elections, would you say you voted: (1) only for Republicans; (2) more Republicans than Democrats; (4) more Democrats than Republicans; or (5) only Democrats.

Never ask if they are an (3) independent voter. An (3) independent voter is someone who offers that answer themselves, without prompting, or says they vote for Republicans and Democrats equally or vote for the person, not the party.

If someone refuses or is undecided mark them as a (6). Don't try to convince them.

The call list you'll work from will contain all “0's” – the people we've never tried to identify. While we hope you'll find many 1's and 2's, that won't always be the case. However, credit will be given to volunteers and counties for every 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 identified. Obviously, we don't gain much insight from a 6.

A simple method of calling is to introduce yourself and say where you're calling from (neighbors are more likely to talk to neighbors), then explain that you are working to update the local voter list. Ask if they consider themselves a Republican, Democrat or independent and then record where on the list above you believe they fit.

Some people simply won't discuss this with a stranger – but the more you find, the more easily your Republican candidates and county party will be able to reach their voters.

Phone Number Look-Up Effort

You will note that we do not have all the phone numbers for every registered voter. Many local phone companies do not make phone numbers available for purchase but they do list them in local phone directories.

For this program, you will need to obtain a list of the registered voters for whom we do not have a phone number in your target area. This list should include the name, address and party identification of each voter.

Now look in your local phone book or other source and make a note of each phone number. Begin by looking up the numbers for all identified Republicans, as they are the most important for our candidates and party organizations to reach. Then move on to independents, and then those without identification.

Points are awarded as follows: one (1) point for a new phone number and one (1) point for new identification. Points are not awarded for changing an existing phone number. Periodically, the WSRP will compile all of the PCOs Elephant Hunt points in a particular county and pay county cash incentive for their efforts.

NOTE: Points will not be rewarded for phone numbers of identified Democrats - we simply won't ever need to call them.

Make sure to compare the addresses to ensure you've got the right person. Some names are common, and checking the address prevents errors. And please use the latest edition of your local phone directory - old numbers that no longer work are just as bad as no number at all. Similarly, counties are encouraged to update incorrect existing phone numbers in the system as they are found, but points are not awarded for this activity.

PRECINCT CAUCUS

The Republican Precinct Caucus is traditionally the biennial (every two years) meeting of the Republican voters who reside in the precinct.

During the meeting the process of electing delegates to the County, State and National conventions begins. In addition, the caucus is an excellent opportunity for voters in your precinct to discuss candidates for elected office, issues, and other matters that may be of interest. The caucus is usually held on a Tuesday evening in early March of even-numbered years and begins at 8:00pm. Early in the month you will receive a packet with instructions and information on conducting your precinct caucus.

It is your responsibility to:

- Establish a location for the caucus and notify the County Republican Central Committee by mid-February.
- Publicize the caucus at least to known Republicans, usually in the form of a phone call or form-letter invitation.
- Conduct the caucus.

The meeting itself may be as formal or informal as attendees would like. All voting should be done by paper ballot, and the results of the election shall be announced at the caucus in the presence of the voters and certified to the County Republican Central Committee by the chair and secretary of the caucus. Each precinct will be allotted a certain number of delegates and alternates to the county convention by the County Central Committee. As a PCO, if elected or appointed a sufficient time in advance of the caucus, you will be an automatic delegate and need not stand for election.

District Caucus/County Convention

Delegates who are elected at the precinct caucus attend a district and/or county convention, where delegates are elected to attend the state convention.

State Convention

Delegates to the state convention adopt a State Party platform and, in presidential election years, also elect delegates to the Republican National Convention.

PCO NEWSLETTER

The precinct newsletter is an easy way to introduce yourself to the people of your district and to let them know that you are working for them. The newsletter will also be helpful at election time because it can be used to discuss Republican issues and candidates.

The newsletter need only be about a page long and no longer than two pages and should be typed or printed from a computer. It does not need to be detailed or fancy. The idea is to keep your Republican voters “in the loop.”

Some ideas for what you can include in your newsletter:

- Introduction of yourself
- Introduction of the Republican Party and what it stands for
- Update of party activities (caucuses, fund-raisers, rallies, etc.)
- Community awareness and programs
- Any other information you feel may be necessary or helpful for voters in your precinct
- Articles from the County Party, State Party, or National Party newsletters.

Once you have finished your newspaper, make enough copies for the households in your precinct. There should be a copy shop in you area that can do it inexpensively. You can distribute them in whatever way you choose. It is best, however, to distribute them when you do your canvass. Your visit and the newsletter will allow your neighbors to become more comfortable with you.

The newsletter might also be a good opportunity to find election officials for your precinct. You can mention in the newsletter that you are looking for someone and ask those who are interested to contact you.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

Election officials are the watchdogs of the party on Election Day and are charged with the responsibility of making sure the party's rights are upheld and that all ballots are correctly handled and accounted for.

Election officials, according to state statute, are recommended by the Precinct Committee Officer, certified by the County Chairman, and appointed by the County Auditor or Manager of Records and Election. Each party is entitled to one judge, and the party that carried the county in the last presidential election is also entitled to one inspector.

The Republican Party depends on the election officials to report any irregularities in the voting procedure, any defective machines or computer voting apparatuses, and any electioneering around the polling place. Election officials are also authorized to make available to the PCO up-to-date records showing who has and has not voted at various intervals during the day. This information is an important resource to PCOs who are doing Get-Out-The-Vote work. It is best if you do not recommend yourself as the election official, since you'll want to be using this information on Election Day to urge your voters to get to the polls.

Finding election officials is not as difficult as it may seem. Senior citizens make good election officials. Many of them vote anyway and they may enjoy spending worthwhile time helping at the polling place. You can also look through your precinct list for possible volunteers. Your precinct newsletter is a good place to include a request for election officials. You can also send around a sign-up sheet and mention the job at your caucus. Remember that election officials are paid, which may be an incentive for some people.

The names of the election officials must be given to your county or district organization by March 15th. It is best to get the name in January or February since the County Auditor must call all of the election officials in the county before the elections.

POLLWORKER REQUIREMENTS

There are only a few requirements for people who would like to be election officials. First, they must be registered to vote in Washington. They can register up to a day before the election for this purpose, although they will not be able to vote. Second, they must be able to read and write legibly. Finally, election officials will have to be trained by the election office and aid in the set-up of the polling place so they have to be able to lift light loads. In addition, some of the poll workers will be asked to work on special elections held in the spring.

Election Day

- They report to work at 6:00 a.m. to do set-up
- Polls open at 7:00 a.m.
- They will have one hour off during the day, usually around lunchtime. If the polling place is a school, the election official may buy a school lunch.
- They can vote, or if they are stationed away from their polling place, they can turn in an absentee ballot at the polling place without having to mail it in.
- They will need to take care of their own meal in the evening.
- They will remain at the polls until after 8:00 p.m. when the polls close and all of the ballots have been tallied, the machines packed away and the Inspector is ready to leave. They are paid until 9:30 p.m. and usually do not work much past then.

During the day they can read books or magazines (not newspapers or political material which could seem to be electioneering) or do activities which do not distract from their job of observing.

Election officials have an excellent opportunity to meet their neighbors and do some work for the community. Primary elections are held on the third Tuesday in September (or the 7th Tuesday preceding the general election, whichever comes first) and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Try to get your election officials to commit to both elections. And remember, they do have a long day so you'll need people who don't mind the long hours.

ABSENTEE VOTER DRIVE

Many elections are decided by margins of less than ONE VOTE per precinct. Absentee votes can win crucial races for the GOP. This was certainly evident in the 1996 elections. A growing percentage of our electorate is voting via absentee ballot. The statistics are staggering: in 1992, 17% voted by absentee ballot; in 1994, 24% voted by absentee ballot; and in 1996, 36% of the vote was cast by absentee ballot. In 2002, four Republican candidates lost by less than 500 votes each. One out of every three voters in the state voted in 2002 via absentee ballot.

When you have completed your precinct canvass you will have a list of all the people who want to vote via absentee ballot. Go through your precinct list and look for Republicans or lean-Republicans who have requested to vote absentee. As the election gets closer you can find out if these people need absentee ballot request forms. If they do, then you can simply make a copy of the form and send it to them. You should also offer to send the form in for them after they have filled it out. You may obtain absentee ballot request forms from the County Auditor or Secretary of State.

Absentee ballots can be requested up to 45 days in advance of an election. All absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than midnight on the day of the election. So if a ballot is needed just prior to the election you will have to pick it up at the County Auditor's office. Since someone requesting an absentee ballot is almost certain to vote, be sure to assist all eligible Republicans who want ballots.

Remember, those who apply for absentee ballots in your precinct will need to get candidate information earlier than the rest of the precinct. This is an advantage because it spreads your workload for Get-Out-The-Vote over a few weeks rather than a few days.

Most people who want to apply for absentee ballots will request a permanent absentee ballot. This means that absentee ballots will be sent automatically for every election until the voter requests it to stop. The form is similar to the regular absentee form.

DOORBELLING

Many voters don't receive much candidate information on races other than the most visible (President, Governor, Congress, etc.). Distributing a candidate's brochure may be the most effective thing you can do to increase the number of Republican votes in your precinct.

One of the best ways to affect the outcome of the election is to doorbell your precinct with candidate literature before Election Day. You can obtain this literature from the candidate or county/district party organization.

You will want to doorbell the precinct three to ten days before the election. Take your walking list or map with you as you go out doorbelling. You can update your list or map as you go along, if necessary. You may also want to carry absentee ballot request forms in case people need them. (Remember! Absentee ballots must be mailed back and postmarked to the County Auditor by midnight on the day of the election. If you hand out an absentee ballot application shortly before the election, you will have to arrange for the ballot to be picked up at the County Auditor's office and mailed back by the deadline.)

Ring the doorbell and introduce yourself as the Republican PCO for your precinct. Give the voter a packet with the candidate literature. You could also include an election edition of the precinct newsletter with a brief discussion of key issues and a sample ballot. Remind the voter where his/her polling place is and when the election will occur. If the voter is not home, leave the packet where the voter will see it.

Tailor your approach to what you know about each voter. If a person does not like being doorbelled, you can just leave the packet on the doorstep or in the newspaper box (but not the mail box). If you know that a person is an independent-leaning Democrat, you might choose to mention only the candidates you think will be attractive to that voter. If you can swing a few votes here and there it will make a difference overall.

Make sure that you are courteous and brief. Discuss candidate and ballot issues if you are inclined, but never argue. Remember that the purpose of doorbelling is to distribute literature so that the candidates can speak for themselves. Your time is better spent talking to favorable voters and making sure that they vote and know whom to vote for. If you don't know the answer to a question, do not be afraid to say so. If you can find an answer to a

question and get back to someone with that answer, they will appreciate it and you may get a vote.

Your effectiveness will depend on time available. The most effective doorbelling includes personal, face-to-face contact and the request "I hope you'll vote for candidate X." Less effective, but still useful, is leaving literature on the doorstep with a signed note saying, "Sorry I missed you." If all you can do is to "door drop" or leave the literature at each door, that's still helpful and will produce a few extra votes for our candidates.

THE POLL-WATCHER PROGRAM

Election Day is the climax of all your political activities for the year. Therefore, it is important to implement a detailed training program for poll-watchers.

Recruiting and Training Poll-Watchers

Recruit your poll-watchers at least one month in advance of Election Day. It is very important to recruit people for this position. To provide complete coverage of your precinct, determine how many poll-watchers will be needed by drafting a schedule starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m., with shifts of two to four hours for each poll-watcher. You may also want to coordinate with other PCOs who vote at the same location as your precinct, or take part in a coordinated countywide poll-watching program.

Train your poll-watchers approximately two weeks prior to Election Day. Briefly explain how a well-organized poll-watching program provides a successful Get-Out-The-Vote effort in which every Republican and favorable voter is contacted.

You should provide each poll-watcher with an alphabetized list of all identified Republican voters (1's and 2's). Have a runner or runners go to each polling location and gather the names of voters who have already voted. Poll-watchers should cross off those voters who have voted and begin calling those voters who have not yet voted.

The ideal times to gather names from the polling location are at 10 am, 3pm and 6pm.

The Voter Data Center, based on the information provided by the county auditor, will have an updated list of all those who have voted absentee to that point. Call the people who have not voted and remind them of the deadline and to mail their ballot by the end of the day.

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE

Without votes even the best Republican candidate can't win. Therefore, the Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) drive on Election Day is one of the most important jobs you have as a PCO. The best GOTV drives involve about five people per precinct, each doing a different job (checking the lists of people who have voted, making phone calls, transporting people to their polling places), but they can also easily be done by two people.

Pre-Election

Personal phone calls a day or two before the election are the most effective device for increasing voter turnout. Simply call the voters you have identified as Republicans, identify yourself, remind them of the election and urge them to vote.

When you know or sense that a voter may need assistance in getting to the polls, schedule an appointment to pick the individual up and transport them to their polling place.

Election Day

Getting out the vote consists of comparing the list of voters who have voted (which will be the job of your poll-watchers) to the identified Republicans in the Voter Data Center. You then call any Republicans who have not yet voted and remind them to turn out. You may even offer a ride to the polls if it is necessary.

Thank Your Workers!!!

Remember to thank all the people who have worked with you to turn out the Republican vote. See to it that they are invited to victory celebrations. Be sure to write every one of them a thank you note. It is important to recognize and appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication.

AFTER THE ELECTION

You have had many people in your precinct helping you, and whether we win or lose you will want to write notes to each one thanking them for their efforts. Encourage them to remain active in the Republican Party, to build for the future of the community and our country.

You should critique your own organization and its conduct of the various election activities. What things did you do well? Where can you improve for another election year? The block of workers should be asked for their suggestions as well.

As you move into the non-election year, remember you are still the precinct committee officer. Continue to participate in the County Central Committee, Elephant Hunt, and other Republican Party activities. Your input is important. Keep in touch with your Election Day volunteers – you and the Republican Party will need them in the next election year.

ORIGIN OF “REPUBLICAN”

The use of the term “Republican” to refer to one of the two modern American political parties began in 1854. But its origin goes back to Thomas Jefferson, when it was then used in association with the term “Democrat.”

Originally, Republican was a vague and neutral term, because the Constitution had guaranteed to every state “a republican form of government.” Jefferson in his first inaugural address in 1801 said, “We are all Federalist; we are all Republicans.” On the other hand, since the members of the Federalist Party – the party of our second President, John Adams – were accused of being aristocrats, “Democrat” offered itself as the natural counterpart to the term “Federalist.”

Many objected to being called “Democrats” because the word brought up visions of mob rule in revolutionary France. Consequently the Federalists began to use “Democrat” in a derisive and negative sense to throw at their rivals. Jefferson’s followers thus preferred to be called “Republicans,” although their official name was the Democrat-Republican party.

With the decline of the Federalists, political affiliations became a matter of personalities rather than parties. It must have been especially confusing to voters in 1824, when the four candidates for president were all members of the Republican Party! When Andrew Jackson won election four years later, his wing of the party decided to end all confusion and reintroduce “Democrat” as a partisan label. Immigrants also were drawn to this party in the decades ahead, because of their advocacy of “democracy” – a semantic coincidence that Democrats did not mind trumpeting at election time.

In the meantime, the wing opposing Jackson, under John Quincy Adams and John C. Calhoun, first adopted the name “National Republican” in 1832. They abandoned it altogether two years later for the English name, “Whig,” hoping to brand Jackson with the unpopular name of “Tory,” which was the pro-British Party during the American Revolution.

Thus the overused “Republican” vanished as a popular political term. For the next two decades it became synonymous with “Democrat,” especially in the South, where “Democratic” still retained its connotation of mob rule. Nevertheless, opponents of both Democrats and Whigs, such as the Native American Party of 1843, tried to resurrect Republican:

“Our friends will understand us as cutting adrift from both the political parties of the day – that we are neither Whigs nor Democrats, but Republicans.”

Similarly in 1848, the campaign of General Zachary Taylor (a Whig) tried to capitalize on the mood:

“A new and mighty party is rearing its gigantic form before the world. It is not merely the Whig Party, not the Democratic Party – not the Native Party nor the Slavery Party – it is the great Taylor Republican Party.”

The anti-Taylor Whigs, however, claimed that Taylor had “appropriated” the Whig name, and they also called themselves “Republicans.” It seemed everyone wanted to be Republican!

It wasn’t until several years after all this confusion that the modern use of “Republican” began. Alvan E. Bovay suggested in 1852 to New York Tribune writer Horace Greeley that a new party – formed of disaffected Democrats, Whigs, and Free-Soilers – take “Republican” as its name:

“Urge them to forget previous political names and organizations, and to band together under the name I suggested to you at Lovejoy’s Hotel in 1852 ... I mean the name Republican.”

These groups met at Ripon, Wisconsin on February 28, 1854, and the name was adopted as a state party convention at Jackson, Michigan, on July 6, when it was “Resolved, that ... we will cooperate and be known as Republicans until the contest be terminated.”

James A. Woodburn, professor of American history and politics at Indiana University, wrote in 1903 that a direct philosophical link can be drawn between Jefferson’s Republicans and the modern Republican Party:

“The new party fell back to the old and honored name of Republican, the name which had been preferred and approved by Jefferson for the party which he founded, and the new anti-slavery restrictionists, now called upon the nation to walk again in the path of the Republican Fathers, in the path marked out by Jefferson, the original Free-Soiler, who with other Republicans of his day, had so persistently striven to prevent the extension of slavery to Western territory – an attempt that had won such notable success in the important (Northwest) Ordinance of 1787.”

As for the evolution of Jackson's Democratic Party – often called the “Democracy” up until the Civil War – Republicans continued to argue for a slight alteration and one used today by the Republican National Committee. As reported in the Ohio State University Lantern in its October 7, 1995, issue:

“Lately (then-Republican National Committee Chairman) Leonard Hall has tartly referred to the ‘Democrat’ party rather than using the common term, the ‘Democratic’ party ... Hall says he dropped the ‘ic’ because ‘I think their claims that they represent the great mass of people, and we don’t is just a lot of bunk.’”

THE BEGINNING

“ ... To do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere.”

- Abraham Lincoln

It is simple philosophy on which the Republican Party was founded.

The year was 1854. The Democrats and Whigs were the leading political parties, and the Free-Soilers had recently gained enough strength to place candidates for election.

The issue was slavery. The emotions of the nation and its citizens rose as Congress debated the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Its passage would leave the legal question of slavery to the residents of these new states and upset a quarter-century ban on slavery in the remaining Louisiana Purchase territory.

On February 28, Major Alvan E. Bovay called a meeting in the Congregational Church in Ripon, Wisconsin. The people who met that night in that small farming community were Democrats, Whigs, and Free-Soilers. They were brought together by a common belief: that slavery was unconstitutional.

Out of that meeting came a resolution: “A new party, to be named the Republican Party, would be formed if the Kansas-Nebraska bill passed.”

It was only a short time before the Senate approved the Kansas-Nebraska bill. It was now law – the extension of slavery was a real threat. Major Bovay called a second meeting.

On March 20, 53 local citizens gathered in the schoolhouse in Ripon. They appointed a committee of five to form the new party. The local Free-Soilers and Whig organizations were dissolved.

The Ripon meetings were only the first of many that year. In Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Maine, Massachusetts, New York and other northern states, citizens of similar persuasion met to form Republican organizations.

The first Republican convention was held in Jackson, Michigan, on July 15, 1854. The crowd was so big that the convention could not be held in the town's largest hall. The business of the party had to be conducted in a grove of oaks near a racetrack.

These resolutions signaled the formal beginning of the new national party:

“RESOLVED, That ... in view of the imminent danger that Kansas and Nebraska will be grasped by Slavery, and a thousand miles of slave soil will be thus interposed between the free States and the Atlantic and those of the Pacific, we will act cordially and faithfully in unison to avert and repeal this gigantic wrong and shame.”

“RESOLVED, That ... in view of the necessity of battling for the first principles of Republican government, and against the schemes of an aristocracy, the most revolting and oppressive with which the earth was ever cursed or man debased, we will cooperate and be known as ‘Republicans’ until the contest be terminated.”

Under the label “Republican” or “anti-Nebraska,” the Party made significant inroads that fall in its first tests at the polls, winning 11 United Senate seats. With the help of the “anti-Nebraskans,” the new party was able to control and organize the House. Republican tickets were in office in Michigan and Wisconsin.

By 1856, the Republican Party was organized nationally. State delegates appointed a National Executive Committee, which was authorized to call a national nominating convention that June in Philadelphia.

ORIGIN OF “GOP”

A favorite of headline writers, “GOP” dates back to the 1870s and 1880s. The abbreviation was cited in a New York Herald story on October 15, 1884: “The GOP Doomed, shouted the Boston Post ... The Grand Old Party is in condition to inquire ... “

But what GOP stands for has changed with the times. In 1875 there was a citation in the Congressional Record referring to “This gallant old party,” and in Harper’s Weekly and the Cincinnati Commercial in 1876 there were references to the “Grand Old Party.”

Perhaps the use of “the G.O.M.” for Britain’s Prime Minister William E. Gladstone in 1882 as “the Grand Old Man” stimulated the use of GOP in the United States soon after.

In early motorcar days, GOP took on the term “get out and push.” During the 1964 presidential campaign, “Go-Party” was used briefly, and at times during the Nixon Administration frequent references were made to the “generation of peace.” In the 1970s Republican leaders again took to referring to the “Grand Old Party” starting with the 1971 speech by President Nixon at the dedication of the Eisenhower Republican Center in Washington, D.C.: “The Republican Party must be the Party of the Open Door.”

THE SYMBOL OF THE PARTY

The elephant symbol of the party was born in the imagination of cartoonist Thomas Nast and first presented in Harper's Weekly on November 7, 1874. An 1860 issue of Railsplitter and an 1872 cartoon in Harper's Weekly connected elephants and Republicans, but it was Nast who provided both parties with their symbols.

Oddly, two unconnected events led to the birth of the Republican elephant. James Gordon Bennett's New York Herald raised the cry of "Caesarism" in connection with possibility of a third term try by President Ulysses S. Grant. Democratic politicians took up the issue in 1874.

While the illustrated journals were depicting Grant wearing a crown, the Herald involved itself in another circulation-builder in an entirely different, nonpolitical area. This was the Central Park Menagerie Scare of 1874, a delightful hoax perpetuated by the Herald. The paper ran a story, totally untrue, that the animals in the zoo had broken loose and were roaming the wilds of New York's Central Park in search of prey.

Cartoonist Thomas Nast took the two examples from the Herald and put them together in a cartoon for Harper's Weekly. He showed an ass (symbolizing the Herald) wearing a lion's skin (the scary prospect of Caesarism) frightening away the other animals in the forest (Central Park). The caption quoted a familiar fable: "An ass having put on a lion's skin roamed about the forest and amused himself by frightening all the foolish animals he met with his wanderings."

One of the foolish animals in the cartoon was an elephant, representing the Republican vote – not the party, the vote – which was being frightened away from its normal ties by the phony scare of Caesarism. In a subsequent cartoon on November 21, 1874, after the election in which Republicans did badly, Nast followed up the idea by showing the elephant trap, illustrating the Republican vote had been decoyed from its normal allegiance. Other cartoonists picked up the symbol, and the elephant soon ceased to represent the vote and became a representation of the party itself; the jackass, now referred to as a donkey, made a natural transition from representing the Herald to representing the Democratic party that had frightened the elephant.

-From William Safire's "New Language of Politics, revised edition, Collier Books, New York, 1972