

Proposal to Amend the UCRP Constitution

C-110 – Definition of Membership

In 2015, the State Central Committee and State Delegates voted to approve the State Republican Party definition of membership as:

Utah Republican Party Constitution Article I, C. Membership

“Party membership is open to any resident of the State of Utah who registers to vote as a Republican and complies with the Utah Republican Party Constitution and Bylaws, and membership may be further set forth in the Utah Republican Party Bylaws.”

The addition of *“...and complies with the Utah Republican Party Constitution and Bylaws, and membership may be further set forth in the Utah Republican Party Bylaws”* was added on the advice of Party Counsel to comply with the law.

Amend Article II of the UCRP Constitution to read as follows:

(Changes are in **bold**. Text to be removed is ~~struck out~~. Text to be added is underlined.)

Article II – Membership

Membership in the Utah County Republican Party shall be open to all residents of Utah County who are registered to vote as Republicans, **are members of the Utah Republican Party**, and who support Utah County Republican Party ~~e~~Candidates and the Utah County Republican Party Platform.

Recommendation by Constitution and Bylaws Committee (April 21, 2017):

In Favor: 6 Opposed: 0

Arguments in Favor:

- This amendment brings our County Party's Constitution in line with the State Party's Constitution and Bylaws, as we are required to do. (URP Constitution, Article VII County Parties)
- If the State rules change, our County Party remains compliant without spending time on additional votes.
- This proposal also maintains the local control of our County Party by referencing our specific County Party Platform and Candidates.
- The State Party's definition of Membership allows Republicans to more fully manage and support the nominating processes selected through our representative governing bodies and delegates (currently, the Caucus/Convention system).
- Our county has 24 (about 13% of the) representatives on the State Central Committee, which approves any changes to the State Party documents, and any changes in the State Party documents would be well publicized, so we can easily be informed of any pertinent State Party changes.

Arguments in Opposition:

- This change requires the reader to refer to the State Party documents to know the full requirements, instead of the convenience of having everything included in our own documents.
- Currently if the State Party changes the membership requirements the County Central Committee would need to be informed and have to vote to modify our own constitution, but with this change members of the Central Committee might not be aware of changes in the State Party requirements.
- Membership definitions should not have an influence on our nominating procedures.
- Even though we are subordinate to the State Republican Party, our documents do not need to contain identical wording.
- This may be perceived as a tool that could be used to limit participation in the Republican Party.