

**BY- LAWS**  
**THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY**  
**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this assembly shall be called The Committee of Safety of St. Joseph County (Indiana), abbreviated as COS/SJC, and referred to in this document as The Committee.

**ARTICLE 11 - PURPOSE**

To join together as the Citizenry whose purpose it is to affect the course and destiny of our lives. and to actively pursue that end.

**ARTICLE III - ORIGIN OF AUTHORITY**

The bodies of long-established authority which form the foundation for The Committee are:

1. the will of The Living God
2. the will (consent) of We The People
3. the Declaration of independence
4. the Constitution for the United states of America
5. the Bill of Rights
6. the Common Law

**ARTICLE IV - SCOPE OF AUTHORITY**

**SECTION 1.** The Committee is established of, by, and for the People and is not under the auspices of any other committee or organization.

**SECTION 2.** until such time as a Committee of Safety is established in counties and areas near St. Joseph County Indiana, all People are welcome to become members of COS/SJC.

**SECTION 3.** The Committee is a policy-making body but does not exclude the constituting of an enforcement body and a judicial body.

**ARTICLE V - MEMBERS**

**SECTION 1,** Members are people who have the right to vote in The Committee. voting rights are achieved by joining a Standing committee and meeting sections 2 through 5 qualifications in this Article V.

**SECTION 2.** Members must be 17 years of age or older.

**SECTION 3.** A member must be a State Citizen, and/or a Citizen of the United States of America, and may also be a federal U.S. citizen and must recognize the existence of these separate forms of status.

**SECTION 4.** Each potential member must acknowledge that the Constitution for the United States of America is the Law of the Land, and that it is a limitation on the authority of the U.S. Government.

**SECTION 5.** Each potential member must not have lost his citizenship as a result of The Titles Of Nobility (Thirteenth) Amendment. This would include bar attorneys, bankers, active duty law enforcement officers, or any other person who has acquired a position of privilege or honor included under the intent of that Amendment.

**SECTION 6.** A central roster of member names shall NOT be kept.

**SECTION 7.** Membership fees or dues will not be required, however free-will donations will be received.

**SECTION 8.** Members can be disciplined, including censure and expulsion.

**ARTICLE VI - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**SECTION 1. The Committee of the Whole:** it is comprised of all members present. it is the ultimate decision-making body of The Committee. The Committee of the whole IS the government, IT IS The Committee of Safety. The Committee of the Whole is also referred to as The Committee,

**SECTION 2. Standing committees:** This is where specific proposals, goals, and desired actions are debated and considered. Bills are then generated and sent to the Executive committee for review and later presented to The Committee of the whole for a final decision.

**SECTION 3. Ad-hoc committees:** These shall be created whenever a specific area of study is not addressed by an existing committee.

**SECTION 4. Executive committee:** This is comprised of one delegate from each Standing committee. Its function is to facilitate the will of The Committee, not to control, dictate, enact, or otherwise make decisions for committees or for The Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII - THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Committee of the Whole makes all final decisions on the bills presented to it. It selects the parliamentary authority by which Committee business meetings are conducted. There is NOT an office of President, however there is a presiding official called the Chairman.

## **ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Ways and Means** is responsible for fund-raising, assessments (if necessary), acquisition of a meeting place, care of meeting place, disbursements (with Executive committee guidance), and financial record keeping. It is recommended that the Treasurer be on this committee.

**SECTION 2. Communications & Correspondence** should establish efficient communications within The Committee such as, mailing lists, fax networking, phone trees, and radio communications. it should communicate with all other Committees of Safety. It should advertise meetings to members as well as to the general public. it should act as a public relations office, encouraging favorable press coverage, working with local media investigating issues of interest. It is recommended that the Secretary be on this committee as well as a Press Liaison, and an Orienter of potential members.

**SECTION 3. Historical Research** should research issues such as the U.S. Constitution, your State Constitution, local history, Acts of government officials and Executive orders. All information obtained should be made available to Citizens. A Parliamentarian and an Archivist/Librarian should be on this committee

**SECTION 4. Contemporary Research** should investigate matters of interest occurring around the nation, such as sovereignty amendments, other resolutions of importance, legislation, news articles, and availability of information. Current issues such as income tax, driving/traveling, and other matters might be addressed by this committee.

**SECTION 5. Political** should review elected and appointed officials' records, especially voting records, on all levels. Reports and recommendations on these officials should be presented to The Committee. The Political committee has the potential to become advocates for We The People as lobbyists.

**SECTION 6. Judicial** has two basic functions: 1. provides information on the judicial branch of government, and 2. is THE forum where internal C.O.S. disciplinary matters are heard. The Judicial committee has the potential of functioning as a Common Law Court.

**SECTION 7. Standing committees** may also be created when sufficient members wish to deal with other specific issues. The Committee must approve this with an affirmative vote Of 51 %.

**SECTION 8. Each Standing committee** shall determine voting requirements on any action of that committee.

## **ARTICLE IX - AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

Ad-hoc committees are created from members of Standing committees by The Committee. They may be made into permanent standing committees or disbanded when their specific mission has been accomplished. The Committee shall approve these options by an affirmative vote of 51 %. Ad-hoc committees shall give progress reports and recommendations to the Executive Committee for presentation to The Committee. Each Ad-hoc committee shall determine voting requirements on any action of that committee. It is recommended that the first Ad-hoc Committee formed should be one to draft The Committee by-laws.

## **ARTICLE X - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1.** The delegates comprising the Executive committee shall select from its number a Chairman who will chair the executive meetings and The Committee of the Whole meetings. A Vice-Chairman shall be selected and will chair the meetings in the Chairman's absence. The Executive Committee shall determine voting requirements on any action of that committee.

**SECTION 2 .** The Executive committee receives proposals from The Committee of the Whole and/or Standing and Ad-hoc committees then assigns them to the appropriate committee for deliberations. This committee shall also receive 'bills' from the committees, review them for completeness, and prepare them for presentation to The Committee.

**SECTION 3.** The Executive committee shall receive complaints, in written form only, from an accuser wishing to have disciplinary action taken against an accused. After review of the complaint, it will be forwarded to the Judicial committee to evaluate the accusations.

**SECTION 4.** The Executive committee meetings need to be held at such a time that its delegates may be able to attend their respective standing committee meetings.

## **ARTICLE XI - SELECTION OF OFFICIALS**

**SECTION 1.** Each Standing committee selects from their number a delegate to the Executive committee, an alternate delegate to serve in the delegate's absence, a committee chairman, and a vice-chairman to serve in the chairman's absence. A delegate is not an officer/office-holder, but is a facilitator.

**SECTION 2.** A Treasurer, preferably from the ways and Means committee a Secretary, preferably from the Communications & Correspondence committee, and a Chaplain are selected by The Committee with an affirmative vote of 51%. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are selected by the Executive committee.

**SECTION -; 3.** Other officials might include: Assistants to Section 2. officials, a Sergeant-At-Arms a Parliamentarian, an Archivist/Librarian, a Press Liaison, and an Orientor. These officials are also approved by The Committee with an affirmative vote of 51 %.

**SECTION 4.** To encourage participation by as many members as possible, and to avoid concentration of power, a person should hold no more than one office.

**SECTION 5.** Terms of office shall be for 6 months, at which time new officials or incumbents shall be selected or re-selected.

**SECTION 6.** Officials can be disciplined, including censure and expulsion.

## **ARTICLE XII - THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** Meetings will be held weekly, unless The Committee decides otherwise in advance.

**SECTION; 2.** The general order of business shall be: At 7 pm The Committee of the Whole meets for opening procedures and remarks. The Standing committees separate into their respective meetings. At 8:30 pm The Committee of the Whole reconvenes to vote on any matters laid before it and conducts any other appropriate business.

**SECTION 3.** Sample agenda: 1) Chairman calls meeting to order, 2) opening prayer, 3-) reading of minutes, 4) passing of the hat for donations, 5) announcements, 6) Treasurer's report. \*Near the end of the reconvened Committee meeting: 1) announcement of the next meeting, 2) pledge of allegiance, 3) adjournment.

**SECTION 4.** Emergency meetings may be called on the initiative of a 3/4 vote in the Executive committee, or by a 3/4 vote of any one Standing committee, or by a 2/3 vote by any 2 Standing committees. The petition for such emergency meeting shall be directed to the Chairman or the Secretary who will in turn notify all Standing committee chairmen who shall then notify all members of their respective committees.

**SECTION 5.** No Quorum is necessary to conduct business at regular Committee meetings, however, for Emergency meetings, there must be at minimum one member from each Standing committee present.

## **ARTICLE XIII - METHOD OF ENACTMENT**

**SECTION 1.** Any matter to be addressed by The Committee will be submitted to the Executive committee (Exec) in writing. A matter can be submitted to the Exec by a Standing or Ad-hoc committee, or by any individual. The Exec cannot submit a bill directly to The Committee without first being routed to the appropriate Standing committee

**SECTION 2.** The proper committee shall consider the proposed matter, and draws up a written report to submit to the Exec for its review.

**SECTION 3.** The findings contained within the written report may take any of the following forms: A) recommendation to the Exec that the issue does not warrant the consideration of The Committee. B) give a progress report on the review of the matter. C) a bill may be submitted to the Exec for consideration by The Committee. That bill should include the following: 1) a motion complete in form, which is clear, concise, and addresses the matter completely. 2) written arguments in support of the motion. 3) written arguments of dissent. 4) any attachments necessary, such as a request for funding.

**SECTION 4.** A bill once submitted to the Exec as outlined above, shall not be changed by the Exec.

**SECTION 5.** The Exec shall review the bill for completeness as outlined above, and shall take one of the following actions:

**A.--**approve the bill to be submitted to The Committee, providing at least two copies to each of the committees for their review prior to voting.

**B.--**return the bill to the submitting committee if it is insufficient, along with a written explanation.

**C.--**submit the bill to another committee if the proposed bill requires input from another committee.

**D.--**the Exec shall not make a determination that a bill cannot be submitted to The Committee. The Exec's purpose is to facilitate, not to enact.

**SECTION 6.** The Committee shall vote on all bills, and a 2/3 vote shall be required for passage.

**SECTION 7.** Requests for funds by a committee shall be submitted in writing to the Exec, which shall direct said request to the Ways and Means committee for consideration and comment. If the funds requested are greater than \$20.00, then the request will be presented to The Committee and funding will be granted by an affirmative vote of 51 %.

## **ARTICLE XIV - RULES OF ORDER**

The following are highlights of major rules found in the "Modern Edition of Robert's Rules of order" (1989, revised by Darwin Patnode). All members are encouraged to acquaint themselves with this book. The purpose of Rules of order is to facilitate productive meetings.

**1. MINUTES:** Include place, date, and time of meeting start and adjournment. Record all main motions, by whom made, by whom seconded, and appeals and points of order. Withdrawn motions are not recorded. A motion and second are needed to accept or correct minutes. They cannot be rejected, but can be returned for correction. Minutes can be accepted without a reading provided a motion to that effect is made.

**2. AGENDA:** The meeting is technically limited to only points previously placed on the agenda. However, a member may inquire or move to include other points on the agenda.

**3. MOTIONS:** Must be seconded, can be amended or withdrawn, and should be debated before being voted on. The chair restates the motion just prior to the vote. The chair cannot make motions or seconds; should refrain from debate, and can only vote to break a tie.

**4. DEBATE AND DECORUM:** Speakers should rise, wait to be recognized by the chair, state their name for the record and for introduction purposes. No member should be allowed to speak twice before all others wishing to speak, have spoken once in debate, a member must confine his statements to the question immediately before The Committee and avoid personal attacks or innuendoes.

**5. AMENDMENTS:** The object is to modify the original motion Without destroying the sense of that motion. Amendments require a second and are debatable.

**6. WITHDRAWAL:** A motion can be withdrawn from consideration by the original maker before the chair restates the motion. It may be withdrawn after chair restates, but chair must ask members if there is any objection to the withdrawal. A seconder may Withdraw his second if the motion is changed in any way'

**7. DISPOSAL OF MOTIONS:** A. --Passed - carried or approved. B.--Defeated - a rejected motion is one that did not pass. A tie vote equals a defeated motion. A defeated motion cannot be renewed at the same meeting but can be renewed at a later meeting. A defeated motion can be reconsidered at the same meeting but only can be moved for reconsideration by a member who voted against the defeated motion. C. --Withdrawal - see 6. above. D.--Tabled - a motion to table requires a second, cannot be debated or amended, and must be put to an immediate vote. The purpose of tabling is to lay aside a motion to be considered at a later time, either at the same or later meeting. There must be a motion and a second to take a motion from the table and resume consideration of it. E.--Place in committee - move to have the appropriate committee study the motion further. F. --Postpone - move to discuss the motion at a later specific time, date, or meeting. G.--Postpone indefinitely - move to kill the subject of the motion.

**8. OUT OF ORDER:** A.--If another motion is made while the first motion is still on the floor and not disposed of. B.--No motion can be made at that same meeting that closely resembles a motion that was defeated, tabled, placed in committee, or postponed at that same meeting. C.--A member speaking twice before all others wishing to speak once, is out of order.

**9. APPEALS:** To deal with railroading or objectionable decisions made by the chair. Appeals require a second, then the chair must immediately yield to the vice-chairman. The original chair then states his reasons for the decision. No further debate is allowed. The Vice-chair calls for a vote: "Shall the chair be sustained (upheld) ? The original chair is allowed to vote. A tie vote sustains the chair.

**10. PRIVILEGED MOTIONS:** Members may interrupt business by these words: I rise to a point of procedure/order/or inquiry." No second is required. The chair is obliged to recognize the member. The action desired may be deferred until the speaker is finished and may also be tabled or postponed indefinitely.

A.--Point of procedure - a member feels that the chair is off track or acting contrary to the regular rules.

B.--Point of order - a member feels that another member is off track and wants the chair to take action.

C.--Point of inquiry - a member wishes to draw attention to the comfort of members or guests or to the conduct of either. To silence chronic interrupters, move that the interrupter be ruled out of order. 11 - The privilege of the assembly outranks any personal privilege. 12. VOTES: shall normally be by a show of hands, unless specified to be by voice, standing, or secret ballot. Abstentions (to abstain or refrain from voting) are not calculated in the vote total. Main motions shall be passed by a 51 % vote unless otherwise specified in these by-laws. To prevent non-members from voting on bills, each standing committee chairman may tabulate his committee members' votes then announce the total yeas and nays.

#### **ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These by-laws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of The Committee of the Whole by a 3/4 affirmative vote.