Sample By-laws for Councils

(Official name)

# University of Missouri Extension Council of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Approved and adopted on MM/day/year These by-laws supersede any previous approved by-laws

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council comprised of representatives from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (number of districts) within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County of the State of Missouri, having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Representatives from each of the districts, and a representative from the county commission, a representative from City of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and representative from the farm group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and others appointed member to the council stated as follows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per RSMO. 262.563. Being no less than 10 elected members and not more than 20 elected members. Appointed member in the part is to mean those who comply with state law. Not those appointed to fill a term of elected position vacancy.

These by-laws shall not detract from state law and shall be in compliance with state law. The purpose of the county extension is defined by state law and to fulfill the land grant mission of extension. Copies of these by-laws are being filed in the office of the County Extension and available to all citizens of this state. This Extension council shall work with the County Program Director, all Staff of the county (office or specialist) and The Regional Director to ensure funding for county wide program support and the extension services needed by the citizens of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County.

The County Extension council shall work in partnership with the University of Missouri and Extension staff assigned to the county according to state law and policy adopted by the Administration of the University of Missouri Extension.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council shall select at least one member to represent them on the regional council, which includes participation at the regional council meetings and regular reports and updates to the county council who has appointed them as a representative.

## I. Name

The name of the group shall be University of Missouri Extension Council of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County.

## II. Purpose

The purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council is to be a forum through which county council members can cooperate in providing effective educational program support for the county citizens by:

1. Exchanging information and discussing issues of concern and need
2. Making recommendations on topics and issues related to concerns within the county
3. Assisting the County Program Director (CPD) with extension council training
4. Promoting and supporting county planning and programming as appropriate and according to state laws and administrative guidelines
5. Fostering the partnership of University of Missouri Extension, UMESC, Regional Councils, and Extension Staff serving the county
6. Supporting the policies and procedures jointly with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council, UMESC and regional council
7. Following the state laws and supporting the funding for county office operations
8. Programs, Governance, and Membership, in that order, are the areas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Council will dedicate council time in meetings
9. **This \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council shall meet Monthly**

## III. Membership and Quorum

1. The elected membership shall include members from the districts within the county. A member’ principal residence must be within the district he/she is elected to serve.
2. The appointed member shall be a Member of the organization they represent and must reside within the county.
3. Membership needed for a Quorum is fifty percent, plus one, of all current filled positions (elected or appointed) per state law.

## IV. Vacancy for Appointed Members

If an appointed member position is vacated for over three (3) months or upon death or resignation of an appointed member, the executive board may appoint a member from that organization to fill the vacancy after first giving the appointed members organization written notice and at least 15 days opportunity to fill that vacancy after their next board meeting.

## V. Vacancy of an Elected Member

If an elected member position is vacated for over three (3) months or upon death or resignation of an elected member, the executive board may appoint a member from the vacant member’s district to fill the vacancy till the next council election

If an executive member position is vacated, then a vote at the next regular county council meeting must be taken to fill that position

## VI. Age of Members

All voting members of the council must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time in which council elections take place

## VII. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council Structure

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council will elect at its annual March Meeting the executive committee and this shall include a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
2. The order of executive command shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary
3. The duty of the Chair is to preside over all meetings and will only vote in case of a tie. The Chair cannot make motions or second motions.
4. The duty of the Vice Chair is to act in the absence of the chair and be the chair of the program committee.
5. The secretary is responsible for the minutes of the meetings and roll call for attendance and for the recording of all votes according to the sunshine law of the State of Missouri. In the absence of the Secretary the Chair will appoint someone to fulfill the duties of secretary for that meeting.
6. The Treasurer is head of the budget committee and reports to the full council monthly as to the financial status of **All accounts.**
7. **Each office shall also fulfill their duties per state law, the University of Missouri Extension Administration, and the County Council**

## VIII. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council Finances

1. The funding for the county extension council may come from county appropriations but is not limited to county funding only
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Council May accept gifts of cash, real property, and personal property.
3. All non-budgeted expenditures shall first be reviewed by the treasurer, County Program Director and then submitted for approval by a majority of the County Council
4. All issues related to finances shall be in keeping with accepted accounting practices and all accounts shall be audited least yearly

## IX. Attendance of Appointed or Elected Members

After three (3) meeting of unexcused absence, (phone excuse or another members notice for member) a letter from the chairman shall be sent and if no reply within 15 days, the member maybe replaced as followed:

Unexcused absences is defined as a member failing to contact the county extension office staff, CPD, or another member of their intent not to be present for the meeting

## X. Amending the By-laws

The by-laws may be amended with a signed petition of at least 30 percent of the current members to the chairman and giving 60 days written notice to all current members. The Extension council by-laws shall be reviewed at least bi-yearly to ensure compliance with change in policy or laws.

Any changes must have fifty percent, plus one, vote of the full current membership to be approved, amended, or changed

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY MOTION ON:

THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MONTH OF THE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Chair Secretary

Vice Chair Treasurer

These by-laws are a recommended format by the University of Missouri Extension State Council. These are only guidelines for further information contact :

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