

B2022-08 Bylaw 5 - Republican Party Accountability

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: 6-0 Favorable Recommendation on 8/15/22 **Favor:** Ben Summerhalder, Charles Wood, Kraig Thorne, Lowell Nelson, Craig Frank, Chad Pritchard **Oppose:** None

Executive Committee: 14-0 Favorable Recommendation on 2/9/2023

Central Committee:

Purpose: To allow Party Officers to officially support and endorse the Convention nominee if that nominee is participating in a primary against other non-Convention nominee Republican candidates. The current bylaw does not allow Party Officers to officially support or endorse a Convention nominee that is participating in a primary where Republican opposition exists.

Legend: Changes to current language in **bold**, insertions in underline, deletions in ~~striketrough~~.

Bylaw 5. Republican Party Accountability

Current Language

C. County Party Officers - All county level Party officers including the County Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary; and the five Appointed Officers; must show pre-convention and primary neutrality toward Republican candidates for public office where Republican opposition exists. Such things as, but not limited to, written endorsements or criticism, the use of officers' names in campaign literature (with or without their Party titles), and written or verbal public statements, letters to the editor favoring or disfavoring one Republican candidate over another, are prohibited for these officers until the Party has chosen a nominee for the office in question. All other Party Officers at the Legislative District and Precinct levels must likewise be neutral, but only when using their party office titles either verbally or in writing.

Proposed Language

C. County Party Officers –

1. ~~All~~**C**ounty level Party officers including the County Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary; and the five Appointed Officers; must show pre-convention and primary neutrality toward Republican candidates for public office where Republican opposition exists. Such things as, but not limited to, written endorsements or criticism, the use of officers' names in campaign literature (with or without their Party titles), and written or verbal public statements, letters to the editor favoring or disfavoring one Republican candidate over another, are prohibited for these officers until the Party has chosen a nominee for the office in question with the exception of supporting or endorsing a candidate who is the Convention nominee. Under this circumstance, all county level Party officers are not required to maintain neutrality and may officially support and endorse the Convention nominee prior to a primary.

2. ~~All other Party Officers at the~~ Legislative District and Precinct levels officers must likewise be neutral, but only when using their party office titles either verbally or in writing.

Final Language

C. County Party Officers –

1. County level Party officers including the County Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary; and the five Appointed Officers; must show pre-convention and primary neutrality toward Republican candidates for public office where Republican opposition exists. Such things as, but not limited to, written endorsements or criticism, the use of officers' names in campaign literature (with or without their Party titles), and written or verbal public statements, letters to the editor favoring or disfavoring one Republican candidate over another, are prohibited for these officers until the Party has chosen a nominee for the office in question with the exception of supporting or endorsing a candidate who is the Convention nominee. Under this circumstance, all county level Party officers are not required to maintain neutrality and may officially support and endorse the Convention nominee prior to a primary.

2. Legislative District and Precinct levels officers must likewise be neutral, but only when using their party office titles either verbally or in writing.

Pro: Allows Party Officers to officially support and endorse the Convention nominee even if that nominee is participating in a primary against other non-Convention nominee Republican candidates. This also brings relevance back to the delegates.

Con: