

ENDORSEMENT POLICY

The endorsement of Republican candidates shall include: (1) letter of intent; (2) the screening process; (3) the endorsement meeting of the Central Committee; and (4) post-endorsement. A candidate who has received the endorsement of the Central Committee may also be subject to proceedings wherein the previously-conferred endorsement may be revoked.

Sec. 1 Letters of Intent

Candidates shall submit their letters of intent to the Chairman of the Party no later than 45 days prior to the filing deadline for a primary election or the municipal court filing deadline.

Sec. 2 Screening Committee

The Executive Committee shall act as the Screening Committee. The Chair of the Executive Committee shall preside over the Screening Committee with no voting rights unless he is a precinct executive. Candidates for any office being screened, and the current officeholder of an office being screened, along with the relatives and employees of candidates and officeholder, shall not be permitted to serve on the Screening Committee.

The Screening Committee shall meet with each candidate to consider their qualifications. Prior to this meeting, the Committee will prepare a questionnaire to be completed by the candidates. The Chairman will distribute completed questionnaires to all central committeemen at least seven days prior to the meeting of the Screening Committee.

The Screening Committee will not endorse but shall scrutinize the candidates and make recommendations to the Central Committee. The Screening Committee shall determine by simple majority vote whether each candidate is "Eligible" for the office being sought in terms of meeting the criteria as set forth by the ORC; and whether the candidate is "Recommended" by the committee.

Sec. 3 Central Committee Endorsement Meeting

The Party shall conduct closed endorsement meetings by locating a meeting facility that is not open to the general public. Roll call of the committeemen will be taken and a determination of quorum made prior to the candidates' remarks.

The endorsement meeting notice shall contain a reminder to members that they must arrive in time to attend the forum before being permitted to vote on that endorsement. Central Committee members who do not arrive in time to attend the forum will not be permitted to vote on that endorsement.

The endorsement meeting shall be for the endorsement process only and shall be held no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the primary election or filing deadline for municipal court judge. The reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report shall be suspended and no regular business will be conducted. There will be no nominating speeches and no seconding speeches from the floor.

Candidates shall make a brief statement to the Central Committee. This address shall be limited to an appropriate amount of time as determined by the Chairman, and part of this address shall state their reasons for seeking the position and their qualifications. There shall be no nominations from the floor.

Prior to the vote, candidates shall participate in an open forum before the Central Committee. The forum shall include questions from Central Committee members present.

All voting at the endorsement meeting shall be by secret ballot for all candidates including incumbents.

A candidate for any office shall become the endorsed candidate for that office upon receiving a vote of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting - a quorum being present. The number of ballots permitted for an endorsement shall be limited to one more than the number of candidates. With each round of voting, the candidate with the fewest number of votes will be dropped from subsequent ballots. In the event of a tie for the least number of votes, all of the candidates in that tied last position will be dropped from subsequent ballots, as long as two candidates still remain. In the event of a tie for the

least number of votes in which dropping all tied candidates would leave fewer than two candidates, that round of balloting would be repeated with none of the candidates being dropped. This repeated ballot would not reduce the number of permitted ballots. When only two candidates remain, if no endorsement has been reached, each candidate - or his representative - may speak to the Committee for three minutes before the next vote occurs. If no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) majority, there shall be no endorsement.

There shall be a space on each ballot for a "no endorsement" vote. Ballots so marked will count in the total of which a candidate will need sixty (60%) percent for an endorsement. In order for a ballot to be counted, it must be marked for a candidate or "no endorsement". If none of the candidates for the same office receive sixty (60%) percent of the vote after the last ballot, any candidate(s) receiving at least forty-five (45%) percent shall be listed as "well qualified".

The counting of all ballots shall be witnessed by representatives of all candidates; and the results shall be announced and posted in full view of the Central Committee members at the endorsement meeting.

Voting for candidates for General Assembly shall be limited to those Central Committee members representing only that legislative district. The results of this voting shall represent the endorsement of the full membership of the Central and Executive Committees.

Sec. 4 Post-Endorsement

Republican candidates for election or appointment pursuant to this policy shall have exclusive access to all Party support systems. Where there is an endorsed Republican candidate for a particular office and an unendorsed Republican candidate is running against said endorsed candidate, then in said event, the unendorsed candidates shall not have any access, direct or indirect, to any Party support system. Further, no officer or member of the Central or Executive Committee shall directly or indirectly make available services paid for, provided, generated, or otherwise organized under the auspices of the

Clermont County Republican Party to any unendorsed candidate, in a primary or general election, in which a candidate for such office has been endorsed by the Clermont County Republican party.

In the event there is no endorsement or "well qualified" rating, as provided in this policy for an office, no candidate for that office shall have access to Party resources. Any candidate who received a "well qualified" rating from the endorsement process will be permitted the use of available Party resources, at his/her own expense, including those races where there may be two or more such ratings.

Sec. 5 Revocation of Endorsement

Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, a special meeting of the Central Committee may be called to consider the revocation of any prior endorsement of the Party for just cause. If so called, written notice of such a meeting and the purpose thereof shall be given at least five (5) days in advance of such meeting. The endorsement shall be revoked upon a vote of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting, a quorum being present.

If the endorsement of a candidate for a particular office is revoked as provided in this section, the Central Committee may consider the endorsement of another candidate for that office either at the meeting called for the consideration of the revocation or at a subsequent meeting.