Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

March 3, 2026

Via 1st Class Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt

Mr. Darryl Griffin
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Griffin,

This letter serves as formal notice that on March 3, 2026, the Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) has received, via certified mail, an envelope containing a filing fee check for your 2026 candidacy for Presiding Commissioner.

As previously communicated in our February 26, 2026, letter (copy enclosed), the OCRC has rejected your candidacy under the Republican label. This rejection is final.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION REGARDING SIGNATURE FOR CERTIFIED MAIL:

Correspondence to the committee is the responsibility of our secretary, according to our bylaws. It should be noted that the signature on the receipt for the certified mail sent by the county clerk is the secretary's signature, not the treasurer's signature. Because the committee had already voted to reject your candidacy, your check was not delivered to our treasurer. The signature on the certified mail receipt was required solely to accept delivery of the envelope from the United States Postal Service. This signature does not constitute acceptance of the filing fee, acknowledgment of payment, or any validation of your candidacy. The OCRC explicitly rejects the enclosed check and returns it herewith (enclosed).

CLARIFICATION ON CLERK'S ROLE IN RECEIVING AND FORWARDING FEES:

Paragraph 2 of RsMO 115.357 states that the required sum for a filing fee **may** be submitted to the official accepting the declaration of candidacy. If submitted to the clerk, the clerk's duty is to promptly forward the fee to the committee treasurer. The clerk's interaction in receiving and forwarding the filing fee does not constitute acceptance of the filing fee by the committee.

FINAL REJECTION AND ENFORCEMENT:

As stated in our letter to you dated February 26, 2026, this rejection is final. We have no intention of reversing this decision or offering an appeal. Any attempt to appear on the ballot as a Republican will be contested, including filing an elections complaint with the Missouri Secretary of State and Attorney General against the Osage County Clerk for violating RsMO 115.637(12) (willful neglect or refusal to perform statutory duties, a Class Four election offense).

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Central Committee

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

Enclosed:

- Original Filing Fee Check
- Copy of February 26, 2026 rejection of candidacy letter

cc:

- Brooke Dudenhoeffer, Osage County Clerk (via 1st Class Mail)
- Craig Rantz, OCRC Treasurer (via email)
- Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division (via email)

Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

February 26, 2026

Via 1st Class Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt

Mr. Darryl Griffin
[redacted]

Dear Mr. Griffin,

The Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) has voted to reject your 2026 candidacy under the Republican label for the Office of Presiding Commissioner.

This rejection is based on your failure to complete the required vetting process and remit the filing fee to our Treasurer, as mandated by Missouri law (RsMO 115.357) and OCRC bylaws. We have also been informed that you do not intend to participate in vetting and are reportedly planning to use county taxpayer funds to challenge the committee's authority, including hiring legal counsel.

Vetting is a free, straightforward process to ensure candidates align with the Missouri Republican Party Platform. It protects the Republican label and voter trust. Missouri law and U.S. Supreme Court precedent affirm that political parties have the right to control who may use their name on the ballot, including rejecting unwanted associations.

Given your actions since December 2023 — including your public outburst and disparaging remarks directed at committee members during our December 21, 2023, meeting when we were amending our bylaws to incorporate vetting, as well as your continued behind-the-scenes efforts to undermine and disparage the process — this rejection is final. We have no intention of reversing this decision or offering an appeal.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Central Committee

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com