Attached letter to County Clerk re OCRC Nomination Process

From: Osage County Republican Central Committee <ocrc@osagecountyrepublicans.com>
To: [redacted]
cc: Treasurer@OsageCountyRepublicans.com
[redacted] [redacted]
Date: 2026 03 07 12:58

Dear Sonya,

The attachment to this email is lengthy but a very important letter to Osage County Clerk Brooke Dudenhoeffer regarding our Committee's nomination process. I urge you to read the entire letter.

Additionally, I strongly urge you to take a close look at the Candidate Declaration Form you swore under oath and submitted to the clerk. In the sentence where you fill in the name of the "party ticket," you declare "if nominated..."

Who nominates you? Have you been led to believe that the clerk nominates you, or that you nominate yourself simply by submitting the declaration form and a filing fee?

Imagine a scenario where a Republican incumbent for a county office faces a strategy from another party (for example, the Democrats) to confuse voters by getting 10 Democrats to file as Republicans. If anyone who files with the clerk gets on the Republican primary ballot, that's 11 names for a single office. Are you safe as an incumbent? It's likely that among the 10,000 voters in the county, only a small number will recognize your name as the incumbent — the ballot won't identify it.

That is not a theoretical scenario — it is happening around the U.S.

Here's another: If the clerk has 'nominating' authority, what if 5 good Republicans file for the same office, but the clerk believes there should only be 2 candidates? Does the clerk have authority to decide which 2 get on the ballot? What criteria does the clerk use? What if you are one of the 3 rejected?

The fact is that the county clerk has absolutely no statutory authority to make nomination decisions regarding candidates. The attached letter outlines the many statutes that clearly give that authority to the county political committees.

For our county, OCRC designed a nomination process that includes vetting — a process that we determined to be the fairest approach to making these decisions. We could still just flip a coin or base decisions on personal preferences — Missouri law does not dictate to political committees what process they must use for nominations.

As of today, March 7th, we have nominated two candidates for the Republican primary ballot: Valerie Prater for Treasurer, and John Glavin for Presiding Commissioner. As we explained to you in a previous letter, next Tuesday (March 10th) we will return your filing fee check if you have not completed our nomination process.

We are very concerned that candidates are being misled on this matter. If the only advice you have received about nominations comes from external sources like lobbyist organizations or officials who

may not fully understand the process, we urge you to seek qualified advice.

I am available to answer questions.

Linda Rantz, Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Committee

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

OsageCountyRepublicans.com

1 attachment

20260306_Clerk_re_nomination_process_OCRC_authority_pw.pdf (309 KB)