

## **ENDORSEMENT POLICY**

The endorsement of Republican candidates shall be a five part process consisting of (1) letter of intent; (2) the screening process; (3) forum; (4) endorsement by the Central Committee; and (5) post endorsement.

### **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 Central Committee shall serve as ex-officio member of the Screening Committee with no voting rights except in the case of a tie. The following shall not be qualified nor permitted to serve on the Screening Committee:

- A. Candidates for any office being screened and their relatives or employees;
- B. The officeholder of an office being screened and their relatives or employees.

The Screening Committee will not endorse but shall scrutinize the candidates and make recommendations to the central committee. The recommendation shall be a one word grade of either Qualified or Unqualified.

### **Sec. 3 Forum**

Candidates, after having first appeared before the Screening Committee and prior to the vote at the endorsement meeting, shall participate in an open forum before the Central Committee. The forum panel will be a sub-committee comprised of members of the Executive

Committee. The forum shall include questions from the panel members, competing candidates, and Central Committee members present.

All candidates shall have a resume available at the time of the forums for distribution to Central Committee members.

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.

**Sec. 4 Central Committee Endorsement Meeting**

The Party should make an attempt to hold closed endorsement meetings by locating a meeting facility that is not open to the general public.

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.

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(60%)percent of those present and voting - a quorum being present. The number of ballots permitted for an endorsement shall be limited to three. If there are three or less candidates for the same office, the number of ballots shall be one less than the number of candidates. There shall be at least one ballot for each office. If a

sixty(60%)percent majority of the votes cast on the final ballot is not obtained, 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 posting of the results shall be done 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. 5      After Endorsement Follow-up**

Republican candidates for election or appointment pursuant to these By-Laws 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 these By-Laws 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.

Township Central Committee Chairpersons shall submit letters to the Chairman stating their endorsement of village, township, school board members, etc. and asking permission to use the Ohio Republican Party bulk mailing permit. Upon receipt of this request, the Chairman may grant request of use of the bulk mailing permit only. The candidate for village, township, city, or school board office shall not state he is "endorsed by the Clermont County Republican Party"; the candidate shall only state he is endorsed by the appropriate township, not by the county Republican Party.