



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

February 26, 2026

Re: Rejection of Darryl Griffin's Republican Candidacy for 2026

Via First Class Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt

Ms. Brooke Dudenhoeffer
Osage County Clerk
PO Box 826
Linn, MO 65051

Dear Clerk Dudenhoeffer,

This letter serves as official notice from the Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) that we have formally rejected the 2026 Republican candidacy of Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin for the Office of Presiding Commissioner.

This rejection is final and based on his failure to complete the required vetting process and remit the filing fee to our Treasurer, as required by RsMO 115.357 and OCRC bylaws. We have not received any filing fee from your office for Mr. Griffin, and we understand he does not intend to participate in vetting. We are also informed that he is reportedly planning to use county taxpayer funds to challenge the committee's authority, including hiring legal counsel through the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities (MACCEA). This use of public money is particularly concerning in an election year when Osage County voters will decide on two initiatives aimed at easing the tax burden on residents and seniors.

Please do not place Mr. Griffin on the ballot under the Republican label. Missouri law requires that candidates pay the filing fee to the party committee treasurer and receive a receipt before ballot placement. The committee is exercising its First Amendment right to control who may use the Republican name, including the authority to avoid potentially unwanted associations, as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court and recent Missouri court decisions.

A copy of this letter is being sent via certified mail. Contact me with any questions at OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Central Committee

cc: Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division