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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Osage County Republican Central Committee Rejects Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin's Candidacy Under Republican Label

The Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) has formally rejected Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin's 2026 candidacy under the Republican label for the Office of Presiding Commissioner.

This decision is based on Mr. Griffin's failure to complete the required vetting process and remit the filing fee to the committee Treasurer, as required by Missouri law (RSMO 115.357) and OCRC bylaws. We have been informed that Mr. Griffin does not intend to participate in vetting and is reportedly planning to use county taxpayer funds to challenge the committee's authority, including hiring legal counsel.

This use of public money is particularly troubling in an election year when Osage County voters will decide on two initiatives to ease the tax burden on residents and seniors. At a time when the county is considering ways to lower taxes and support our community, spending taxpayer dollars to avoid a free vetting process raises serious questions about fiscal responsibility and conservative principles.

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.

OCRC remains open to any candidate who completes vetting by the March 29 deadline. We encourage all conservatives interested in running as Republicans to start the process at <https://osagecountyrepublicans.com/vetting/>.

For more on party rights, see the Cole County Court judgment in Missouri Republican Committee v. McClanahan (May 17, 2024): <https://osagecountyrepublicans.com/document/missouri-republican-committee-v-mcclanahan-cole-county-judgment-may-17-2024-key-excerpt-on-party-authority-to-reject-filing-fees/>.

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