



**Osage County Republican Committee**  
PO Box 196  
Linn, MO 65051

[Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com](mailto:Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com)

To: **Brooke Dudenhoeffer, County Clerk**

Subject: **2026 Candidate Vetting Notification**

**Dear Brooke,**

The Osage County Republican Committee (OCRC) conducts a mandatory vetting process for all candidates seeking to file as Republicans for partisan political offices or Committeeman/Committeewoman positions, per our bylaws. We request your cooperation in ensuring compliance with this process to uphold Republican principles and prevent voter confusion.

**Vetting Process Overview:** The Committee vets candidates to confirm alignment with the Missouri Republican Party Platform (including 2024 amendments recognized by REPACCMO) and, for committee candidates, commitment to OCRC goals (e.g., promoting Republican values, supporting events like the Lincoln Day Dinner, and growing party membership). The two-part process includes:

- **Part 1:** Online Candidate Vetting Request Form (notification of intent and public record review for platform alignment).
- **Part 2:** REPACCMO's standardized online Candidate Questionnaire & Pledge (assessing positions on key issues).

Links to both are available on our website at [OsageCountyRepublicans.com/Vetting](https://OsageCountyRepublicans.com/Vetting).

Approved candidates receive a receipt from the OCRC Treasurer, Craig Rantz: a standard receipt upon payment of filing fee for partisan offices or a zero-dollar receipt confirming vetting approval (for committee positions; no fee required). Payment methods are explained on our website (online payments, checks mailed to our PO Box, no cash, no in-person payments).

**Note:** Passing the REPACCMO process (earning their "VETTED" badge) does **not** constitute OCRC approval — both parts must be successfully completed for OCRC qualification. Unapproved candidates (partisan or committee) will be notified via certified mail and email within four (4) business days, with appeal rights. Any checks received for partisan offices from candidates who do not pass vetting will be returned within seven (7) days.

### **Key Deadlines for 2026 (Central Time):**

- Vetting opens: January 13, 2026 (OCRC Part 1 form is live on our website).
- Submit Part 1 form and complete Part 2 (REPACCMO Questionnaire): By March 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (48-hour buffers ensure time for review before filing close).
- OCRC will complete reviews and issue decisions for all candidates meeting these deadlines prior to filing close.

### **Expectations for Cooperation:**

1. **Candidate Notification:** Enclosed is a form letter for potential candidates (also available as PDF on our website). Please include this letter in all candidate packets and provide it to individuals inquiring about filing as Republicans.
2. **Receipt Requirement:** Candidates must present a valid receipt from the OCRC Treasurer to appear on the ballot as Republicans. Do not place candidates on the ballot without this receipt. This applies to partisan offices (fee receipt) and committee positions (zero-dollar receipt confirming vetting approval).

The Committee's vetting process ensures that only candidates aligned with Republican principles appear on the ballot as Republicans, preventing voter deception, as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567 (2000). Your adherence to these procedures supports our legal authority and shared commitment to fair elections.

Please contact me with any questions or for clarification.

Sincerely,

Linda Rantz, Chair  
Osage County Republican Central Committee

206-228-3494

[OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com](mailto:OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com)

PS: You may have noticed that we have updated our email addresses to use our web domain.