



Osage County Republican Committee  
PO Box 196  
Linn, MO 65051

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

March 3, 2026

Subject: **Receipt of Filing Fee Checks – Clarification  
of Process & Expectations**

**via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt and Email**

Brooke Dudenhoeffer  
Osage County Clerk  
205 E. Main ST  
PO Box 826  
Linn, MO 65051

Dear Clerk Dudenhoeffer,

We have had an opportunity to review the contents of the envelope received from you today via certified mail. The envelope contained six filing fee checks but **no cover letter or any other correspondence** from your office.

For the record: our signature on the certified mail receipt was solely to accept delivery of the envelope from the United States Postal Service. This signature does **not** constitute acceptance of any filing fee, acknowledgment of payment, or validation of any candidacy.

The postal worker informed us that postage for this certified letter was paid at 3:45 p.m. on March 2, 2026 — 36 minutes after I emailed you a copy of the election complaint filed that morning with the Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division regarding your failure to forward filing fees.

**Filing Fee Process** Per RsMO 115.357, candidates **shall** pay the required sum to the treasurer of the county committee of the political party whose nomination they seek. While the statute allows the fee to be submitted to the clerk, the clerk's duty is to **promptly forward** it to the committee treasurer. The clerk's interaction in receiving and forwarding the filing fee does **not** constitute acceptance of the filing fee by the committee. Payment is considered accepted only when funds are deposited in the committee's bank account.

**Zero Receipt for Committee Positions** Candidates for Committeeman or Committeewoman do not pay a filing fee (per RsMO 115.611) but **must** complete vetting per OCRC bylaws. If approved, they receive a zero-dollar receipt to present to the clerk as evidence of eligibility to appear on the ballot as a Republican. Without a zero receipt, they either did not complete vetting, or their candidacy was rejected by the committee.

**Status of Checks Received** We are holding the six checks for 7 calendar days (until March 10, 2026) to allow candidates to complete the required vetting process. If vetting is not successfully completed by March 9, checks will be returned by certified mail. This includes the check submitted in your name as a candidate for County Clerk.

We provided instruction sheets for candidate packets in January 2026, and we are happy to supply additional copies if needed.

**Expectations** We expect full compliance with your statutory duty under RsMO 115.357 to promptly forward fees and to not place any candidate on the ballot as a Republican without a committee-issued receipt (standard or zero-dollar). The committee's authority to enforce this requirement is protected by the First Amendment and Missouri law.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and the enclosed copies of the checks.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz  
Chairwoman  
Osage County Republican Central Committee

**Enclosures via email:**

1. Copy of January 14, 2026 letter to clerk
2. Copy of filing fee check for Brooke Dudenhoeffer
3. Copies of letters with filing fee checks received from 5 candidates who have not completed vetting

**Enclosures via US Mail:**

1. Copy of January 14, 2026 letter to clerk
2. Copy of filing fee check for Brooke Dudenhoeffer

**CC (via email without attachments 2 and 3):**

Craig Rantz, OCRC Treasurer  
Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division ([elections@sos.mo.gov](mailto:elections@sos.mo.gov))

HAND DELIVERED ON JANUARY 14, 2026



**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,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chair  
Osage County Republican Central Committee

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

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

HOLD – DO NOT DEPOSIT

PENDING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF VETTING PROCESS

Brooke Dudenhoeffer  
[REDACTED]

1039  
90-1474815

2-24 2026

CHECKSAFE

Pay to the Order of Osage County Republican Committee \$ 100.00

One hundred 00/100 Dollars

[REDACTED]

For \_\_\_\_\_ [REDACTED] MP

[REDACTED]