



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

March 3, 2026

Subject: **Filing Fee Received from Osage County Clerk
– Important Notice**

Ms. Carrie Muenks
[REDACTED]

Dear Carrie,

We received your filing fee check today via certified mail from the Osage County Clerk's office. Please be advised that receipt of this check **does not** constitute acceptance of your filing fee or approval of your candidacy under the Republican label.

We are holding your check for 7 calendar days (until March 10, 2026) to allow time for you to complete the required vetting process. If vetting is not successfully completed by March 9, your check will be returned by certified mail.

Regarding the use of taxpayer funds: We have been informed that some county officials are reportedly planning to use public taxpayer dollars to challenge the committee's vetting process. This 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. How can spending taxpayer money to avoid a free process required by their own political party sit well with the taxpayers of Osage County?

Vetting is free, online, and straightforward. It demonstrates your alignment with conservative Republican principles and protects the Republican label for voters. As a reminder of the instructions previously provided in our February 26, 2026, letter (copy attached as page 2), please complete the process as outlined. Contact me at OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz
Chairwoman

Enclosure (page 2): Copy of your February 26, 2026 letter

Additional Enclosure: Copy of the filing fee check received from the Osage County Clerk

cc: Craig Rantz, OCRC Treasurer



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

February 26, 2026

Subject: **OCRC Vetting Information**

Ms. Carrie Muenks



Dear Carrie,

Congratulations on filing your candidacy for County Recorder in the 2026 election cycle! We appreciate anyone willing to step forward and serve our community.

I'm writing on behalf of the Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) because it appears the Clerk's office may have accidentally omitted our informational sheet explaining the vetting process for candidates running under the Republican label. I've enclosed a copy for your convenience.

Vetting is a simple, free, two-part online process that helps ensure candidates who appear on the ballot as Republicans are aligned with the Missouri Republican Party Platform and conservative principles. It protects the party label so voters can trust the candidates listed as Republicans share core values. Many candidates find it helpful because it demonstrates transparency and commitment to voters.

A quick note about the filing fee: Missouri law (RsMO 115.357)¹ requires the filing fee to be paid to the party committee treasurer (in this case, our Treasurer, Craig Rantz). The county clerk may receive the payment, but the statute requires prompt forwarding to the committee. To date, no fees have been forwarded to us for any filings. If you submitted payment directly to the clerk, you may want to consider contacting them to confirm the fee is being sent to our Treasurer — or, to avoid any delay, you may cancel that payment and remit the fee directly to us (details are on the enclosed sheet).

As a committee, we believe in transparency and fairness. Missouri courts have upheld the right of political parties to control who may use the party name on the ballot — including the authority to avoid potentially unwanted associations — as protected by the First Amendment and affirmed

¹ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=115.357>

in decisions such as *Missouri Republican Committee v. McClanahan* (Cole County Circuit Court, May 17, 2024).²

We encourage all interested conservatives to participate — it's quick and demonstrates your commitment to Republican ideals. You can start anytime online at [OsageCountyRepublicans.com/Vetting](https://osagecountyrepublicans.com/Vetting).³ Our deadline is March 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to allow time for review before filing closes.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out — we're here to support strong Republican candidates.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve Osage County.

Warm regards,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chair
Osage County Republican Central Committee

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

Enclosure: OCRC Vetting Informational Sheet (2026)

² <https://osagecountyrepublicans.com/document/missouri-republican-committee-v-mcclanahan-cole-county-judgment-may-17-2024-key-excerpt-on-party-authority-to-reject-filing-fees/>

³ <https://osagecountyrepublicans.com/vetting/>

HOLD – DO NOT DEPOSIT

PENDING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF VETTING PROCESS

██████████
CARRIE A MUEENKS
██████████

3961
80-157865

2/23/2020 Date

CHECK AMBR

Pay to the Order of Osage County Republican Comm. \$ 100.00
One hundred and 00/100 Dollars

Photo Safe Deposit®
Details on back

██████████ FDIC

For filing for recorder of deeds

██████████

██████████

MP

Registered Clerk