



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

March 6, 2026

Subject: **Cease and Desist – Advising Republican Candidates to Bypass OCRC Nomination Process**

via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt and Email

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

Dear Clerk Dudenhoeffer,

The Osage County Republican Central Committee (OCRC) is concerned about information shared with us from a Republican candidate. We have been told that you encouraged them to bypass our nomination process, advising them (as paraphrased to us) that “you don’t have to go through [the committee’s process] — you can just give me your check and papers and that’s everything required” to be on the Republican primary ballot.

Your statement quoted in the *Unterrified Democrat* on March 4, 2026 — “Presiding Commissioner Griffin filed all of the paperwork required by state statute, including the filing fee, which I remitted to the committee treasurer ... within 4 business days”¹ — is not *inaccurate* but seems to imply that your actions granted the presiding commissioner’s nomination.

If you are indeed directing or advising potential candidates for the Republican primary ballot that you have any authority whatsoever to determine who appears on the Republican ballot, then you are gravely mistaken. You appear to rely on a single statute, [RsMO 115.357](#), which you had highlighted and opened at your office reception window when I and the Treasurer were there on February 24, 2026.

That statute has a single paragraph (par. 2) that mentions an “official” — it does not equate “official” to being the election authority or county clerk. It states that the filing fee “may be submitted by the candidate” to the “official accepting their declaration of candidacy.” [RsMO 115.355](#) states that Candidate Declaration forms shall be filed “in the office of the appropriate election official.” Not specifically to the clerk or election authority — just their “office.” It could

¹ The earliest arrival date was March 3, which is 8 calendar days, important to the committee to complete its nomination process. If you receive any additional filing fees later this month, this amount of time to get the checks to our Treasurer may result in candidates not being nominated for the Republican ballot.

be a deputy clerk or office staff who you assigned the task of receiving the candidacy declarations.

Paragraph 2 of [115.357](#) is simply a logistics clause of how the funds get to the committee treasurer — at either state or county levels. The legislature obviously understood that a county committee treasurer, a volunteer, could not be expected to be available at a moment's notice for 17 business days to receive filing fees at the clerk's office during the candidacy filing period. It was a courtesy to county-level candidates to be able to submit their filing fee to the "official" receiving their declaration, who would then promptly² forward it to the county committee treasurer. Regardless of who in your office received the declaration and filing fee, or who eventually mailed the fees to the committee, no one — yourself included — has the authority to grant a nomination on behalf of the Republican committee.

Our Nomination Process

As a county political committee, we have the authority to determine our nomination process. We have chosen an approach that includes vetting, but we could just as easily have flipped a coin or met at a local pub to make nomination decisions (which I have been told was the method some years ago). The county clerk has zero authority to approve or disapprove of our process, and zero authority to make nomination decisions on our behalf.

The Candidate Declaration Forms, which are being submitted to your office, signed and notarized by potential candidates, state: "...I further declare that **if nominated** and elected to such office..." Nothing in Missouri law states that the submission of this form to your office grants the nomination. The declaration is merely filed, as noted in [RsMO 115.355](#).³

The method for accepting payment from a candidate and granting a nomination is not determined by the county clerk. The statute does NOT state that forwarding the filing fee to our treasurer secures the nomination, and it does not assign any authority to the clerk to make that decision. Giving such assurances to candidates seeking nomination from the Republican county committee is absolutely false and could have very serious implications for you and those candidates.

It is the committee's decision alone as to how we will handle our nomination process, whether for candidate filing periods or under other circumstances as noted in these statutes: [RsMO 115.363](#), [115.364](#), [115.365](#), [115.367](#), [115.369](#), [115.371](#), [115.373](#), [115.377](#), [115.379](#). Note that none of these statutes give any nominating authority to an election authority/clerk.

We began working on our nomination process in the summer of 2023. It was used in 2024 with 8 candidates successfully completing the process for county offices, were issued filing fee receipts by our treasurer, and who then received the committee's nomination.

² Promptly is defined as "with little or no delay," "at once," "very quickly or immediately," or "in a punctual manner."

³ Par. 1: "...each declaration of candidacy **for nomination** in a primary election..."; Par. 3: "...shall accept for filing any declaration of candidacy **for nomination** in a primary election..."

For 2026, as we explained to you in our January 14, 2026, letter, we modified the process to allow candidates to complete the vetting questionnaires online — available 24/7 beginning January 13, 2026. This afforded candidates 76 days to access and complete our process.

For those successfully completing the process and receiving the committee's nomination, we offered options for paying the filing fee online with debit/credit cards or e-checks. Candidates could also mail a check to our PO box. We do not accept in-person payments or cash.⁴

The current county treasurer, Valerie Prater, successfully completed our nomination process, paid her filing fee electronically, and was granted our nomination for the office of county treasurer. This was completed prior to the opening of the candidate filing period. You confirmed to us on February 24th that Ms. Prater filed her Candidate Declaration Form earlier that day and presented you with the committee's receipt for payment of filing fee. And John Glavin, as you know, successfully completed our process just yesterday (March 5th) and submitted his declaration and receipt from the committee for his filing fee to you today.

This is the filing fee receipt requirement that was included in our January 14th letter to you:

1. **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).

But given that you forwarded filing fees for six people, it appears you have also created your own process, if you are indeed issuing filing fee receipts.

So, we are asking, has your office issued filing fee receipts for any of the filing fees you forwarded to us on March 2nd?

Mandatory vs Optional

In our January 14th letter to you, where we clearly explained our nomination process, we advised you in the very first line of the letter that the process is mandatory for those seeking to run as Republicans. However, the January 27th minutes from the commissioners meeting quotes you as stating that we dropped off “a vetting packet for anyone interested.” That statement is only correct if your intention was to say anyone interested in running on the Republican primary ballot. The fact, though, that the four candidate packets that we picked up from you on February 24th for our Republican committee members did not include our instructions for Republicans would only confirm that you are not honoring the committee's requirements.

⁴ As an FYI, the filing fee you received from the Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin was a \$100 bill which you forwarded to our PO Box in the certified mail envelope. Paying the \$100 filing fee in cash is a violation of Missouri Ethics laws, [RsMO 130.031 \(par. 2\)](#). Even if the committee had not rejected Mr. Griffin's nomination, we would have refused his filing fee so as not to be complicit in violating ethics laws.

The comment you repeated to us many times at your office on February 24th is that you are “just doing what I’m told.” We urge you instead to perform the statutory duties of county clerk. Nominations are as important in conducting elections as is the counting of ballots. Our rights as a county political committee to make decisions for nominations of Republican candidates for office is clearly delineated in Missouri law. It is also our First Amendment right under the U.S. Constitution to make decisions on wanted or unwanted associations with any candidate seeking a Republican nomination.

2026 Nominations by the Osage County Republican Committee

As of today’s date, March 6, 2026, the Osage County Republican Committee has nominated two candidates for the August primary ballot:

Valerie Prater for Treasurer
John Glavin for Presiding Commissioner

The committee has rejected the candidacy of Darryl Griffin for Presiding Commissioner and as previously stated, returned his filing fee to him.

Upcoming Deadline for Candidates Seeking Nomination as Republicans

As stated in our January 14th letter to you, and also in letters sent to incumbents and non-incumbents, the deadline for completing our nomination process is 5:00 p.m. on March 29th.

We respectfully request that you cease and desist from providing inaccurate advice to candidates seeking nomination from the Osage County Republican Committee. If you continue to do so, we will take appropriate action to protect our rights, including but not limited to filing additional complaints with the Missouri Secretary of State and Attorney General.

Please confirm receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz, Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Central Committee

cc: Craig Rantz, OCRC Treasurer
Missouri Secretary of State Elections Division (elections@sos.mo.gov)
Sonya Brandt (via email)
Amanda Grellner (via email)
Mary Ann Jacquin (via 1st class mail)
Carrie Muenks (via 1st class mail)
Denise Nolte (via email)