

Elections Complaint Form

Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name Linda Rantz, Chairwoman, Osage County Republican Central Committee
Address PO Box 196, Linn, MO 65051
County Osage
Phone Personal Cell Phone Number provided separately
Email OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com
My complaint pertains to the Election held on August, 2026

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Missouri Attorney General's Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Unsure at this time |
| Missouri Ethics Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Local Election Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Local Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |

My complaint is regarding (check one):

- Absentee voting
- Candidate Qualifications
- Voting
- Election Judge Misconduct
- Improper Voter Registration
- Other Election law violation 115.357 re Filing Fees; 115.637(12) willfully refusing to perform duties

State the facts of the alleged violation, up to a maximum of 250 words, or attach a separate document. Please include:

- **The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and**
- **A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.**

Brooke Dudenhoeffer, Osage County Clerk, 205 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 826, Linn, MO 65051.

Since February 24, 2026, Osage County Clerk Brooke Dudenhoeffer has accepted filing fees from multiple candidates seeking to run as Republicans for county offices but has willfully failed to promptly forward those fees to the Osage County Republican Central Committee Treasurer as required by RSMo 115.357.

The Clerk had clear prior notice of OCRC's process:

Detailed Statement of Facts

Elections Complaint: Failure to Forward Filing Fees per RsMO 115.357

Complainant: Linda Rantz, Chairwoman, Osage County Republican Central Committee

Respondent: Brooke Dudenhoeffer, Osage County Clerk

1. Statutory Duty

RsMO 115.357 requires candidates for county office to pay the filing fee to the treasurer of the county committee. If submitted to the clerk, the fee “shall be promptly forwarded” to the committee treasurer.

2. Evidence of Prior Notice and Apparent Cooperation

- June 2025: Clerk emailed OCRC inquiring about vetting requirements as a potential candidate (Exhibit A), demonstrating early acknowledgment of committee authority.
- December 2025: OCRC notified clerk of 2026 vetting and upcoming instruction sheets (Exhibit B). No objections expressed by clerk.
- January 14, 2026: Hand-delivery of letter to clerk with vetting instruction sheets for candidate packets, with clear payment instructions to Treasurer (Exhibit C). No reply from clerk; no objections from clerk.

3. February 24, 2026 Interaction and Subsequent Failure

On February 24, 2026, OCRC Chairwoman and Treasurer visited the clerk’s office. The clerk provided a list of Republican filers (signed, dated, time-stamped 14:52, Exhibit D) and acknowledged that only one candidate (Valerie Prater) had a committee receipt. No fees were requested or handed over in person; OCRC’s instructions were clear that we do not accept in-person filing fees and candidates are responsible if they choose to submit their fees to the clerk, for ensuring the clerk forwards checks to our Treasurer.

The clerk stated she was “just doing what I’m told” by counsel for the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities, namely Travis Elliot, and by a commissioner, namely Darryl Griffin (Exhibit E – contemporaneous notes).

As of March 2, 2026, no filing fees have been received by the Treasurer (PO Box empty on February 24 through March 2). The clerk has provided no further updates on Republican filings or forwarded fees.

4. Classification of Offense

This constitutes willful neglect or refusal to perform a statutory duty with respect to holding and conducting an election (RsMO 115.637(12) – Class Four Election Offense).

The clerk's earlier cooperation (June 2025 inquiry, December communications) contrasts with her later refusal, indicating external direction rather than statutory compliance.

5. First Amendment Implications

By failing to forward fees and allowing candidates to appear on the ballot without committee receipt, the clerk is interfering with the Osage County Republican Central Committee's First Amendment right to control its own associations and avoid unwanted associations, as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *California Democratic Party v. Jones* (2000) and recognized in Missouri court decisions.

Exhibit List

- A. June 2025 clerk email thread
- B. December 2025 notification email thread
- C. January 14, 2026, hand-delivery confirmation / letter
- D. February 24, 2026, filer list from clerk
- E. Contemporaneous notes from February 24, 2026, interaction

/s/ Linda Rantz

Submitted by Linda Rantz
Chairwoman
Osage County Republican Central Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

OCRC@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

Dated: March 2, 2026

Exhibit A: Email Thread with Clerk (June, 2025)

Re: Vetting

From Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov>

To Linda Rantz [REDACTED]

Date Wednesday, June 11th, 2025 at 2:30 PM

Linda,

Thank you for getting back to me. I wish Mark well. I will take you up on that offer by the end of this week. I have a few questions and I need to write them down before I forget them all!

Thank you,

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Osage County Clerk

205 E. Main St.

P.O. Box 826

Linn, MO 65051

Phone: 573-897-2139

Fax: 573-897-4741

From: Linda Rantz [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 1:06 PM

To: Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov>

Subject: Re: Vetting

Brooke,

Mark had hoped to phone you this week to answer your questions, but his wife has told me he will not be able to call you. Please feel free to phone me anytime and I will do my best to answer your questions.

Best always,

Linda

Linda Rantz
[REDACTED]

On Thursday, June 5th, 2025 at 7:49 AM, Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov> wrote:

Good morning Linda,

I am actually asking on behalf of myself as a potential candidate.

Thank you,

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Brooke Dudenhoeffer
Osage County Clerk

205 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 826
Linn, MO 65051
Phone: 573-897-2139
Fax: 573-897-4741

From: Linda Rantz [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 7:55 PM
To: Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov>
Cc: Mark Lieneke [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Vetting

Hi Brooke,

Thank you for the message. I'm copying Mark on this message because I know he has spoken with you in the past about vetting, and he included information about it in his presentation at the Lincoln Day Dinner.

It would be helpful to know, are you asking on behalf of yourself as a potential 2026 candidate, or are you asking in your capacity as the clerk?

Best always,
Linda

Linda Rantz
[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 at 12:22 PM, Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov> wrote:

Linda,

I have a few questions for you regarding the vetting process and the Republican party requirements. I am entertaining the idea of running for County Clerk in 2026, however, I want to make sure all the ducks are in a row.

Please know, I do love what I do here at the county, I just need to make the best choice for my family as well.

Thank you,

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Osage County Clerk

205 E. Main St.

P.O. Box 826

Linn, MO 65051

Phone: 573-897-2139

Fax: 573-897-4741

RE: Subject: 2026 Republican Candidate Vetting Process – Osage County

From Osage County Republican Central Committee <OCRCC@proton.me>

To Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov>

Date Friday, December 12th, 2025 at 11:42 AM

Thank you!

On Friday, December 12th, 2025 at 11:35 AM, Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov> wrote:

Maybe 10 at the most. If I would need more I will let you know!

Thank you,

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Osage County Clerk

205 E. Main St.

P.O. Box 826

Linn, MO 65051

Phone: 573-897-2139

Fax: 573-897-4741

From: Osage County Republican Central Committee <OCRCC@proton.me>

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 11:06 AM

To: Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov>

Subject: RE: Subject: 2026 Republican Candidate Vetting Process – Osage County

Hi Brooke,

In the 2024 election cycle, we provided the clerk with a handout to include in candidate packets. We are preparing that document and will them printed for you. Please let me know how many you will need.

I'll check our records - I believe Mark sent emails about vetting to all Republican incumbents whose offices are up for election in 2026. And we might have had ads in the UD, but I'm not certain of the effectiveness.

Thanks,

Linda

On Friday, December 12th, 2025 at 10:36 AM, Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov> wrote:

Linda,

Good morning! Once your website is live, where do you plan to have it "advertised" for candidates to view and vet?

Thank you,

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Osage County Clerk

205 E. Main St.

P.O. Box 826

Linn, MO 65051

Phone: 573-897-2139

Fax: 573-897-4741

From: Osage County Republican Central Committee <OCRCC@proton.me>

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2025 9:32 AM

To: Osage County Clerk <osageclerk@osagecountymo.gov> [REDACTED]

Subject: Subject: 2026 Republican Candidate Vetting Process – Osage County

Good morning, Brooke,

I hope this email finds you well.

The Osage County Republican Central Committee will once again be vetting Republican candidates for the 2026 election cycle. We are finalizing our updated vetting process and will provide you with an instruction sheet for prospective candidates in the very near future.

For 2026, vetting will be conducted **online only** (no in-person interviews). Full instructions and the submission portal will be posted on our committee website, which is currently being upgraded and will be live soon.

If any candidate has questions, please direct them to our committee email:

OCRCC@proton.me

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our Republican ballot strong and principled.

Best regards, Linda Rantz Chairman Osage County Republican Central Committee

OCRCC@proton.me [REDACTED]

Exhibit C-1: Hand-Delivered Letter to Clerk (Jan 14, 2026)



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

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.

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

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

Exhibit C-2: Candidate Vetting Instructions (Jan 14, 2026)



Osage County Republican Committee
PO Box 196
Linn, MO 65051

Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

Subject: **2026 Candidate Vetting Instructions**

Dear Potential Candidate,

The Osage County Republican Committee (OCRC) requires all candidates seeking to file as Republicans for partisan political offices or for Committeeman or Committeewoman positions to complete a vetting process, per our bylaws. This process ensures alignment with the Missouri Republican Party Platform (including 2024 amendments recognized by REPACCMO) and, for committee candidates, commitment to advancing OCRC goals (e.g., promoting Republican values, supporting county events such as the Lincoln Day Dinner, and growing party membership).

The Vetting Process Has Two Required Parts (Both Online):

1. **Part 1: Vetting Notification & Platform Alignment Review** Complete OCRC's online Candidate Vetting Request Form at [insert your OCRC Part 1 form on our OCRC website: OsageCountyRepublicans.com/Vetting. Ensure all information is accurate — incorrect or omitted details may delay processing and cause you to miss the vetting deadline. This step notifies OCRC of your intent and allows our review of your public record (statements, social media, voting history, etc.) for alignment with Republican principles.
2. **Part 2: REPACCMO Candidate Questionnaire & Pledge** Complete REPACCMO's (*Republican Association of Central Committees in Missouri*) standardized online questionnaire (including the Candidate Statement pledge affirming majority alignment with the Missouri Republican Party Platform + 2024 amendments) at REPACCMO.com/vetting (scroll to the 2026 section).
 - o You must complete this yourself — do not share or delegate.
 - o Upon successful completion (70%+ alignment, no felonies, acceptable voting record if applicable), REPACCMO automatically issues their "REPACCMO VETTED" badge and may list you publicly. **However, this badge and REPACCMO's pass do NOT constitute OCRC approval.** OCRC makes the final pass/fail determination based on BOTH parts per our bylaws.
 - o REPACCMO will copy OCRC on your pass/fail notification. Full questionnaire answers are not shared with OCRC until after July 1, 2026 (when they become public for voters).

- Take this immediately after Part 1 — OCRC does not control REPACCMO's processing/notification speed.

Key Deadlines for 2026 (All Times Central):

- Vetting opens: January 13, 2026 (OCRC Part 1 form now live).
- Submit Part 1 form and complete Part 2 (REPACCMO Questionnaire): By March 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (48-hour buffer before official filing close; forms/questionnaire access locks after this time to allow OCRC review).
- Official state filing period (per Missouri Secretary of State): Opens February 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.; closes March 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Late submissions will not be accepted to ensure thorough review.

Receipts & Approval:

- Approved candidates for partisan political offices receive a receipt from our Treasurer upon payment of their filing fee (typically \$100 for county-level offices; per [RsMO 115.357](#)). Payment instructions will be emailed upon passing both parts.
- Approved committee candidates receive a zero-dollar receipt to confirm qualified status (no fee required; per [RsMO 115.611](#)).
- Unapproved candidates will be notified via email and certified mail within four (4) business days, with appeal rights to the Committee.
- Failure to complete and pass both parts will result in non-acceptance of your filing fee (for partisan offices) or non-qualification (for committee positions).

Contact OCRC with questions at Vetting@OsageCountyRepublicans.com

We appreciate your interest in serving as a Republican and your commitment to our shared principles.

Sincerely,

Linda Rantz, Chair
Osage County Republican Central Committee

OCRC Website
Vetting Page



Exhibit D: Republican Filer List from Clerk (as of Feb 24, 2026)

Presiding:

1. Darryl Griffin (R)
- 2.

Treasurer:

1. Valerie (R)
- 2.

Committeeman

1. Gene Lange (R)
- 2.

Recorder

1. Carrie Muenks (R)
- 2.

Clerk

1. Brooke Dudenhoeffer (R)
- 2.

Circuit Clerk

1. Mary Ann Jaquin (R)
- 2.

Circuit Judge

1. Sonja Brandt (R)
- 2.

Brooke Dudenhoeffer
2/24/26
14:52

Exhibit E: Contemporaneous Notes – February 24, 2026

Interaction with Osage County Clerk Brooke Dudenhoeffer

Prepared by: Linda Rantz, Chair, Osage County Republican Central Committee

Date Prepared: February 24, 2026 (notes taken shortly after the conversation, approximately 3:00 p.m.)

Location: Osage County Clerk's Office, visitor window (not inside office)

Summary

On February 24, 2026, around 2:15 p.m., I (Linda Rantz) and Treasurer Craig Rantz visited the Osage County Clerk's office at the visitor window. The purpose of our visit was to: (1) inquire about voter rolls and early voting dates for the April election, (2) ask for sample ballots, (3) request the ballot language for the two April tax initiatives, (4) discuss recruiting election judges (Republican and Democratic), and (5) pick up candidate packets for committee positions.

The clerk provided the information for the first four items. The conversation then turned to the candidate packets for committee positions. The clerk's demeanor prompted me to spontaneously ask about Republican filings.

Detailed Recollection (verbatim or near-verbatim quotes where possible)

1. The clerk handed us four candidate packets for committee filers. She noted they were “one size fits all” and that some forms might not apply to committee positions but provided no further instructions.
2. I spontaneously asked if any Republican candidates had filed that day.

Clerk: “Yes.”

I asked: “Valerie?”

Clerk: “Yes.”

I said: “Expected that, since she completed the process. Any others?”

Clerk: “Yes, quite a few.”

I asked: “How many?”

Clerk: “I would have to check.”

I stated: “No one else completed the process; they do not have receipts from the committee.”

Clerk: “I’m just doing what I’m told.”

I asked: "By whom?"

Clerk: "Travis Elliott."

I said: "I don't know who that is."

Clerk: "Lawyer for the Clerk's Association."

I responded: "The Clerk's Association is an NGO and has no authority over the clerk's statutory duties."

Clerk: "The association lawyer told us we could hire him."

I asked: "The county's going to pay for a lawyer?"

Clerk: "There's one particular commissioner who would need to vet but doesn't want to."

I said: "We all know it's Darryl, so let's just name him."

Clerk: "I'm just doing what I'm told."

I stated: "We're not going to sue Darryl; we're going to sue you, the clerk, for failing to perform your statutory duties."

Clerk: [shrugged] "I'm just doing what I'm told."

3. The clerk had her election law book open, with [RsMO 115.357](#) highlighted, particularly the part stating that a candidate MAY **submit** their filing fee to the clerk. I pointed out: "You cannot issue the receipt. That has to come from the committee treasurer."
4. At one point, the clerk asked who the current Treasurer is, noting uncertainty after the previous Chair's passing and subsequent reorganization of the committee. I replied: "Brooke, I sent you a letter."
5. I mentioned that I had sent letters to every incumbent Republican with instructions about the process. Not a single one responded, positively or negatively. I noted that, from a legal perspective, silence can be deemed affirmation.
Clerk: "I didn't know letters had been sent."
I clarified: "I sent you a letter in your role as clerk, but did not send you an incumbent letter because, until this moment, I did not know you were going to run as a Republican."
The clerk stated several times during the conversation that she "didn't really read everything."
6. I mentioned our process for issuing zero-dollar receipts for committee positions.
Clerk: "I didn't understand them."

I explained their purpose and that committee candidates do not pay a filing fee. The clerk appeared surprised and began looking at statute 115.357. When she could not locate the section on committee candidate filing fees, she handed me the book. I opened it to the relevant statute ([115.611](#)) and showed her the part about committee positions. She thanked me.

During this entire interaction, the clerk did not provide any filing fees to the treasurer or mention forwarding them to our PO Box. (Note: [115.357](#) states that all sums **submitted** to the clerk SHALL be forwarded **promptly** by the clerk to the treasurer.)

We also requested that the Clerk keep the Treasurer updated about any future filings for Republican positions.

Certification

These notes are a fair and accurate recollection of the conversation based on my memory and contemporaneous notes taken immediately after leaving the clerk's office on February 24, 2026.

Signed: /s/ Linda Rantz

Linda Rantz

Chair, Osage County Republican Central Committee

Date: March 2, 2026

Witness Statement

I, Craig Rantz, Treasurer of the Osage County Republican Central Committee, was present during the entire conversation with Clerk Brooke Dudenhoeffer on February 24, 2026. Although I did not take my own notes, I agree that the above is a fair and accurate summary of what was said and observed.

Signed: /s/ Craig Rantz

Craig Rantz

Treasurer, Osage County Republican Central Committee

Date: /s/ March 2, 2026