

April 17, 2023

Republican National Committee
310 First Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Formal complaint against the Republican Party of Kentucky and appeal to the RNC to support and protect the right of Republican Party affiliated organizations to censure Republican politicians who betray the Republican Party

What is a Republican? What defines any person as a Republican? What sets us apart from those who are not Republicans? The answer to these questions is simple: the platform of the Republican Party.

The Republican Party platform carefully sets out our views as a party. The platform tells our members what we believe and what we hope to accomplish in working together for the future of our nation.

When a politician files to run as a Republican candidate they sign a filing document stating that they support the platform of the Republican Party. In doing so they are saying to Republican voters at large that they have a certain set of values and beliefs that distinguish them from politicians that are not Republicans.

What happens when a Republican politician who represents us betrays our platform? The simple answer is that we elect a different Republican at the next primary election. But how do we communicate to our fellow Republicans the betrayal by that Republican politician, so that at the next primary election our fellow Republicans know that this betrayal of our platform has occurred? One of the ways to communicate that with our fellow Republicans is "censure".

"Censure" is commonly defined as an expression of severe disapproval of (someone or something). It is a "formal statement of disapproval and reprimand". That formal statement is referred to as a censure resolution which is a document that sets forth clearly the reason for the censure. That formal document is then adopted (majority vote) by the group or entity that is issuing the resolution.

The RNC should be familiar with the concept of censure. Not that long ago the RNC censured former Congressional Representatives Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger for their cooperation with Democrats in seeking to cause harm to fellow Republicans. That censure, in and of itself, did nothing more than communicate to all other Republicans that Cheney and Kinzinger had betrayed the Republican Party and its values.

The Cheney and Kinzinger censure gave encouragement to those Republicans who are deeply frustrated by wayward Republicans who abandon the defense of their Republican values. It told us that the RNC was standing up for us. We further believe that the RNC censure led to the eventual removal of those

representatives from office in their next primary elections, with better Republican alternatives taking their place.

Once again, let us emphasize that a censure does not, in and of itself, do anything but “communicate”. We have a term for this, which is found in the Constitution of the United States of America, “free speech”. The document that defines who we are as a people and nation says clearly that the right to free speech shall NOT be abridged, which means “shall not be prevented”. Censure is a formal expression of political speech and ANY attempt to stifle free speech, in particular political speech, should be an affront to all Americans, let alone Republicans.

In 2022 Senator Mitch McConnell, the leader of the Senate Republicans, betrayed the Republican Party platform when he joined with the Democrat Party in voting for a bill called “The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act”. That bill provided almost a billion dollars in funds for those states (about 20) who had adopted “Red Flag” laws.

A “Red Flag” law is a law that allows the removal of an individual’s gun without due process of law. This practice is a clear violation of the 2nd Amendment Rights” of American citizens and it flies in the face of the Republican Platform which says specifically:

We also oppose any effort to deprive individuals of their right to keep and bear arms without due process of law.

Once again, when Senator Mitch McConnell voted to provide funding for states which had adopted Red Flag laws, he was clearly making “an effort to deprive individuals of their right to keep and bear arms without due process of law”. The majority of Republicans who support the 2nd amendment are deeply unhappy with the actions of Senator McConnell.

In July 2022, the Republican Party of Jessamine County (Kentucky) formally censured Mitch McConnell. Members of Jessamine’s County Committee drafted a censure resolution, and the document was put forward to a quorum of their elected County Committee members at a special meeting of the committee (about half of their members were in attendance – 30). The county party voted to adopt the censure with about three quarters of the committee voting in support of it.

Following publication of that censure to the media, another eight Republican County parties adopted their own versions of a censure, all with the common theme that Senator Mitch McConnell betrayed our party’s platform, and our 2nd amendment rights by voting for the “Bipartisan Safer Communities Act”.

One of the most recent censures adopted was that by our own Hardin County. In that example the vast majority of the members of our county’s Republican party voted for the censure, but the officers of the County Party were unhappy with that, and the former chair and those officers made a formal complaint to the 2nd congressional district committee of the Republican Party of Kentucky saying that they believed the censure was out of order. In a letter they set out their reasons for why they believed that the censure was “out of order” in a 4-1 decision.

The 2nd District committee considered that complaint. The second district took up the complaint and ruled against the censure, calling it “out of order”. Their decision was not based upon the reasons set out in the

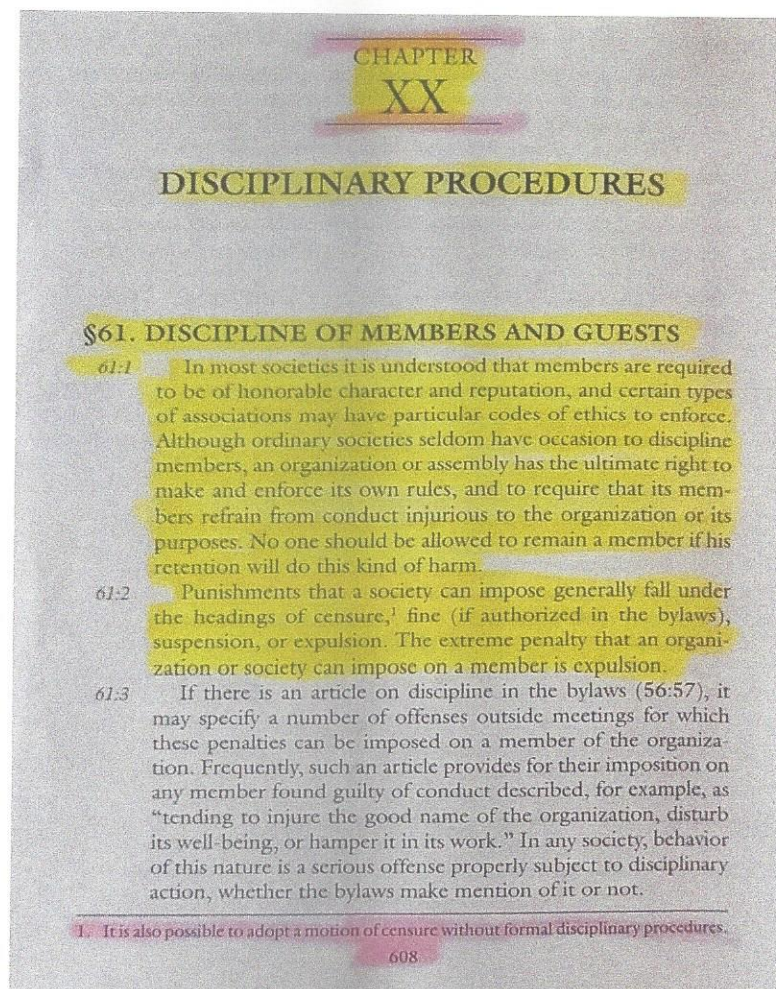
complaint but instead concluded based upon their own reasons as to why they believed that censure was “out of order”.

To summarize that decision, the 2nd district committee admitted that there was nothing in the Rules of the Republican Party of Kentucky that prohibited a county party from voting for or publishing a censure. Despite it NOT being against the rules of the party, they reasoned that the censure was out of order because “Roberts Rules of Order” prohibits a group from publishing a censure of an individual who is NOT a member of that particular group. More specifically they reasoned that as Mitch McConnell was not a resident of Hardin County, and not a member of the Hardin County Republican party, he could not be censured by that county party.

This logic ignores the distinction that the Roberts Rules of Order makes between a censure that includes formal disciplinary procedure and/or penalty, and one that does not. For example, a fine cannot be imposed on someone who is NOT part of the group. As the censure of McConnell had no formal disciplinary procedures, it falls outside that restriction.

The following is the page of Roberts Rules or Order noting the distinction in the footnote:

1. It is also possible to adopt a motion of censure without formal disciplinary procedures.



Once again, this abuse of Roberts Rules of Order was specifically addressed in an appeal that Hardin County then made to the Republican Party of Kentucky. That element of our appeal was completely ignored.

The state executive committee of the RPK has upheld the 2nd district decision. The RPK chose to ignore the well reasoned appeal from Hardin County and in its decision, it did not address the misuse of Roberts Rule of order. In doing so they are ruling that ALL the censures published by the County Republican parties about Mitch McConnell are invalid and out of order given that McConnell is not a member of any of those county Republican parties. This is bewildering as McConnell is a statewide elected Republican who appeared on the ballot of every Republican County when he ran for re-election in 2020. It stands to reason that Senator McConnell has a responsibility to all Kentucky Republicans, and thereby County Committees, for his failed leadership and failure of the standards set in the Party Platform since he is on every ballot in Kentucky.

There is no other recourse left than to complain to the Republican National Committee of which the RPK is a derivative group.

The RNC cannot allow the decision of the RPK to stand, for if you do then YOU are YOURSELVES admitting that you were "out of order" when you censured Cheney and Kinzinger. After all, neither of those Republican politicians were members of the Republican National Committee when censured. Other recent censures issued and published by Republican Party Groups in Alaska, Texas, Missouri, and Wyoming would also be "out of order" for the same reason.

McConnell himself objected to your censure of Cheney and Kinzinger by the RNC, but never advanced the bizarre rational which the RPK has relied upon. Given his reputation for being an expert parliamentarian, it speaks as to the absurdity of the RPK action and decision.

The decision of the Republican Party of Kentucky, imposed upon the County Parties that make up the foundation of the Republican Party of Kentucky cannot be allowed to stand. Worse, it cannot be ignored and must be addressed by the RNC. As fellow Republicans we ask that you step in and correct this abuse of power by the leadership of the Republican Party of Kentucky, who are NOT acting to defend the platform of our party but are instead acting as the protectors of Senator Mitch McConnell.

Finally, you will find all the related documents and material related to this matter, at a website that has been set up:

www.censuremitch.com

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me below.

Sincerely,



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