



December 5, 2022

Mr. Timothy Gilliam  
2d District Chairman  
Republican Party of Kentucky  
[timo.gilliam@gmail.com](mailto:timo.gilliam@gmail.com)

Dear Sir:

We the undersigned officers of the Hardin County Republican Party, in accordance with Rule 12.04. Appeals and Contests, subparagraph (a) of the Official Rules of the Republican Party of Kentucky, appeal an action to censure Senator Mitch McConnell voted on and approved by the majority of the precinct officers (24-14) of the Hardin County Republican Party.

The initial idea of censuring Senator McConnell came as a surprise to the leadership and passed with a majority (18-6) vote on August 8, 2022, but there was no specific verbiage of the censure until a special meeting to consider the censure was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Attached you will find a copy of the censure which passed with a majority vote on that date. It should be noted that no Hardin County Republican Party officer, elected official, or former candidate voted for the censure.

The undersigned officers question the propriety of the censure action in toto. While we do not question anyone's First Amendment rights to say what they want, we do question the authority of any county party to act outside the scope of Rule 4. County Committees of the Official Rules of the Republican Party of Kentucky. The mandate of RPK and all local parties is clear--to recruit Republican candidates and to work for the election of Republican candidates. We do not believe it is within the purview of any local party to censure any elected Republican official. While an individual Republican or a group of Republicans or other citizens may complain publicly or privately about any candidate or elected official, it is our firm belief that a censure issued by a county party is null and void because issuing a censure is ultra vires or outside the authority of any county party.

Under the rules we are appealing the decision of the Hardin County Republican Party to censure Senator Mitch McConnell based on it is outside the scope of Rule 4.0 County Committees and the duties of the county and precinct officers. In addition, we request that the 2nd District Committee issue a cease-and-desist order on any and all actions including but not limited to print, social media or telecommunication pending the outcome of the appeal process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Benitez, Chair  
James Weise, Vice Chair  
Rebecca Owens, Secretary  
Julia DuPlessis, Treasurer

Attachments:  
Censure document  
Rule 4.0 County Committees  
Rule 12.04. Appeals and Contest

Copy of Appeal provided to Precinct Officers