

**Subject:** Alternative Methods for Engagement with Elected Officials

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From: Hunter Whitaker <hwhitaker.rpk@gmail.com>

Date: 3/27/23 1:16 PM (GMT-05:00)

To:

Subject: Alternative Methods for Engagement with Elected Officials

To: Members of the Republican State Central Committee

From: Mac Brown, RPK State Chairman

Subject: Alternative Methods for Engagement with Elected Officials

Date: March 27, 2023

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On Saturday, March 11, 2023, the Republican Party of Kentucky (RPK) Executive Committee met to review the Membership Committee's decision regarding an appeal arising out of the 2nd Congressional District. The appeal in question was submitted in response to the 2nd District Committee's determination that it was not in the purview of the Hardin County Republican Committee to issue a censure resolution against someone who is not a member of the committee.

The RPK Executive Committee voted to ratify the Membership Committee's recommendation to uphold the decision of the 2nd Congressional District Committee. The 2nd Congressional District Committee found that because the RPK Official Rules do not address a process for a committee to censure, Robert's Rules of Order are the appropriate standard of review. Based on Robert's Rules of Order, resolutions of censure are only carried out against members of an organization.

As stated in Chapter 15 of Robert's Rules of Order, "to censure a member or an officer is to warn him or her that if a certain behavior continues, the next step is suspension or expulsion." Further, Robert's Rules of Order defines the purpose of censure is "to reprimand the member with the hopes of reforming him or her so that he or she won't behave in the same way again." Consequently, since no action can be taken against a nonmember of an organization, a censure is out of order.

The proper use of censuring an individual is when a committee member has acted in a manner inconsistent with the organization's rules and regulations. It is not an appropriate reaction to be used against individuals in matters of personal dispute or disagreement on policy or position.

Freedom of speech is a value cherished by the Republican Party of Kentucky. Certainly, we all agree that healthy discourse and respectful debate are essential to the growth and innovation of our Party. In fact, that is one of the main reasons we've been able to become Kentucky's largest political party in such a short period of time. When it comes to expressing our opinions and disagreements, we must remember that we are a big tent party. While it is important for our elected leaders to hear the sentiments of their constituents, for this to be meaningful, the way we communicate needs to be done properly.

That being said, when we disagree with our elected leaders there are ways to have healthy discussions and to communicate our differences of opinion. Obviously, letters (or emails), and open dialogue are appreciated by all leaders. If you want something more formal and public, petitions can also be a very

impactful way of engaging on issues of policy or differences of opinion.

The first and foremost mission and purpose of the Republican Party of Kentucky is to elect Republican candidates to office. While we are all free to make our own personal decisions, as leaders and officials within our party, we are called to lead by example. We have a responsibility to encourage and support Kentucky Republican political candidates, and we must all work together to advance our Republican principles and vision.

As our party leadership has grown within the Commonwealth, we are aware of the growing pains that accompany such growth and diversity of ideas. However, we cannot allow these growing pains to divide us, it is what Kentucky Democrats are hoping for. “United we stand, divided we fall,” rings as a prophetic message to our Party members. Now, more than ever, as we have just registered more Kentucky Republicans than ever before, and having elected more Kentucky Republicans than ever before, we must rededicate ourselves to the values of our Party.

I want to personally thank you for all you do for our Commonwealth and our Party.

Please always feel free to contact our team with any questions or concerns. You can reach out to Hunter Whitaker at [hwhitaker.rpk@gmail.com](mailto:hwhitaker.rpk@gmail.com) and she will be sure to pass along your messages, if needed.

Mac Brown  
Chairman, Republican Party of Kentucky

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