

Calen Studler
Chairperson, Franklin County Republican Party
Republican Party Headquarters
835 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

November 10, 2022

Calen:

As the chair of the Franklin County Republican Party (hereinafter, "FCRP"), you are tasked as the "Chief Executive Officer" of the Franklin County Republican Party. This past election cycle saw more Republican candidates for local offices than in Franklin County history. This included two magistrate candidates, a Sheriff's candidate, Judge Executive Candidate, and County Attorney candidate. Although no local candidate won their race, we saw a momentum in the local Republican party like no other, with the County Attorney candidate getting 50 votes shy of 10,000 votes and losing only by 150 votes.

Series of Events Leading to Resignation Request

The success of the local Republican Party this year was in spite of the lack of help or effort of our Chief Executive Officer. As 2022 candidates representing the FCRP, it is our belief that little attention was given to motivating Republicans to go to the polls and vote on November 8th, 2022. Examples are as follows:

- (1) On Sunday, October 23, 2022, a "Get Out the Vote" (hereinafter, "GOTV") meeting was organized by the candidates alone. Eighteen (18) candidates and volunteers attended. Voter lists with phone numbers were provided to all volunteers. You chose not to attend.
- (2) A follow up meeting was scheduled on Saturday, November 1, 2022 – seven days before the General election. You again chose not to attend. You indicated that you "plan[ned] to knock doors this Saturday," but there was no information provided to others organizing an effort to knock. Candidates were left to organize together.
- (3) On October 21, 2022, the FCRP website was not functioning. When asked, you informed multiple people that there was "limited money," and that the website had "been down for several months but it hadn't been updated for several years before that. There was a long story which I think you know some of but it really comes down to money." A call to the FCRP Treasurer informed candidates that there was, in fact, money in the budget for website repairs. This led to the crude biographies of candidates being posted online ten (10) days before the election. The Franklin County Democratic Party has been posting multiple times a day for several months with complete biographies of candidates and GOTV information since July.

- (4) In August 2022, we saw a segment of our party split into a separate subgroup because of frustration over leadership by the County Party Chair. This coincided with declining attendance at all Party meetings leading up to the election.
- (5) On November 5, 2022, a festival was held at Collins Lane Elementary, at which Republican candidates were advised that only campaign t-shirts would be allowed by office seekers because “no campaigning was allowed on school grounds.” A Democratic candidate was allowed to promote himself and distribute campaign material. Did you contact the School Board? What is being done to expose the inside dealings of Collins Lane officials?
- (6) On October 10, 2022, you sent a text message to all local candidates discussing the regular FCRP meeting, then the arrival and speech of Senator Rand Paul on October 22, 2022. You sent a text message to all local candidates saying that the regular October Party meeting “will be mainly about you [the candidate] to speak.” Not ten (10) minutes later, you further stated:

I’m not as concerned with the [regular party] meeting as I am about people showing up to the campaign kickoff[?] on October 22nd and the fundraiser that evening. We want to give a good showing to senator Paul. My hope is that Congressman Comer will be there as well[.]

- (7) This summer, several members of the FCRP were exposed to private investigators coming to their door on behalf of the City of Frankfort, being bullied and asked questions simply for attending a Republican Party meeting. Nothing was done to address this. In fact, you commented that the meeting was “not fun” because we had to discuss this topic.

RPK Bylaws

Although we are simply requesting resignation, it is of importance to note the RPK bylaws in this instance. The County Committee may itself remove any Executive Board member without notice . . . for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance.” (Official Rules of the Republican Party of Kentucky, hereinafter “RPK Bylaws”, §4.10, “Removal”). Nonfeasance is defined as “the omission to perform a required duty or the failure to act when a duty to act existed.”

According to the RPK bylaws subsection 4.02, the County Party Chair is tasked with the following:

The County Chairman, or their designee, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the County Party with all necessary and implied powers to carry out his/her duties. He/she is charged with overseeing an annual plan that is reflective of the County goals, priorities and financial resources; Oversees the overall structure of the County party and coordination of County party activities. As the primary officer, the County Chairman is responsible to ensure the scope of the County Committee tasks is accomplished. The County Chairman shall preside at all County meetings, shall create and appoint and special committees as necessary, and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all special

and standing County committees. ***The County Chairman is responsible for carrying out all the mandates of the Rules.***” (emphasis added).

Mandates of the rules include, but are not limited to:

- (1) “[T]he collection and disbursement of Party funds[,]”
- (2) The promotion of campaigns of Republican candidates at the national, state and local levels[,] and
- (3) ***Building party engagement and unity.***”

(Emphasis added) (RPK Bylaws, §1.03).

Conclusion

As candidates in any race, we know that it is incumbent upon each individual candidate to run their campaign. However, we believe that your lack of leadership at the local level has manifested itself in the failure of the FCRP to adequately promote our local candidacies. We request your resignation and the appointment by the Executive Board of an Interim Chairperson, until such time that a new Chair can be appointed in the coming months.

Regards,

Kate Bennett
2022 Candidate for County Attorney

Kenny Carroll
2022 Candidate for Judge Executive

Greg Grimes
2022 Candidate for 3rd District Magistrate

Michael Marracini
2022 Candidate for 1st District Magistrate

Darrell Sanderson
2022 Candidate for 2nd District Magistrate