

VETTING CANDIDATES

2024 Election Cycle

For Central Committees

**For Questions or Support
Contact support@repaccmo.com**

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Updates to the Manual

The following pages contain corrections to original information, typos, updated events, etc. Page numbers refer to content location in this update and may differ from the page location in the original manual.

Hover over any page number, and press Press CTRL+Click (mouse) to go directly to that page.

Originally published August 29, 2023

First Update, September 26, 2023

Page 3, the underlined section has been modified

Page 4, the “Note:” has been modified

Page 4, Our executive director for the state GOP is now Miles Ross. References to Dennis Rhodes have been updated.

Page 5, the procedure to use with County Clerks has been modified

Page 6, #3, “Note:” has been added and the text modified

Page 7, tablets have been removed from the list of prohibited survey devices that can be used (still cannot use the candidate’s devices, regardless)

Page 8, Added optional online registration of vetting contact info. Also, the complete steps to follow to download the Survey and administer it begins here.

Page 9, Using the Scorecard Instructions have been added to make compiling results easy.

Page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, #7 has been rewritten to reference the SOS website rather than contacting anyone personally. Up to date information on candidate filing is maintained on the website.

Page 24, The Scorecard to go with the instructions on page 9

Page 26, Press Release Added

Page 33, Flyer collection has been added and will be updated as the election cycle progresses

We have added a section for scoring vetting results and provided a Scorecard to make the process easy.

Throughout the manual, “test” has been changed to “survey” and “pledge” has been changed to “Republican candidate statement”.

Throughout the manual, reference to the platform delivering the survey has been updated.

Second Update, November 30, 2023 – **We suggest you review these areas carefully for changes**

Page 5, contains instructions for a greatly shortened cutoff time and date for vetting.

Page 5, added the website links for MEC and Case Net instructions.

Page 9, Instructions for completing the Tally Sheet have been completely revised.

Page 10, revised to include more scorecards from a total of four organizations.

Page 24, the Scorecard has been renamed “Tally Sheet” and revisions have been made to the scoring.

Page 25, a sample REPACCMO Approved “stamp” has been added.

Various letters have been updated based on the change from mandatory to voluntary vetting at the state level.

End of manual, Chris Sander flyer has been removed.

Details For County Level Vetting

Overview

This document has been created to support central committees who are choosing to vet county candidates for the 2024 election year. We are providing an overview of the process, along with specific steps and procedures. These instructions are for educational and informational purposes to assist those counties who are choosing to vet. As counties implement the process, we will advise what procedures are working and where tweaks are needed. You are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions as well as you implement these procedures.

Uniformity is Critical to Success

You are cautioned to avoid making changes to any forms and to minimize changes to the procedures, except as necessitated by our different community population sizes and resources. The goal is uniformity throughout the party and the process. Creating a uniform process is necessary to create a united, focused vetting strategy and to avoid potential legal problems from 114 counties all “doing their own thing”.

The Goal of Vetting

To ensure all candidates filing as Republicans share the values that are enumerated in our Party Platform. The current platform as of August, 2023 can be found here: <https://missouri.gop/about/platform/>

What Vetting Is and Is Not

Vetting Is:

- A means of identifying Republican candidates
- Intended to be objectively applied to everyone
- A standardized process to be universally applied
- Applied equally and fairly to all candidates
- A means to take back our Party's Brand

Vetting Is Not:

- A Process to select the “best” Republican
- A means to play favorites
- Modifiable county-to-county
- Used as an excuse for personal dislikes
- An end-run around the voters

The Legal Backing for Vetting

Included with this manual are two documents. The first is a court ruling from the Southern District Court covering Miller v. Carnahan, on page 27. Pertinent portions of the ruling have been highlighted for ease of reference. Also attached is correspondence from Morley Swingle, former Prosecuting Attorney in Cape Girardeau. He references numerous rulings and cites several cases. His correspondence has also been highlighted for ease of reference and can be found on page 30.

At the state level, RSMo 115.357 describes where a candidate files and who the candidate must pay within the political party's structure. State and federal candidates file with the SOS and pay the state political party's committee treasurer. County level candidates file with the local election authority (county clerk for most of us) and pay the treasurer of the political party's central committee. These two treasurers are the ONLY two individuals empowered by state statute to accept filing fees on behalf of a political party. Section 5 of the same statute says no candidate's name can appear on the ballot until the appropriate fee has been accepted. ONLY the appropriate committee treasurer can accept the fee on behalf of the party. The candidate “may” give the fee to the election clerk, but the clerk's function is administrative only. The statute is clear (s)he must then promptly forward the fee to the political party. Miller v. Carnahan confirms only the party's acceptance of the fee satisfies Section 5 of the statute.

The Extent of Vetting at This Time

As of now, the state committee has refused to come onboard with vetting. County level vetting is up to the Central Committees in each county because it is the local election authority who handles the candidacy filing

and the local committee treasurer who accepts the fee. We cannot force the state committee to do its job. As a result, we have modified this manual to make state level vetting voluntary. We will promote those candidates who are vetted and make voters aware of who refused to do so. We will also make all voting record scores by the four organizations we are using public to voters in our advertising.

The Process Summarized

1. Create a Vetting Subcommittee from central committee members.
2. Set dates when vetting will occur and the cutoff date where insufficient time remains to complete the process for new candidates.
3. Publicize that the Republican Party in your county will be vetting all candidates BEFORE they can file with the county clerk.
4. Conduct the vetting session & compile information.
5. Notify the candidate of the results. (If rejected, notify the county clerk as well.)
6. Close vetting on the date you have publicized. Those who do not contact you prior to the cutoff date cannot file as Republicans.
 - A. We do not care when they file, we care that we vet them first and provide those who pass with a paid receipt to show the county clerk.
 - B. This means they can wait until the last few minutes of the filing period to file as long as we have given them a paid receipt to indicate they passed the vetting process.
 - C. We are NOT telling those who can't file as Republicans that they can't file as something else. They can still file as a Democrat, Libertarian, Constitution, or a variety of other parties.
7. Contact the county clerk on the morning after the filing period ends and obtain a written list of all those who filed as Republicans. If there are any names on that list who did not go through your vetting process, send the clerk a registered letter to that effect and demand the candidate's name be removed. Copy the candidate. **Also copy Jay Ashcroft, SOS.** Do this step promptly. While the SOS office has no direct jurisdiction, it is a central collection point where volume from multiple counties can signal a problem. There is a limited window to remove a candidate's name before ballot are printed. We have provided a uniform letter that can be sent to the clerk.

- **Note: Even though the ballot may not have been printed, it is still possible removing the name from the candidate list will involve going before a judge. The candidate will not have the opportunity to file under a different party if the filing period has closed and so may be reluctant to agree to drop out. We cannot allow those bypassing vetting to remain on the ticket under our party's name.**

Detailed Steps

1. Create a Vetting Subcommittee from central committee members.
 - A. Meet with your central committee, get a majority vote to do vetting, and create a subcommittee.
 - B. Meet with the subcommittee, and discuss and agree on the vetting steps and process you will use.
 - Try not to stray from the steps and process described in this document.
 - C. Codify your process in your bylaws & send a copy to Miles Ross, Executive Director of the Missouri Republican Party. Your bylaws will be on file with the party. (miles@mogop.org)
 - Included with this document is the Vernon County bylaws addition and Appendix D which details the process. Feel free to use it and/or modify it as needed to match the language in your bylaws.
 - C. Maintain confidentiality of the names of those being vetted. Some may not want to file until close to the deadline. Disclosing their names ahead of time can compromise our integrity and could hamper campaign plans of the candidate.
2. Set dates when vetting will occur.
 - Statewide filing begins the last Tuesday in February (2/27/24) and continues through the last Tuesday in March (3/26/24). At 5:00 on that date, filing ends.

- A. Starting October 1, 2023 pick two dates each for Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, and Feb for vetting to occur. Use the same day, time, and location each month, if possible.
 - Example: First Saturday at 10:00 at the library and following Thursday at 6:00 at the church.
 - B. Be prepared to meet more frequently or as needed as the start of the filing period nears and especially during the month of active filing. The survey is proctored, so candidates cannot take it in their own homes or offices.
 - C. Set a cutoff date prior to the end of the filing period – those who do not contact you prior to the cutoff date cannot file as Republicans. NO EXCEPTIONS. **Note: It only takes about an hour to compile all records. We are recommending vetting until late afternoon of the final day of filing.**
 - We are not telling candidates they cannot file. We are telling them they cannot file as Republicans because they did not allow sufficient time for us to vet them before the filing period closed. If you make exceptions, you invite litigation, and you also provide a loophole to avoid vetting.
 - Example: 4:00 on the last day of filing may be your cutoff for vetting.
 - Do NOT compromise on your final date or time. You may adjust it if you find you don't need as much time to complete the process, but **do not waive it**. If you do, Democrats running as Republicans will wait until that "waiver period" to file in the future, knowing you have set a precedent for waiving the process. You also make yourself a prime target for litigation by showing you do not follow your own rules. By waiving the rules, you will not be treating all candidates fairly and objectively the same.
3. Notify the election authority (county clerk).
- A. Meet with the county clerk in person and explain the process before vetting starts. The clerks have determined the CANDIDATE is the only person who has the option of giving or not giving the filing fee to the clerk and that the clerks do not have any option for refusing it.
 - B. So, we are instead giving the clerk the County Clerk/Candidate information letter, and we are asking them to post it in the office and hand it out to any candidate wanting to file as a Republican who does not have a paid receipt from our committee treasurer. Some clerks will do this. Others may refuse to have any conversation at all. This is why advertising what we are doing is so important.
 - C. Be sure to emphasize we are trying to protect the clerks by keeping them out of the line of fire. Also emphasize that we are immediately rejecting the candidacy of anyone who gives the filing fee to them since it bypasses our option to vet the candidate first.
 - D. Explain that if they take the money for someone who has not been vetted, and they then send it to us as required by law, we will return it to them uncashed with a "rejected candidacy" letter. They will have to deal with that, and they will have to remove the candidate's filing as a Republican. They will invite litigation.
- Note:** Should your clerk take the filing fee anyway, return the uncashed funds with the letter on Page 20. This letter indicates that as we advised the clerk in writing before the filing period began, we would reject the candidacy of anyone who had not first gone through vetting, and that upon successfully being vetted, WE would take the filing fee directly and provide a paid receipt for the clerk. Therefore, the Republican party is returning the uncashed funds. Send a copy of the letter to the candidate.
4. Publicize that the Republican Party in your county will be vetting all candidates BEFORE they can file with the county clerk. Get the word out early and continuously.
- A. The goal is to get the word out for existing elected officials and especially for potential challengers whose names may not be known ahead of time. This will be a key part of avoiding litigation from someone who says they "didn't know".
 - B. Ways to publicize information, depending on your own local resources:
 - Radio PSAs and calendar of events
 - TV PSAs, depending on cost
 - Local newspapers, free weekly newspapers, group publications, chamber of commerce, etc.
 - Social media – Facebook Republican pages, Twitter, Truth Social, etc.
 - Courthouse – in your election authority's office and throughout the courthouse if allowed

- Social groups such as the Elks, Lions, Eagles, etc.

5. Conduct the vetting session & compile information.

Note: Detailed Survey delivery steps are located on page 8.

- A. The candidate will take a proctored, twenty-five question, multiple choice survey based on Republican values. The candidate must appear at the designated vetting location. (You can include several candidates at once if you have enough computers and/or tablets.) A proctor must be present. No materials or cell phones are allowed to be used. This is an online values survey and will be scored by a third-party platform. It is pass/fail, and a member of the vetting committee will be notified of the results. The survey vendor will be Survey Monkey. To participate in this survey, go to REPACCMO.COM/home, click "Party Business", choose "Vetting Contact Info", enter the password (sent separately), and complete the information on the screen. (This is the same information as the paper version that was included with the original manual, but is now easier to submit.)
- B. The candidate will also sign a Candidate Statement. This is a uniform document that cannot be altered.
- It is imperative it remain standard throughout the state. If we begin altering it county by county it becomes a potential litigation point in that we will have lost the uniformity of pledging loyalty to the Republican party. We cannot hold people accountable if each area signs a different set of rules.
- C. That concludes the candidate's portion of the process. **Do not take a filing fee at this time.**
- D. Advise the candidate you will be compiling other records and will get back to him within a few days.
- E. Now it is time for the committee to compile additional information. Review the records listed on the Tally Sheet on page 24.
 - a. Case Net – public legal records – review for any criminal violations.
- Example: we are not looking for traffic tickets. We are looking for felonies.
 - b. MEC Violations – investigations of ethics violations where the candidate is found guilty.
 - c. Tax Records – county personal property and real estate taxes only. State tax records are confidential.

NOTE: Felonies, guilty findings by the MEC, or delinquent taxes are all immediate disqualifiers.

- F. Notify the candidate either that (s)he has passed the vetting process (congrats letter is on page 21 or send the rejection letter on page 19).
 - G. Although this is a completely objective process, and failing at less than 70% means the candidate is in "D" category, the vetting committee should still take a failed candidate before the entire committee for a committee vote. It is unfair to the candidate and the vetting committee to allow only a few people to make the decision that belongs to the entire committee. Tell the committee why, but be respectful of the candidate as well. You can tell them (s)he has a felony record, for instance, without going into details.
- REMEMBER, TOO, THIS IS NOT ABOUT FINDING THE BEST CANDIDATE, THIS IS ABOUT MAKING SURE ALL CANDIDATES SHARE REPUBLICAN VALUES AS ENUMERATED IN OUR PLATFORM.
6. Notify the candidate of the results (A below) or call a central committee closed meeting to vote (B below)
- A. If the candidate passed the survey, contact him in writing and give him the contact information for your treasurer. Copy your treasurer and the county clerk in the email or letter. Congratulate him and invite him to file with our party. A sample candidate letter is included in this document.
- The candidate will meet with the committee treasurer, pay his fee, and be given a paid receipt signed by the treasurer. That receipt can be shown to the county clerk as proof we have authorized him to file with our party
 - B. If the candidate did not pass the vetting process, Call a closed committee meeting, vote on rejecting the candidate, and notify the candidate accordingly. The candidate rejection letter provides for broad reasons by naming the category but not specifics. Respect the person's privacy by not getting overly specific in the letter. If the candidate calls, you can refer him/her to the specific area of public records or advise they failed the survey.
 - D. Also notify the county clerk of the candidate rejection. This will eliminate any attempt to bypass the Committee decision by attempting to file directly with the clerk or at least put the clerk on notice.

7. Set a cutoff date prior to the end of the filing period – those who do not contact you prior to the cutoff date cannot file as Republicans.

Updated. We have found that it takes no longer for the vetting team to complete the Tally Sheet than it takes the candidate to do the survey. For that reason, you can vet a candidate at least until the early afternoon of the last filing day. Candidates coming in after your cutoff cannot file as Republicans because they cut the time too close to complete vetting. This is a candidate responsibility and waiting until the very end is not the committee's problem if you have properly advertised the process.

A. Pulling the MEC, Case Net, and tax record information takes less than an hour. County audit review can be done early on for those running for re-election, so you don't need to wait to pull that information.

B. It will take anywhere from 20 minutes to about an hour for the survey to be completed. Call one of the admins. We will be available all day on the last day of filing.

C. Be prepared that clerks may take the funds anyway. We are in the process of protecting our central committees should that happen. More information will be announced in the near future. We will NOT allow non-Republicans on the ballot because of the actions of any county clerk or election authority. There are a number of county clerks who have always referred candidates to the central committee treasurer prior to filing their candidacies. We are frankly clueless why they have now decided to act as if that precedent does not exist.

TIMELINE for Activities

September (*R- These steps span several months)

1. Meet with your full committee and vote on vetting. Assuming it passes, continue.....
2. Return the Notice of Intent to Vet form to vcrcmo@gmail.com to indicate you are going to vet
 - This is required so that you will receive the survey materials & any updates
3. Create your vetting subcommittee and select a chair (can be the committee chair or someone else)
4. Meet, go over the process outlined here, and make sure everyone is onboard
5. Decide on what days and times of the months from October through February you are going to vet
6. Find one or two vetting venues that you can use and reserve it for the dates and times in #5.
7. Update your bylaws with the process, get it passed by your committee, and send a copy to Miles (miles@mogop.org).
8. Notify the county clerk, give him/her the Letter for Clerks & Candidates. Discuss the filing fee.
9. Distribute the same letter to existing county level candidates. If possible, hold a group Q&A session.
- R-10. Make arrangements with media outlets to advertise vetting – tv, paper, radio, etc.
- R-11. Create an ad for social media and post – this is to announce vetting process, dates, times, etc.

October On....

1. Repeat (R) #10 and #11 above, if needed.
2. Get computers, laptops, or tablets in the vetting location up and ready for the survey
 - ABSOLUTELY NO USE OF CELL PHONES
3. Conduct the two vetting sessions in October
4. Compile materials
5. Notify candidates of results
6. Increase the frequency of vetting from about February 15th through the end of the filing period.
7. ADVERTISE, ADVERTISE, ADVERTISE!
8. We are now in a position of vetting state candidates on a voluntary basis because of the state committee's refusal to vet. See the procedures that begin on page 11 for specific changes.

Procedures for Delivering the Values Survey & Candidate Statement to County Candidates

Overview

The purpose of this survey is to objectively determine a candidate's values on a variety of issues related to our Party's Platform.

The Values Survey consists of twenty-five multiple choice questions. Each question has five possible answers. Some answers reflect Republican values and others do not. If the majority of answers support our values, the candidate will pass. If the majority of responses reject those values, the candidate will fail. We will share the question and the selected answer with the vetting team for those candidates who do not pass the vetting survey. This is to ensure the team has an opportunity to fairly evaluate the candidate by seeing and evaluating the responses.

The Process Step-By-Step

Note: You MUST with contact Passwords and results can now provide this Party Business, Vetting online. The password is

Please return this page to:

chair@repaccmo.com
or text the information to
913-634-2347

We Are in for Vetting!

My county intends to vet candidates for the 2024 election cycle*.

Chair Name: _____
Date: _____

We are vetting the following candidates (check all that apply)

☐ County level candidates
☐ State Rep(s) where our county is included in their district
☐ State Senator

The contact for our vetting committee is:
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

* We need contact information for the head of your vetting team so that we can coordinate the delivery of the twenty-five questions test to be used in vetting.

complete the "We Are In For Vetting" page information from your vetting team. will be sent to this person. Optionally, you information online. Go to repaccmo.com, Contact Info, and complete the information vetting2024

Vetting Contact Info

You must provide us with this information if your county is vetting candidates for the 2024 election cycle. We use the contact information to provide you with links and passwords for the Values Survey and as a contact point for sending the results.

09/27/2023

Select Your County: _____

County Chair First & Last Name: _____

Vetting Contact First and Last Name: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

We are vetting the following candidate categories (check all that apply): *

☐ County Level Candidates
☐ State Reps where our county is included in their district
☐ State Senator

Submit Info

Once you have determined your vetting schedule, you must share that schedule with the Survey Admin by emailing doncarrikerccrcc@gmail.com so that scheduling can be coordinated between the Survey Admin and the Vetting Admin.

Prior to the candidate(s) arriving, complete steps 1 through 4. (Allow about 15 to 30 minutes.)

1. Prepare the room for your pre-announced vetting session. You will need one computer, laptop, or tablet for each individual taking the survey. For security and question integrity purposes, the survey cannot be taken on a cell phone. **CANDIDATES CANNOT BRING THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT. Also, no phones or other devices that can record or take screenshots or pictures are allowed in the testing area.**

2. You will need an Internet connection. Connect each device to the Internet at this time.

3. If it is convenient, open your email account on each device so that you can easily access the survey link you will be sent in the next step. (If that isn't possible, you will transcribe the link information in the next step, and you will have to type it in manually.)

4. Contact the Survey Admin by calling 417-844-5370. You will be emailed a link and a password to access the survey. Load the survey on each device and log in.

5. The candidate will take the survey. You must have a proctor from the vetting committee present in the room while it is being taken. When the candidate has finished the survey and submitted the answers, that part is completed. All answers will be saved, and your vetting contact from the info you submitted (above) will receive survey pass/fail information results from the Survey Admin. **If you need more detailed information to accurately compile Tally Sheet results, contact Cyndia at 913-634-2347.**

Republican Candidate Statement

The candidate will also sign the Republican Candidate Statement while present in the room. A member of the vetting team should also initial the form as a witness. The candidate may ask for a copy, so be sure you either have access to a copy machine or you have two copies, one for your records and one for the candidate.

Using the Tally Sheet

The Tally Sheet (formerly the Scorecard) provides a running total of the results of your research and ultimately computes a final vetting score. The point is to compile an OBJECTIVE evaluation of the candidate. Remember, the goal is not to determine whether a candidate is “the best” Republican, but whether (s)he is “a Republican” as reflected by the values described in our Party Platform.

A Vetting Tally Sheet can be found on page 24. It contains lines for each area to be reviewed. (Not all areas may apply for all candidates.) Create a Tally Sheet for each candidate, and enter the scoring information on the Tally Sheet. **Be sure to retain documentation of both supportive and detrimental information as you find it. The Tally Sheet will walk you through compiling the final score.**

It is important to keep detailed records, especially for those who do not pass the vetting review. Be mindful of attempts to challenge the results. You need to have careful documentation to back your decisions and to present to the full committee for a final vote on any candidate who fails vetting.

How to Assign Points for The Items You Evaluate

The goal is to create an objective evaluation that uses the same measurements from one candidate to the next. This section will walk you through each line of the new, streamlined Tally Sheet.

1. Values Survey Results – 100% for a Pass, and 0 (zero) for a Fail

Enter either 100% for a pass or 0 (zero) for a Fail in the Candidate Points column. If you entered “100%”, also put a checkmark in the Total Points Checkmarks column.

| ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN VETTING | CANDIDATE POINTS Actual Percent | TALLY POINTS Checkmarks ✓ |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Values Survey Results Passed: Enter 100% under Candidate Points & a checkmark in the Tally Points Column Failed: Put a 0 in the Candidate Points column & leave the Tally Points column blank | | |

2. Case Net

<https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/nameSearch.do?newSearch=Y>

If the candidate has criminal records (i.e. is a felon), then that’s an automatic FAIL. We are not looking for parking tickets or divorces. There is a clickable button on Case Net that specifically searches for criminal records. Felons are prohibited by law from filing for office, so any felony record found is a disqualification.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Optional Information (Clicking this checkbox will speed up the search)". It includes a dropdown menu for "All" with options: Civil, Criminal, Family/Domestic, Injunction, Probate, and Traffic/Municipal. Below the dropdown are input fields for "First Name", "Middle Name", and "Year Case was Filed" (with a value of "100" entered).

3. MEC Filings

https://mec.mo.gov/MEC/Commission_Business/Searches.aspx

Again, we are not looking for fines for filing late. We are looking for investigations by the MEC for violation of ethics laws where they have found the candidate guilty of the violation. **If that occurs, this is a disqualification for running under our ticket.**

4. Tax Records

This is county personal property tax and/or real estate tax delinquency only. At a state level, tax information is confidential. All candidates are required to file form 5120 with the MO Department of Revenue, and once that's done, only another candidate can challenge tax status. Contact the county collector to determine whether a candidate's taxes are paid up to date, or ask the candidate to bring in a paid tax receipt for personal and real estate taxes. Remember, too, there's a difference between "delinquent" vs not getting them paid until January or February. You might still ask about that, but confirming whether they're paid or truly delinquent is what we're looking for here. **Delinquent taxes are an immediate disqualifier.**

5. County Audits for County Candidates

Look at the most current audit for county elected employees who are running for re-election or for election in another position. Are there any issues that identify misuse of funds or abuse of position. If not, score a 0 (zero) in the Candidate Points Column. If there are issues, this is also an immediate disqualification.

6. Third Party Voter Scorecards – For State Legislature Only

Do not do voting evaluations yourselves as that can lead to subjective evaluations. Instead, we are using third party evaluations that we trust. There are four organizations we have included to ensure fairness in evaluations. AFP, CPAC, Freedom Index, and Freedom Principle. CPAC, AFP, and Freedom Index are national organizations that has been evaluating candidates for years. Freedom Principle just published a 2023 scorecard tying 25 pieces of legislation to the Republican Party platform. Their website discusses each bill, how it relates to a plank of the Platform, the position FP takes, and how the legislator voted. Ultimately, they applied a grade to each representative or senator. Here are the links to voting information for these two organizations.

| 6. Scorecards from Third Party Evaluators | Enter Percentages For each card | Enter A ✓ For 70% or above |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Enter the actual percentage for each scorecard in the left column. Enter a check mark in the right column for any percent of 70% or above. | | |
| Freedom Principle https://www.freedomprinciplemo.org/2023-legislative-scorecard | | |
| CPAC http://ratings.conservative.org/states/MO | | |
| Americans for Prosperity https://americansforprosperity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-Legislative-Scorecard.pdf | | |
| Freedom Index https://thefreedomindex.org/mo/report/mo-scorecard-2023/ | | |

AFP: <https://americansforprosperity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-Legislative-Scorecard.pdf>

CPAC: <http://ratings.conservative.org/states/MO>

Freedom Index: <https://thefreedomindex.org/mo/report/mo-scorecard-2023/>

Freedom Principle: <https://www.freedomprinciplemo.org/2023-legislative-scorecard>

Look up the candidate and record the actual percentage for each card in the left column. For any score that is 70% or higher, place a checkmark in the right column.

7. Determine the Results

It is no longer necessary to compute percentages. To determine results, simply count the number of checkmarks! For county and state offices, there should be one – the Values Survey. One is a pass and none is a fail.

For state and federal legislature, there should be at least three out of the five possible. Three or more is a pass. Anything less than that is a fail.

DETAILS FOR STATE LEVEL VETTING OF REPS & SENATORS, & STATE CANDIDATES

UPDATED DECEMBER 1, 2023

Overview – Where the State Party Stands (MRSC) as of December 1, 2023

A Message from the President of REPACCMO

As of this December 1st update to this manual (update #2), the MRSC has sadly continued to refuse to participate in vetting. For months the chair promised “some kind of statement” “sometime in October”, stating the statement would hold candidates accountable. That date came and went without the promised “statement”. The chair instead issued a terse email in November warning central committees against vetting. The MRSC is aware of the various court rulings and summaries indicating both the candidate AND THE PARTY are perpetrating a fraud and deceit on the voters if they allow people to file who they know don’t share our values.

We can only hope the next chair will take the responsibility of vetting seriously and work with the Party and central committees to weed out those who file as Republicans only because they know they cannot win as Democrats. Let us be clear, there are allies on the MRSC who support the vetting process; however, their voices are either not in the majority or are not being allowed to participate in any discussion. Either way, we applaud the supporters who recognize our Party is failing at one of its chief duties – finding candidates who support our party platform and saying “NO” to those who would destroy or undermine those values.

Since we now know the MRSC will not support any effort to vet state candidates, and we can therefore surmise they will reject any directive from central committees to refuse filing fees for a candidate who fails vetting, we must change our process from one that is mandatory to one that is voluntary for those patriots who wish to make it known they are true Republicans. The following pages have been revised to reflect this necessary change in procedures.

Cyndia Haggard
President, REPACCMO, Inc.
chair@repaccmo.com

The REVISED Process Summarized

REPACCMO Will Oversee the Vetting of State Level Candidates

The process will now involve voluntary vetting of state candidates through REPACCMO OR any central committees who have candidates asking to be vetted. Central Committees who are vetting will be contacted to help coordinate delivery of the Values Survey which will still be done in a proctored environment. Successful candidates will receive the REPACCMO approved stamp. A sample of that stamp can be found on page 25.

Even if your central committee is not vetting, you can refer candidates in your districts who want to be vetted to REPACCMO, and we will happily vet them for you. You can either contact us directly, or you can refer your candidate to the email address above. This will be especially important for first time candidates since REPACCMO may not have any information about them or their intent to run.

How Central Committees Can Help

We also suggest that central committees support ONLY those candidates who successfully complete the vetting process. If you have a vetted candidate being challenged by candidates who refuse to be vetted, support the one who is vetted. Invite him/her to speak at your meetings, your Lincoln Day events, etc. Post their flyers on your Republican social media pages. Do everything you can to promote the vetted candidate. Conversely, if a candidate is refusing to assure voters (s)he supports Republican values by being vetted, why

would you then allow them to promote themselves at any of your events or on your social media pages? We suggest you do not, and you tell them the reason is they have not been vetted.

Detailed Steps

The process should feel very similar to vetting county candidates, but members of REPACCMO may contact you to set up a session rather than you contacting us. You can also establish sessions directly with candidates in your area who want to be vetted. You should publicize to voters that only candidates with the REPACCMO approved stamp have taken the time to be evaluated by party members in order to assure voters they support the values described in our party platform.

1. For delivery of the Values Survey, we will coordinate the proctored delivery of the Values Survey with the Vetting Contact in the area. We also have contacts in areas that are not vetting, so that candidates who want to be vetted can be.
2. The survey link and password will be provided at the appointed time of the vetting. The procedure is exactly the same as it is for vetting county candidates. The candidate completes the survey, a member of the vetting committee is present, no phones are allowed, and the candidate cannot bring his/her own computer or tablet.
3. Be sure to also have the candidate sign the Republican Candidate Statement. If REPACCMO contacted you to arrange a vetting session, be sure to send this statement to the REPACCMO director who contacted you.
4. If REPACCMO contacted you for the vetting appointment, we will pull the other records – MEC, Case Net, taxes, and voter scorecards. If the Vetting Contact arranged the vetting session, then the Vetting Sub Committee will be responsible for pulling the remaining records. Links to the various scorecards are included on our Tally Sheet and in this instruction manual.
5. Vetting Contacts who arranged the session will be sent the approval stamp for successful candidates. If REPACCMO is doing the vetting, we will send out any stamps directly to the candidates.
6. The main difference in our revised procedures is that it is unlikely we will have any candidates who fail because candidates with poor voting records will not likely ask to be vetted. This is the consequence of a state party who refuses to do its job. At the moment, there is nothing we can do other than switch to this plan and reward those candidates who are faithful to our party's values and respect our Republican voters.
7. Continue to publicize that you are vetting state candidates in your districts. Contact them, put information on social media about the importance to voters of a vetted candidate, and continue to push vetting as the solution to a purple legislature and an increasingly purple state constitution. Use the same avenues as with county vetting – radio PSAs, TV spots, local newspapers, social media, etc. We will be providing support in these areas as well with media blitzes we are planning.

This revised process means that even in counties where you are not vetting county candidates, you can still participate in vetting state level candidates in your district because the process is now voluntary.



REPACCMO will also vet those legislative candidates who do not complete the Values Survey or sign the Candidate Statement. We will still compile voting records, and we will share the fact that (1) they declined to assure voters they have Republican values and (2) the results of each third-party scorecard. We will promote vetted candidates and also publicize the names and information of those candidates for whom we cannot provide any assurance of alignment with our platform.

Forms & Supplemental Documents

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REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE STATEMENT

REFUSAL TO INITIAL & SIGN THIS STATEMENT IS AN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION FOR FILING WITH THE PARTY

You have indicated your desire to run for elected office as a member of the Missouri Republican Party ("Party"). By signing this Statement, you are attesting that your values are in alignment with the Party's, as enumerated by our Party Platform ("Platform"). The affixing of your signature on this Statement is an affirmation to both Missouri voters and Party committee men and women that your actions, bills, and votes (collectively "Performance") as an elected official will honor the Platform values you have indicated are in alignment with your own. **You also understand numerous court rulings have indicated if a candidate files with a party whose values (s)he does not share, said candidate is committing a fraud and deceit upon the voting public.**

(Reference letter available upon request.)

Initial Here

All Republican candidates representing our Party through elected office are expected to sign this Statement to uphold the values of the Platform as part of the criteria required to run under our Party's name. Failure to sign will result in rejection of the filing fee by the appropriate committee treasurer which also serves as the rejection by the Party of your ability to file as a Republican candidate.

PLEASE INITIAL EACH STATEMENT

Initial Here

_____ I have read completely the current Platform and affirm my values align with it.

_____ If elected or re-elected, I will adhere to the Platform tenets in my capacity as an elected official. I understand I am expected to support the principles of the Platform, and if my elected position casts votes, the Platform will be the guide for my voting decisions. My Performance will reflect my belief in the Party's values as enumerated in the Platform.

_____ I understand being a Republican elected official means I am a representative of the Party's values. I will listen to my Party's input, and my Performance will reflect the Party's interests over those of special interest groups, lobbyists, and/or my own desires for career advancement in politics or otherwise. I will ensure my Performance brings honor to my office and does not compromise any aspect of the duties required by my elected office. "Party interest" does not mean compromising my legal responsibilities.

_____ In my capacity as an elected official, I understand I am expected to honor the Platform by performing my duties in an impartial manner, without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion. I will favor equality over equity. If my elected office is judicial, I shall not legislate from the bench or use my authority to favor one party over another, but rather be guided by established judicial principles. This principle of equality under the law is in compliance with the Party's Platform.

_____ I expect the Party will carefully watch my voting record (if my elected position casts votes) to monitor adherence to the Platform. If my Performance deviates from the Platform, I understand I may be contacted by members of the Party for an explanation. **IF my Performance continues to reflect my disregard for the tenets of the Platform I have said I support, I further understand the Party may refuse to allow me to file as a Republican for any future elected office, regardless of the office sought.**

_____ I understand if a central or state committee officer asks me for an explanation of any of my Performance, I am expected to address all concerns without hesitation or reservation, and I agree to do so promptly, but may withhold information if I am required to do so legally.

_____ I understand this Statement is only one part of a multipart process the Party's vetting committee will utilize in determining my eligibility to run for elected office as a Republican. Signing this Statement offers no guarantee of acceptance of my filing fee. Rejection of the filing fee is also the official Party rejection of my ability to register as a Republican candidate for the political office being sought.

Signed

Dated

Witness

BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE STATEMENT BELOW

Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo) 115.357 stipulates you cannot appear on any ballot using our Party's name until the appropriate Committee Treasurer has accepted your filing fee. Giving your fee to any other individual does NOT mean your fee has been accepted by the Party. Fees paid to any other individual will be returned uncashed, and the Party will reject your candidacy until you FIRST go through our vetting process. You must contact the central committee chair, go through the vetting process, and if successful, pay the filing fee to the committee treasurer.

Initial Here

VETTING – WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

FOR THE COUNTY CLERK TO POST & GIVE TO CANDIDATES

Missouri is a red state battling a purple legislature. Voters are tired of our Republican Party (“Party”) failing to stand up for the values enumerated in our Platform. They are demanding the Party take action. The Central Committees are responding by implementing a process called Vetting to determine whether candidate values align with the Party Platform. **We will not accept the filing fee of any candidate who does not pass this vetting process. RSMo 115.357 states you cannot appear on the ballot under a political party’s name until the filing fee has been paid and the only person who can accept that fee is the committee treasurer.** Therefore, candidates who do not pass the Party vetting process cannot file as Republicans. They can still file with another party or as an Independent.

There are numerous legal cases going all the way to the US Supreme Court that back the right of political parties to accept or deny membership in the party based on determination of shared values. **The courts have gone so far as to state that to allow individuals to file with a party when they do not in fact share the beliefs of that party is to perpetrate a fraud and a deceit upon the voters. That applies to both candidates and the political parties who allow the deceit and fraud to happen.**

In conjunction with a state wide effort, **your county’s Central Committee is now implementing vetting for all county elected offices.** ALL individuals filing or refiling for office for the 2024 election cycle and beyond will be vetted before they can file on the Republican ticket and before they pay, and the Committee accepts, the filing fee. (See 115.357, #1.)

WE WILL REJECT THE CANDIDACY OF ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO PAYS THE FILING FEE DIRECTLY TO THE CLERK

To avoid this problem, please do the following:

1. Contact the central committee chair at the bottom of this notice and be vetted by the Party.
2. If vetting shows your values align with the Party’s, you will pay your filing fee to the committee treasurer & be issued a receipt.
If you pay the clerk directly because you did not go through the vetting process, the Party will reject your candidacy.
3. Your uncashed check will be returned to the clerk with a Notice of Candidacy Rejection. You will also receive a rejection notice.
4. Your county clerk has been advised of all of this by this same letter.
5. Only the Republican Party’s Committee Treasurer can accept your fee on behalf of the Republican party, and that will only occur AFTER vetting has taken place and your values are shown to align with the Republican Party, as determined by the Party Platform.

IF YOU PAY THE COUNTY CLERK DIRECTLY,

THE COMMITTEE TREASURER WILL RETURN THE UNCASHED CHECK TO THE COUNTY CLERK, REJECTING YOUR CANDIDACY BECAUSE YOU DID NOT FIRST GO THROUGH THE VETTING PROCESS WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

6. Candidate rejection will only be reversed if you contact the chair at the bottom of this letter, go through the vetting process successfully, and THEN pay the required filing fee to the committee treasurer who will in turn issue a paid receipt. This paid receipt is then shown to the county clerk as authorization to file with our Party.
7. Failure to follow these procedures could result in you running out of time to file with any party.

It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS LETTER TO ARRANGE TO BE VETTED BEFORE YOU PAY YOUR FILING FEE.

How it Works: You advise the contact below that you want to be vetted and appear at the established day and time to take a values survey & sign a candidate statement. The Party will review the survey results, compile additional materials, and notify you of the results. If successful, you will pay the committee treasurer your filing fee & be issued a paid receipt to show the clerk when you file your candidacy.

You must arrange to be vetted prior to the last seven (7) calendar days before the end of the filing period to ensure the entire vetting process can be completed before the filing period ends. If you wait until the final week to contact us, we will not guarantee vetting can be completed in time for you to file as a Republican.

To establish a date and time to be vetted, contact the chair listed below. Feel free to contact us if there are any questions.
We welcome & support all Republican candidates who wish to serve our community & represent our party’s values.

Signed: _____,
_____, Chair
_____ County Central Committee
Phone/Email: _____

Treasurer Contact Information
Name: _____
Phone/Email _____

BYLAWS
ARTICLE XII. VETTING

In election years, the _____ County Republican Committee shall engage in vetting of potential Republican candidates. The purpose of vetting is to determine whether the values of a candidate wishing to file as a Republican align with Republican values as defined by our Party's Missouri Platform. The process shall begin early enough to ensure those wishing to file on day one of primary filing are able to do so. The process shall continue until seven (7) calendar days before the close of the primary filing period, and the final date shall be publicized so that all candidates have the opportunity to go through our process in time to file. Anyone filing after the close of vetting shall not be authorized by our County Committee to file as a Republican. The only individual within our County Committee who is authorized to accept filing fees is the Committee Treasurer. That individual is also the only person authorized to issue the candidate a paid receipt.

The full vetting process to be followed is enumerated in Appendix D.

APPENDIX D
The Vetting Process

The following rules and procedures shall govern vetting of all candidates for elected office in _____ County.

A. Vetting Overview – Subject to the Specific Details in the next section.

The vetting process shall include the following procedure:

1. We publicize the dates and times for vetting
2. Candidates call the chair for appointments to be vetted
3. They complete the survey and sign the Republican Candidate Statement
4. The survey results are compiled by a third-party platform and the vetting committee receives results
5. If the candidate passed the survey, the vetting committee compiles the remainder of the material
6. The vetting committee meets, discusses the compiled material, and votes.
7. If the candidate failed, a closed meeting of the active members of the committee will meet and vote on the pass or fail of the candidate. The committee treasurer is notified of the results.
8. Candidates are notified promptly of the results of the vetting process
9. Successful candidates are given the contact information for the committee treasurer
10. The committee treasurer accepts the filing fee and issues a paid receipt to the candidate
11. The candidate shows the paid receipt to the clerk when filing his/her candidacy
12. Vetting will not be done in the final seven days of the filing period and candidates notifying the committee that late will not be allowed to file as Republicans.

B. Specific Details

1. Vetting sessions with candidates shall occur frequently enough to reasonably provide sufficient opportunity for all candidates to participate in the vetting process.
2. Candidates will be required to give the vetting committee notice of their desire to be vetted at least seven days prior to the end of the filing period in March. Candidates who fail to provide this notice will not be allowed to file as Republicans. No exceptions will be made.
3. If the candidate contacts the vetting committee at least seven days prior to the first day of filing, the committee shall complete the vetting process in time for the candidate to file on the first day of filing.

4. Questions for round one of vetting shall be those created by the Republican Association of Central Committees and cannot be modified.
5. The Statement candidates must sign is also uniform throughout the state and cannot be modified.
6. The _____ County Clerk and existing Republican elected officer holders shall be given a letter outlining the vetting process. The chair of the vetting committee or the chair of the central committee should also hold a meeting with all elected officials and potential candidates to explain the process and rationale of vetting. Court rulings supporting the Party's ability to refuse candidates the ability to file as Republicans should also be made available at this time as well.
7. Following compilation of vetting material, the vetting committee will meet with candidates individually to discuss the material and if the candidate is an incumbent, additional questions may be asked specific to the incumbent's record in office and/or state audit results.
8. Following discussion, the vetting committee will vote on the acceptability of the candidate filing as a Republican. A vote shall be taken to accept or reject each candidate. For any candidate being rejected, a vote of the majority of the active central committee members is also required. Quorum for this vote shall be the majority of people who attend this special closed meeting.
9. Candidates will be promptly notified in writing of the results, and if accepted, will be given contact information for the committee treasurer for purpose of paying the filing fee. The treasurer shall issue a paid receipt which can be shown to the county clerk as proof of acceptance by the central committee.
10. Names of candidates who pass the vetting process shall remain confidential within the vetting committee. (This is solely because the candidate may not want his/her name known ahead of filing.)
11. For each election cycle, vetting session shall be established, beginning in October of the year prior to the primary and continuing until the period enumerated in #2 of this section. At least two session per month shall be set, with more as needed during the actual filing period running from the last Tuesday in February through the last Tuesday in March.
12. Vetting material compiled and reviewed shall include the following:
 - A. Uniform statewide values survey
 - B. Signed Republican Candidate Statement
 - C. Incumbent record (voting record, if lawmaker)
 - D. Case Net records
 - E. Tax records
 - F. MEC information
 - G. Social media content
 - H. State audits for incumbents
13. Announcements of the intent to vet candidates shall be publicized with sufficient frequency to reasonably ensure candidates are aware of the process and timeframes. Publication shall include at least the following:
 - A. Posting in the county clerk's office and throughout the courthouse if allowed
 - B. _____ radio PSA announcements and Calendar of Events
 - C. _____ newspaper ads, running two weeks at the beginning of the vetting period in October, and then weekly beginning two weeks prior to the start of the filing period in February
 - D. _____ newspaper, at the beginning of the vetting period in October and on the first Saturday in March
 - E. Social-media on the _____ County Republican Facebook page

RSMo 115.357

Sections 3 & 4 omitted as they deal with indigents and independent candidates

115.357. Filing fees — declaration of inability to pay, form of. —

1. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4 of this section, each candidate for federal, state or county office shall, before filing his or her declaration of candidacy, pay to the treasurer of the state or county committee of the political party upon whose ticket he or she seeks nomination a certain sum of money as follows:

(1) To the treasurer of the state central committee, five hundred dollars if he or she is a candidate for statewide office or for United States senator, three hundred dollars if he or she is a candidate for representative in Congress, circuit judge or state senator, and one hundred fifty dollars if he or she is a candidate for state representative;

(2) To the treasurer of the county central committee, one hundred dollars if he or she is a candidate for county office.

2. The required sum may be submitted by the candidate to the official accepting his or her declaration of candidacy, except that a candidate required to file his or her declaration of candidacy with the secretary of state shall pay the required sum directly to the treasurer of the appropriate party committee. All sums submitted to the official accepting the candidate's declaration of candidacy shall be forwarded promptly by the official to the treasurer of the appropriate party committee.

3....

4....

5. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4 of this section, no candidate's name shall be printed on any official ballot until the required fee has been paid.

Note:

The above language makes it clear only the committee treasurer can accept filing fees on behalf of the political party (see #1 "shall"), fees collected by the county clerk are optional (see #2 "may"), must be promptly forwarded to the treasurer (see #2 "shall"), and that no candidate can appear on the ballot until the fee is paid (see #5 shall). Per #1 the fee is not paid until the committee treasurer accepts it.

Also, the SOS office has advised that holding filing fees until the filing period ends does NOT meet the definition of "promptly" (115.357.2). If your clerk is not cooperating with our process:

1. Call the clerk daily to see who has filed, get the contact information
2. Notify the candidate and the clerk of their rejection as a candidate until they have been vetted. Use the "Return Letter for Clerks Who Take Filing Fees" on page 20.
3. If the clerk is not promptly forwarding filing fees to the committee treasurer, file a complaint with the SOS office and reference 115.357.2. Contact Trish Vincent at 573-751-4936

Notice of Candidacy Rejection
For use where the candidate is vetted but fails the process

Copy this to your word processor and customize it by replacing all *(italicized areas)* with the specific information indicated. (You can turn italicizing on/off if needed by highlighting text and pressing CTRL+I.)

(Date)

(Candidate Name)

(Candidate Address)

Dear *(Candidate Name)*:

Thank you for your interest in filing with the Republican Party. As you are aware, our county is vetting candidates to determine whether the candidate's values align with those of the Republican Party as defined by our party platform.

After careful review of the Values Survey and additional materials we accumulated and reviewed, we are unable to approve your candidacy with our Party.

The materials we reviewed that were disqualifying include the following records.

(Insert the record information here. Do not list particulars, only the name of the source. For instance, MEC Ethics Violation Conviction(s), Case Net Records, or delinquent taxes for the following year(s):)

This does not mean you cannot file for office. You can still consider filing with another party or as an Independent.

Respectfully,

(Your Name)

(Your Title)

CC: County Clerk or Election Authority

Return Letter for Clerks Who Take Filing Fees

*** Be sure to attach the uncashed check to the letter ***

If you receive funds from the county clerk for a candidate, and that candidate has not been vetted, it is imperative you return them immediately with the letter below. **Do NOT cash the check or money order, and do NOT hold on to it.** In the unlikely event you receive cash, return it in person with this letter, and have a witness sign that you gave the entire amount to the clerk. Be sure to copy the candidate, and be sure to include a copy of the vetting letter to clerk/candidates with both letters.

This letter should only be sent by either the central committee chair or the chair of the vetting committee.

(Date)

(County Clerk Name)

(County Clerk Address)

Re: *(Candidate Name)*
(Amount Received)

Dear Mr. (or Ms.) *(County Clerk Last Name)*:

This correspondence is in reference to the above candidate and the filing fee you collected and forwarded to our committee. We are returning the uncashed check to you to return to the candidate.

Before the filing period began, we sent you a letter titled “*Vetting – What It Is and How It Works / For the County Clerk to Post and Give to Candidates*”. A copy of that letter is included for reference.

That document clearly stated we would immediately reject the candidacy with the Republican Party of anyone who gave his/her filing fee directly to you as it eliminates our ability to first vet the candidate. The letter states that to cure the rejection, the potential Republican candidate needs to contact the person at the bottom of the letter to arrange for vetting, and upon successful completion of that process, the Republican County Committee Treasurer would then accept the filing fee and provide a paid receipt the candidate can show you.

Therefore, we are returning the filing fee to you in its original form (uncashed check or money order, or cash), and notifying both you, and the candidate by copy of this letter, that his/her name cannot be legally printed on the ballot at this time, per RSMo115.357.1 and .5. Please see to it the funds you collected are refunded to the candidate.

Should the candidate wish to file as a Republican, (s)he must first contact me and arrange to be vetted.

Respectfully,

(Your name)

(Your title)

(Your contact information for the candidate)

Enclosure

cc: *(Candidate name)*

(Candidate Address)

Candidate Congratulations Letter for Successfully Vetted Candidates

Be sure to send this letter to candidates who pass the vetting process

Add your name and contact information along with the Treasurer where indicated

(Date)

(Candidate Name)

(Candidate Address)

Dear Mr./Ms. *(Candidate Name)*:

Congratulations! We are pleased to advise we have reviewed your survey results, along with the additional materials we compiled, and at this time, we would like to invite you to file with the Republican Party.

The next step is to pay your filing fee to our committee treasurer whose name and contact information appears below. When you pay your fee, our treasurer will issue you a paid receipt. Take the receipt with you when you go to the county clerk's office to file your candidacy. Show the county clerk the receipt as proof you have our approval to file with our party.

Central Committee Treasurer Name and Contact Information

(Your Committee Treasurer's Name)

(Your committee treasurer's contact information)

We wish you well as your campaign unfolds. Please feel free to contact us for ways we can help and for events and meetings you may want to attend.

Respectfully,

(Your Name)

(Your Title)

(Your Contact Information)

CC: County Clerk or Election Authority

Letter to State Elected Offices
Representatives, Senators, State Offices

REPACCMO will send this letter to all Legislators and state wide candidates
Central Committees who are vetting may also want to contact your own candidates personally to invite them
to be vetted

Date

Elected Office Name

Address

Address

Re: The 2024 Election Cycle

Dear _____:

This is to advise REPACCMO is vetting Republican candidates running in the 2024 election cycle. If you are running for an elective partisan office, you are included in the group we intend to vet. If you are not, you can ignore this letter.

The vetting process is simple. It requires completion of a Values Survey consisting of twenty-five questions that are based on the Republican Party Platform, and by extension the state and US Constitutions. There is also a Republican Candidate Statement to sign. Both are required in order to successfully complete the vetting process.

If you are a member of the state legislature, REPACCMO will also include as part of our evaluation, four different scorecards from AFP, CPAC, Freedom Index, and Freedom Principle. A final tally will be computed, and you will be notified of the results.

Successful candidates will be sent a graphic “seal” they can use in their marketing materials.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to arrange a day, time, and location to take the twenty-minute proctored values survey and to sign the candidate statement.

We are encouraging central committees to heavily support candidates who have received the REPACCMO seal of approval, the voters’ assurance that you will faithfully represent the values of the Republican Party as enumerated in our party’s platform.

Respectfully,

Replace this line with your signature and add you contact information.

Enclosure: Republican Candidate Statement

Text to use for your Facebook Notice of Vetting

Feel free to update the statement below with your county's name and CC's officer names; Then, copy and paste this text on your Republican party Facebook page.

(Thank you to the Bates County Republican Committee for sharing the post they created, below.)

You may have heard a rumor that our county will be vetting candidates who want to file for office as Republicans. The rumor is correct.

State statute 115.357 indicates no candidate can file for office under a political party's name unless and until that party accepts the filing fee. In fact, the law clearly states the fee is to be paid to the treasurer of the party committee. The election authority may accept the fee as a convenience, but it must be forwarded to and accepted by the party before a candidate can appear on the ballot.

As members of the Missouri GOP, we are strongly believe county committees need to vet candidates before accepting filing fees. We will hold monthly vetting sessions and will announce those sessions well in advance of filing. Republicans who wish to be vetted will likely have nothing to worry about. Candidates who intend to run or have run as a Republican because it enhanced their election prospects probably should be concerned.

We have included previous court rulings in support of this process.

As a reminder, efforts to pressure, intimidate, or influence any member of the committee will not be successful.

Officers of _____ County Republican Central Committee

_____, Chair
_____, Vice Chair
_____, Secretary
_____, Treasurer

CANDIDATE TALLY SHEET

| ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN VETTING | CANDIDATE POINTS Actual Percent | TALLY POINTS Checkmarks √ |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Values Survey Results Passed: Enter 100% under Candidate Points & a checkmark in the Tally Points Column Failed: Put a 0 in the Candidate Points column & leave the Tally Points column blank | | |
| 2. Case Net – Criminal Records* https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/nameSearch.do?newSearch=Y | AUTOMATIC FAIL | |
| 3. MEC Ethics Violation Convictions*. https://mec.mo.gov/MEC/Commission_Business/Searches.aspx | AUTOMATIC FAIL | |
| 4. Tax Records – Delinquent personal property or real estate taxes* Not past due, but delinquent. Print out the findings. | AUTOMATIC FAIL | |
| 5. County Audits for incumbents* This is either a 0 (zero) for no issues or an AUTOMATIC FAIL if there are severe Issues. See detailed instructions on page 9. | | (County) |
| | | 0 (zero), OR AUTOMATIC FAIL |
| | | (State) |
| 6. Scorecards from Third Party Evaluators Enter the actual percentage for each scorecard in the left column. Enter a check mark in the right column for any percent of 70% or above. | Enter Percentages For each card | Enter A √ For 70% or above |
| Freedom Principle https://www.freedomprinciplemo.org/2023-legislative-scorecard | | |
| CPAC http://ratings.conservative.org/states/MO - | | |
| Americans for Prosperity https://americansforprosperity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-Legislative-Scorecard.pdf | | |
| Freedom Index https://thefreedomindex.org/mo/report/mo-scorecard-2023/ | | |
| Totals: Add the total number of checkmarks from the top down, and enter in the Total Check Marks Column. For state legislature , if there are at least 3 checkmarks, the candidate passes unless they have received an “automatic fail”. For state offices, county offices, and first-time candidates , only the Values Survey is used. Those candidates pass or fail based on that survey Unless they have received an “automatic fail”. | | Total Check Marks |

*For items with an asterisk, for each problem, print out the information found for review by the vetting committee and potentially the full committee for voting purposes. Retain in the candidate file.

REPACCMO Approved Stamp

This is the graphic that will be sent to the vetting contact for any candidate who successfully passes the vetting process. It is customized with the candidate's name and sent from one of the Survey Administrators at REPACCMO. The vetting contact will then send this to the candidate, who may use it on any marketing materials in the 2024 election cycle.



Press Release

The _____ County Republican Central Committee is vetting candidates who want to run under our party's name. This will start with the 2024 election cycle and continue into the future. It is the new normal.

The purpose of vetting has only one goal: To ensure that candidates on the ballot with an "R" after their names are actually Republicans as defined by our party Platform.

Contrary to the rumor being pushed, the goal is NOT to determine the "best" Republican candidate nor is it to replace the voters' choices at the ballot box. We do not care if there are three Republicans running for the same office. We care that they are all actual Republicans.

Our purple legislature in our red state is proof that currently Democrats are running as Republicans with no consequences.

The courts have said if a political party allows a candidate to file with the party knowing the candidate's values do not align with the Party's values, a fraud and deceit is perpetrated upon the voters.

By state statute, the county central committees are the group that speaks for the Republican party at the county level. It is therefore our duty to vet our county candidates. We will also be supporting REPACCMO, an association of several central committee chairs, who will be vetting state candidates.

Our goal is to reassure voters that candidates with an "R" after their names share the values of the Republican voter about to cast a vote.

What Vetting Is and Is Not

Vetting Is:

A means of identifying Republican candidates
Intended to be objectively applied to everyone
A standardized process to be universally applied
Applied equally and fairly to all candidates
A means to take back our Party's Brand

Vetting Is Not:

A Process to select the "best" Republican
A means to play favorites
Modifiable county-to-county
Used as an excuse for personal dislikes
An end-run around the voters

Vetting is a good thing. It protects our Party's brand, it protects Republican voters who expect a Republican candidate to have values similar to theirs, and it protects real Republican candidates from running against fake Republicans.

Vetting began October 1st. The vetting dates, times, and locations for each month will be announced ahead of time. Contact me at for more specific information if you are planning to run for office in our county as a member of the Republican party.

_____, Chair

_____ County Central Committee

Case No. 06-5032-CV-S-RED
United States District Court, W.D. Missouri, Southern Division

Miller v. Carnahan

Decided May 31, 2006

Case No. 06-5032-CV-S-RED.

May 31, 2006

ORDER

RICHARD DORR, District Judge

NOW before the Court are Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Suggestions (Doc. 11), and Plaintiff's Motion to Deny Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Suggestions (Doc. 16). For the reasons stated herein, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Suggestions is due to be granted.

Plaintiff brings this case against Missouri Secretary of State, Robin Carnahan, in her official capacity. The suit alleges two counts, one for a civil rights violation under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the other for exemplary damages. Plaintiff alleges that his civil rights were violated when he attempted to have his name put on the ballot for the Democratic primary election for the office of 7th District United States Congressman and Defendant refused to list Plaintiff on the ballot, because Plaintiff's filing fee and

candidacy had been rejected by the Democratic party.

Motions to Dismiss

A complaint should not be dismissed for failure to state a claim unless it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief. See *Parnes v. Gateway 2000, Inc.*, 122 F.3d 539, 545-46 (8th Cir. 1997) (quoting *Fusco v. Xerox Corp.*,

676 F.2d 332, 334 (8th Cir. 1982) (citation

- omitted) (emphasis added)). The complaint "2 must be liberally construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff and should not be dismissed simply because the court is doubtful that the plaintiff will be able to prove all of the necessary factual allegations. See *Parnes*, 122 F.3d at 546. And when considering a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, a court must accept the facts alleged in the complaint as true. See *Cruz v. Beto*, 405 U.S. 319, 322 (1972).

Plaintiff's Section 1983 Claim (Count I)

Plaintiff asserts a § 1983 claim against the Office of Secretary of State.¹ The law is clear that a suit

¹ In his response Motion to Deny Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Suggestions (Doc. 16), Plaintiff reminds the Court that he is representing himself *pro se* in this matter. He urges the Court not to dismiss on "technical grounds" rather than the "merits of my complaint itself." It is clear that although *pro se* complaints are to be construed liberally, "they still must allege sufficient facts to support the claims advanced." *Stone v. Harry*, 364 F.3d 912,

against a state official in his or her official capacity is not a suit against the official but rather is a suit against the official's office. *Will v. Michigan Dep. of State Police*, 491 U.S. 58, 71 (1989) citing *Brandon v. Holt*, 469 U.S. 464, 471. As such, it is no different from a suit against the State itself. *Will*, 491 U.S. at 71, citing *Kentucky v. Graham*, 473 U.S. 159, 165-166 (1985). The Supreme Court has held that neither a State nor its officials acting in their official capacities are "persons" under § 1983. *Will*, 491 U.S. at 71.

Miller v. Carnahan Case No. 06-5032-CV-S-RED (W.D. Mo. May. 31, 2006)
in a manner which, taking the pleaded facts
as true, states a claim as a matter of law"
Cunningham v. Rye, 648 F.2d 1185, 1186
(8th Cir. 1981).

However, a state official in his or her official capacity, when sued for injunctive relief, would be a person under § 1983 because "official-capacity actions for prospective relief are not treated as actions against the State." *Will*, 491 U.S. at 71, quoting *Kentucky v. Graham*, 473 U.S. 159, 167 n. 14 (1985). To the extent Plaintiff is seeking injunctive relief, i.e. for his name to be placed on the *3 primary ballot as a Democratic candidate, he has failed to state a claim against Defendant as the Defendant is immune from Plaintiff's claims under the qualified immunity doctrine. Public officials will be "shielded from liability for civil damages insofar as their conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known." *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800 (1982).

Under Missouri law, political parties ordinarily must nominate candidates through a primary election, see Mo.Rev. Stat. §§ 115.307, 115.339, and the winner of the primary election for a party is the only candidate of that party permitted on the general election ballot, see Mo.Rev. Stat. § 115.343. Filing fees for candidates to political offices are to be paid to the treasurer of the political party upon whose ticket the candidate seeks nomination. Mo.

Rev. Stat. § 115.357 (1). The fee can also be submitted by the candidate to the official accepting his declaration of candidacy, but those sums are forwarded to the treasurer of the appropriate party committee. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 115.357 (2).

Under the statute and facts as alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant had no role other than forwarding the money to the correct political party. Defendant was not the one to

whom the fee was to be paid or who could accept the fee as paid. The Democratic party did not accept the fee, and thus the fee was never paid as required by statute.

Plaintiff's allegation is simply that he tendered the filing fee to Defendant and therefore should be on the ballot for the Democratic Primary. He claims Defendant's return of the fee because the Democratic Party would not accept it is just a pretext to exclude people who express pro-White racial viewpoints. Clearly, these allegations do not support that Defendant violated a clearly established statutory or constitutional right, of which a reasonable person would have known. Defendant's role as described by statute and *4 Plaintiff's pleadings, clearly entitles her to qualified immunity from suit.

The Constitution contains no express provision that guarantees the right to become a candidate. *Pierce v. Allegheny County Bd. of Elections*, 324

F. Supp.2d 684 (W.D. Pa. 2003) citing 3 Ronald D. Rotunda and John E. Nowak, et al, TREATISE ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW § 18.32 (3rd ed. 2006); see also, Mark R. Brown, *Popularizing Ballot Access: The Front Door to Election Reform*, 58 OHIO ST. L.J. 1282 (1997). Indeed, Plaintiff's Complaint appears not to be alleging that any right to the ballot has been denied (as it appears he could become listed as an independent candidate), but that a

914 (8th Cir. 2004). * [P]ro se litigants must set
[a claim] forth

right to the ballot for a specific political party, the Democratic Party, has been violated. The Court can not find and Plaintiff does not cite any authority that a political party can not refuse membership to persons who do not share its ideology. If Plaintiff is asserting such a claim, he clearly has named the wrong party in this suit.

Moreover, the provision of the state statute Plaintiff cites, Mo. Stat. Ann. § 115.357 (5), only requires that "no candidate's name shall be printed on any official ballot until the required fee has been paid." It does not appear to, nor has it been interpreted as, creating a requirement that once the filing fee has been paid, a candidate's name must appear on the ballot. In fact, there are other requirements for candidacy that must be met beyond mere filing of the fee. See, e.g. Mo. Ann.

Stat. §§ 115.347; 115.349. Thus, on the merits of Plaintiff's allegations there appears to be no claim on which relief can be granted.

Even giving Plaintiff's pleadings liberal construction, Plaintiff has failed to plead a violation of a clearly established constitutional right. See *Cross v. City of Des Moines*, 965 F.2d 629, 631 (8th Cir. 1992) (holding that dismissal is appropriate if plaintiff fails to plead a constitutional right which is clearly established).

Beyond general allegations, Plaintiff's Complaint is unclear as to what *5 clearly established right he alleges Defendant violated. Accordingly, Plaintiff's § 1983 claim is due to be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief could be granted.

Plaintiff's Exemplary Damage Claim (Count II)

Plaintiff originally sought exemplary damages in his original complaint. However, Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Withdraw all Claims for Money Damages (Doc. 15). The Motion by Plaintiff to Withdraw all Claims for Money Damages (Doc. 15) is hereby **GRANTED**. The Motion by Plaintiff terminates his Count II claim for exemplary damages.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Suggestions (Doc. 11) is hereby **GRANTED**. Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed without prejudice in its entirety. All pending motions are hereby **DENIED as moot**. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a copy of this Order shall be sent via first class mail,

Miller v. Camahan Case No. 08-5032-CV-S-RED (W.D. Mo. May. 31, 2006)
return receipt requested to Frazier Glenn Miller, 17209 Lawrence 1220, Aurora, MO 65605.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

1 *1

Morley Swingle Legal References

Office of Prosecuting Attorney

H. MORLEY SWINGLE
Prosecuting Attorney

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI



April 9, 2010

Ms. Kara Clark-Summers
County Clerk
1 Courthouse Square
Jackson, MO 63755

Re: Keeping Candidate Off Ballot When Party Refuses To Accept Nomination Fee

Dear Kara:

My staff and I have researched the issue of whether you should refuse to place a candidate on the primary ballot when the political party whose label that person is trying to run under does not want that candidate and rejects that candidate's filing fee.

The answer, to my surprise, is that if the local political party does not want to associate with that candidate we cannot force them to. As long as 100 years ago, the Missouri Supreme Court established the law that a political party cannot be compelled to put forward as a candidate one who does not affiliate with it. The Court said it is actually a fraud upon the voters to allow a candidate to try to deceive the electorate by running for office under a party label when the party does not want that candidate.

The United States Supreme Court has said, as recently as 2000, that it violates a political party's Constitutional right of freedom of association to prevent a political party from rejecting a candidate of whom it does not approve. In the words of Justice Antonin Scalia: "[T]he Court has recognized that the First Amendment protects the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs, which necessarily presupposes the freedom to identify the people who constitute the association, and to limit the association to those people only. That is to say,

a corollary of the right to associate is the right not to associate. Freedom of association would prove an empty guarantee if associations could not limit control over their decisions to those who share the interests and persuasions that underlie the association's being. In no area is the political association's right to exclude more important than in the process of selecting its nominee." California Democratic Party v. Jones, 530 U.S. 567, 574 (2000).

A high profile example occurred in the 1992 presidential primary, when David Duke, a former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, tried to run for President as a Republican in Georgia. The party rejected him as its candidate and he was kept off the ballot. The federal court agreed that excluding David Duke from the ballot based on his failure to pass the Republican Party's ideological litmus test was perfectly constitutional. "Duke has no right to associate with the Republican Party," the court held, "if the Republican Party has identified Duke as ideologically outside the party." *Duke v. Cleland*, 954 F.2d 1526 at 1531 (11th Cir. 1992). See also: Nathaniel Persily, "Candidates v. Parties: The Constitutional Constraints On Primary Ballot Access Laws," 89 Geo. L. J. 2181, 2197 (2001).

It is important to realize that just because a person is kept off the ballot for a particular political party does not mean that person could not have filed as an Independent. It simply means that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats can be forced to give their party's label to someone they have identified as a person who does not share their beliefs.

The applicable statute is Section 115.357, RSMo, which provides that a candidate seeking the nomination of a political party to run for a local office must pay a fifty dollar fee to the county clerk to be forwarded to the treasurer of the appropriate party committee. The last paragraph of the statute points out that no candidate's name shall be printed on any official ballot until the required fee has been paid.

The case law supports the interpretation that a political party may reject the candidate's check and return it to the candidate and keep him off the ballot in that party's primary. It all boils down to the fact that the legislature has set up a procedure by which a political party may reject a candidate with whom it does not want to associate.

In 2006, Frazier Glenn Miller tried to have his name put on the Missouri ballot for the Democratic primary election for the office of 7th District United States Congressman. Miller was a former Ku Klux Klan leader and founder of the White Patriot Party, who distributed a newspaper called "The Aryan Alternative." The Democratic Party was unenthusiastic about associating with him and rejected his filing fee. Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan

refused to put him on the ballot because the Democratic Party rejected his filing fee. District Judge Richard E. Dorr ruled: "The Democratic Party did not accept the fee, and thus the fee was never paid as required by statute." *Miller v. Carnahan*, Case No. 06-5032-CV-S-RED, United States District Court, Western District of Missouri (May 31, 2006).


In 1914, a candidate for circuit judge, who was a Republican, tried to have his name put on a Missouri ballot as a Progressive. In fact, he demonstrated rather unclean hands by trying to have his name listed both as a Republican and as a Progressive. His \$25 filing fee to run as a Progressive was rejected. The Missouri Supreme Court affirmed the decision to keep him off the Progressive ballot, stating: "[N]O political party can be compelled to put forward as its candidate one who does not affiliate with it. The voter at the general election may vote for whom he pleases, but may not be deceived by false labels. It is surely within the power of the Legislature

to prevent such deception, and we think it clearly appears that it has intended to do so." The Court added that "the whole statutory scheme is one well calculated to prevent 'false labels.'" It explained: "It is deceitful . . . when a candidate of one political faith permits his name to be placed on a ticket under a caption indicating a different political faith . . . True it is that the leaders in politics may know that he is not of the political faith indicated by the ticket upon which he permits his name to go, yet the unsuspecting masses are deceived." State ex rel Dunn v. Coburn, 260 Mo. 177, 168 S.W.956 (1914).

I understand that the Chairman of the local Republican Party has notified you that the Republican Party is going to reject the filing fee of one of the candidates. You should require the Chairman to send you a letter officially notifying you that the Party is rejecting the filing fee for the candidate. Once that is done, you should send a letter notifying the candidate that you refuse to place that person on the ballot as a Republican since the Republican Party has refused to accept the filing fee. Either you or the Republican Party should return the filing fee to that candidate.

Kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,



H. MORLEY SWINGLE
Prosecuting Attorney

Flyers

For use as needed. More will be added to this section as the election season gets underway. It is our intent to be able to use flyers and memes to get the word out about good and bad candidates.

Why Do We Need Vetting....

David Hogg has started a nationwide "grassroots" organization to vet people to run for office in 2024 and beyond – particularly state offices. It is my belief the #1 priority for the vetting process is finding folks who believe in ridding America of privately owned firearms, and getting these folks to run for state representatives, senators and even mayors! I've never considered Hogg the sharpest tool in the shed but he has clearly figured out that the individual states is where the power is, where the true grassroots are and he is raising money for this effort. He most likely has money from Soros and Bloomberg incoming and this move could be the biggest game changer that the states have ever seen when it comes to "gun control." Since most folks are not active in state politics, people WILL NOT SEE THIS COMING.

#1

...Because people like David Hogg are not "vetting",

They are RECRUITING people to run as Republicans for the sole purpose of voting with Democrats to kill our values

Your contribution will benefit Missouri Republican Party.

☐ We'll be direct... if today was Election Day, we would be defeated. The Democrats have raised MILLIONS online, and their Grassroots Base is fired up and ready to fight. Unless you want to see everything we've fought for destroyed, we need you to step up right now. KEEP THIS BOX CHECKED to confirm you're willing to do your part to save America.

Make this a monthly recurring donation

#2

...Because While the GOP "leaders" say they are fighting for you, they are nowhere to be found when it comes to stopping Democrats from filing as Republicans

What exactly have they "Fought For" ?????

#3 ...Because **VOTERS** are **FED UP**

CENTRAL COMMITTEES are STEPPING UP

...and REPACCMO is here to help!