

Lawrence Tabas, Esq.  
Chairman Republican Party of PA  
3501 North Front Street Suite 200  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

June 28, 2023

Dear Chairman Tabas,

I am respectfully writing to you in your official capacity as Chair of the PA State Republican Party to notify you of serious and consequential actions being taken by county and local GOP chairs/committees and to request your assistance to save our Party from the resultant divisiveness that will surely fracture our Party unlike anything seen to date and result in the Democratic Party being successful in the upcoming November elections.

As you undoubtedly remember, in March, I reached out to you over concerns, *inter alia*, of duly and publicly elected state, county, and local committee members being threatened with removal for supporting Republican candidates, such as myself, who were not endorsed by the Party. As I stated in that letter, while I understood and respected the purpose of the endorsement process, the geographic and socio-economic diversity of the Commonwealth almost dictate that a single candidate (endorsed or not) is not going to be the first choice of every Republican voter and that this is why primary elections exist – to allow voters to decide the best representative of the respective party based on information, track record, campaign messaging, *etc.*, and not be dictated to by a non-legislative body.

From our discussion, I know we both agreed that the State Committee Bylaws are only in relation to the November election and that the divisiveness, that only seems to be within our Party, serves no purpose but to harm our candidates and resultantly, our Republic. It was my hope that the concerns I raised would be addressed swiftly so that post-Primary, our Party could come together, as a singular, cohesive force, to ensure our success in November, regardless of who the People chose as their candidates for our Party.

Unfortunately, I have been made aware of several county and local GOP chairs/committees in Chester, Montgomery, and Cumberland counties taking formal action, including scheduling disciplinary hearings and removing members, who supported unendorsed Republican candidates in the Primary. In Montgomery, one member has already been removed. In Chester, four members have been notified that hearings are being scheduled. And in Cumberland, a meeting is being scheduled to discuss removal of members, even after the members in February of 2022 voted against a bylaw amendment that would have permitted removal of a committeeperson for support of an unendorsed Republican in the primary. And I've additionally heard rumor of similar actions being taken across the Commonwealth.

These actions need to end, immediately, if there is any ability for our Party to be successful in November, as I understand several of these individuals are planning on bringing very public, legal challenges and a number of sizeable groups/organizations are already

discussing plans to boycott the November election, if action is taken against these, or any other, members, who supported a Republican candidate, regardless of endorsed status. As we both know, even with our voters being “all-in,” many believe our Party will be unsuccessful with some of our judicial elections – which is something untenable to me, given the unquantifiable importance of our judiciary, especially in today’s world. With large segments of our Party boycotting the election, we may lose *all* of those elections. That is something, in my opinion, not only our Commonwealth, but also our Republic, may not be able to withstand.

As you know, consistent with my word that I gave you when I elected to run as an unendorsed candidate, having been unsuccessful, I have been doing everything I can to support our judicial candidates, but this issue is one that I cannot resolve without your help.

Consistent with Rule 6.1 of the Rules and Bylaws of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania, revised as of September 19, 2015, as “Republican Committee[s] shall adopt rules and bylaws, ***which shall not be inconsistent with the Rules of the State Party***” and the Rules and Bylaws of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania for removal of a committeeperson for support of an unendorsed candidate are only in relation to a municipal/general/special election, and not in relation to the primary (*see*, Rule 11.1<sup>1</sup>), any county or local committee rule or bylaw that addresses removal of a committeeperson for support of a Republican candidate in the primary is inconsistent with the Rules and Bylaws of the State Party and thus violative, of the Rules and Bylaws of the State Party.

Accordingly, I am imploring you, not just for the sake of our judicial candidates or Party, but rather for the sake of our Republic, to please advise all county and local committees that, beyond any such action being contrary to Republican ideals and our shared love for rule of law and Constitution, any rule or bylaw provision providing for removal of a committeeperson for supporting a Republican candidate in the primary is inconsistent with, and therefore violative of, the Rules and Bylaws of the Republican Party and that any action being taken pursuant to any such rule or bylaw provision must cease immediately and to the extent any committeeperson was already removed pursuant to such rule or bylaw, that the committeeperson be immediately reinstated.

Thanking you for your time and attention in this matter, I am

Sincerely,

  
Joshua Prince Esq.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cf.* Rule 14.1, which, unlike Rule 11.1, mentions primary elections in relation to the endorsement process and thus reflects that the Party is acutely aware of how to draft provisions involving primary elections, where it deems appropriate.