



THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY of
ARKANSAS

Two proposals have been submitted to the RPA Rules Committee for consideration at the Summer State Committee Meeting on May 18th, 2024. These proposals and rationale were submitted by June Matheny, a member of the State Committee.

Proposal #1 clarifies the original intent of the non-recommended designation to make clear that only the committee that files said candidate in question has the authority to give a non-recommended status. This ensures that committees, both at the County and State level, are not attempting to influence primaries. We should ultimately trust the voters to make determinations on who our nominees will be and should only ever issue such a designation in extreme circumstances. The State Executive Committee should not be opining on county level candidates any more than a County Committee should be giving favorable or unfavorable treatment to a candidate whose district covers more than just one county.

*Proposed new language is underlined. Proposed language for repeal is ~~strikethrough~~.

Proposed Rules Change #1

ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 5 - Primary Elections

A.1. ...The State Executive Committee and/or the respective County Committees, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular or duly announced special meeting may vote that a particular candidate, who has filed to run for office with the committee, is not recommended. Written notice shall be made to all candidates in the race in question at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting."

ARTICLE II - COUNTY COMMITTEE

Section 4 - Primaries

C. "The County Committee shall not endorse or otherwise publicly show favoritism to one candidate over another in a contested Republican primary. The County Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at any regular or duly announced special meeting, may vote that a particular candidate, who has filed to run for office with that committee, is not a recommended candidate. Written notice shall be made to all candidates in the race in question at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting."

ARTICLE II - COUNTY COMMITTEE

Section 5 - Meetings

D. "No action shall be taken by the County Committee to adopt or amend County Committee local rules, elect any officers, consider any action "not to recommend" any candidate, or assess filing fees unless the proposal shall have been set forth in the notice calling the meeting. The notice shall be sent to each member of the County Committee pursuant to Article II Section 1(E) at least (10) calendar days before the meeting date. The notice shall include, at a minimum, the time and place of the meeting."



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Proposal #2 has to do with the threshold needed to amend the governing rules and platform of the Republican Party of Arkansas. Currently amending local or state rules requires two thirds (2/3) of members voting for both a County Committee and this body, the State Committee. However, that is not the same at a state convention. We should hold our rules and platform in high regard and, as conservatives, be cautious in amending these documents. We should not be persuaded by the emotions of the day to act in haste, but instead act in transparency and firm support to make a change. This very proposal requires the same threshold it seeks to hold a state convention to, ultimately making the process fairer to all Republican bodies. 2/3 approval is also a baseline for most actions under Robert's Rules of Order.

*Proposed new language is underlined.

Proposed Rules Change #2
ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS
Section 6 - State Convention

F. "All proposed rule changes and/or proposed platform provisions shall be filed in writing with the appropriate committee at least 60 days prior to the date of the convention. Those proposed rule changes and/or proposed platform resolutions recommended for adoption at the State Convention shall be mailed or electronically transmitted by the appropriate committee chair to each County Chairman 30 days before the date of the convention. Rules changes and platform resolutions recommended for adoption may only be approved by two thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present. It shall be the responsibility of every County Chairman to inform delegates and alternates to the State Convention of the proposed rules changes and/or proposed platform resolutions with a copy of same at least ten (10) calendar days before the State Convention. Copies of proposed rules changes and/or proposed platform resolutions will not be mailed to delegates and alternates by the State Party.