

THE  
**WATCHDAWG**  
REPORT

### Republican Candidate Vetting 2024

If you pay any attention to Missouri state politics, you know there is a problem in our General Assembly. There are legislators who ran as Republicans, were elected by Republicans, and then vote like Democrats. Some deliberately lied about their values to get elected, and some are corrupted in office.

Many Republican Central Committees in counties across the state are getting on-board with vetting Republican candidates using a uniform, consistent process developed in Vernon County. This process allows Republican candidates to sign a pledge to govern based on the Republican Party Platform, complete a Values Survey, and pass a background check. The Committee is asking candidates to confirm in writing their commitment to Republican Party values like marriage, life of babies in the womb, secure borders, etc. We expect candidates here in Camden County to be supportive of the party and look forward to advocating for those that participate.

Your elected Republican Central Committee members from your township can answer any questions. If you need contact information for your committee person, email me at [contact@watchdawg.com](mailto:contact@watchdawg.com) with your township, and I will provide the contact info you need.

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### Camden County Presidential Caucus

In the 2022 – 2023 legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly did away with the presidential primary as we have known it. It was never the official process for choosing Missouri's presidential nominee. It was the way in which you expressed your opinion on a local ballot.

In 2024, the county caucus is where it all begins, and it lays the foundation for every Republican delegate's vote cast thereafter. **Please mark your calendar for March 2nd at 9:45 am.** Plan to stay over two hours and maybe all day. We will be at the Camdenton Middle School on South Hwy 5 in the gymnasium. Doors will close at 10:00 am, and no one will be admitted after that. All political parties will hold their separate caucuses. I have details about the Republican caucus only. Contact your party leaders for information about the others.

The Camden County Republican Central Committee conducts the Republican Caucus. Contact your township committee member with questions. Registered Republicans with a photo ID and a willingness to sign the pledge to support the Republican party platform are encouraged to attend the caucus.

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For many years, the County Clerk's office has provided the administrative service of accepting filing fees from candidates, and automatically adding their names to the ballot. In past years, a less involved Central Committee has allowed that to happen. Now that more interested and interesting people are on the Committee, we will vet candidates and accept filing fees directly to our Central Committee Treasurer. The Republican Party has always received the fees after they passed through the county clerk's office.

The vetting process was clearly explained at a committee meeting to which our county clerk Rowland Todd was invited. It was an interesting meeting. "You are inviting lawsuits" was spoken more than once, but it was never clear who would be suing who. Missouri court cases were presented that support the party's right to place who they choose on the ballot. With the volunteer vetting plan adopted, the risk of any lawsuit is avoided. Good job, Central Committee.

There was some interesting commentary on Steve Deace's show on Blaze TV about Republican candidates that were not vetted by the party. They presented themselves as MAGA, and then turned out to be horrible candidates who ruined opportunities for good MAGA Republicans. **No individual has a right to run as a Republican.** It is a privilege awarded by the party. The elected Camden County Republican Central Committee has the responsibility to protect constituents by fielding candidates that are vetted using an objective, repeatable process. The objective is never to identify the best or favored Republican candidates. The objective is to make sure that Republicans on the ballot will align their actions with the Republican platform while in office. Their signature on the pledge and passing score on the vetting process allows us to comfortably expect consistent adherence to the Republican platform. It also provides proof of flip-flopping so they can be called out if necessary.

The Central Committee has kicked off the process, meeting with candidates who volunteer to be vetted and pay their filing fee to the Central Committee Treasurer. The approved candidates will receive a logo they can put on campaign hand-outs and will be offered a table at our 2024 Reagan Days event. Those who choose not to be vetted can pay the County Clerk, who has advised he will keep the Camden County Republican Central Committee out of the process and send fees directly to the State Party Office. I think if I were running for office in Camden County, I would want the good and influential Republicans on the Central Committee to know that I support the party and am happy to be vetted to show my commitment.

Camden County Republican Candidates: If you support the Republican platform at <https://missouri.gop/about/platform> you will have no difficulty with this process. We look forward to putting the "Republican Central Committee Vetted and Approved" logo into your hands and will have a space for your campaign at our Reagan Days event at Margaritaville on April 20, 2024.

*To receive The Watchdawg Report free via email every month, contact me (Jennie) at [Contact@watchdawgreport.com](mailto:Contact@watchdawgreport.com), or call 660-238-6514 and leave a message. All past issues are available at [www.watchdawgreport.com](http://www.watchdawgreport.com). If you would like to see the print version continued, please ask about donating to help cover costs. A little goes a long way.*

*Over the past two months, donors have helped spread The Watchdawg Report across more of the county.*

**THANK YOU!**

Each caucus participant must sign a solemn affirmation of their Republican party affiliation. It reads: “I hereby pledge my allegiance to the Missouri Republican Party. I believe in the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and a strong national defense. I commit to uphold the values of the Republican Party and to work to advance these goals. I am a strong and faithful Republican voter.”

The Republican Party Platform is available at <https://missouri.gop/about/platform>

If you need to register to vote in Camden County, you can visit the County Clerk’s office or email me, and I will get a registration card to you.

The County Caucus is the beginning. The end goal is representation at the Republican National Committee (RNC) Convention July 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee.

At the Camden County Caucus, we will:

- ✓ Identify the presidential candidate nominee(s) based on the results of the caucus process.
  - A physical count of delegates that declare for a specific candidate gathered together in a pre-assigned area of the gym. (I will be in the Trump corner)
- ✓ Choose seven delegates that will attend the Missouri Congressional District Convention on April 6, 2024. Location to be determined.
- ✓ Choose seven delegates that will attend the Missouri State Republican Convention on May 4, 2024, in Springfield.

It is probable that the same slate of seven delegates will attend both the Congressional District and State Conventions.

Delegates for the RNC National Convention will then be chosen at the Missouri Congressional District Convention and the Missouri State Republican Convention.

If there is a majority of supporters for any one candidate, meaning anything over 50%, all delegates will represent that candidate as the county’s choice for the Republican presidential candidate. If none earns a majority, there will be a plurality, and delegates will be split proportionally between the selected candidates. Candidates with less than 15% of attendees in support in the first round of voting will not qualify for assignment of delegates. Supporters will be asked to declare for a different candidate and another round of voting (counting) will occur.

Can you be a delegate?

We need good, honest people committed to the Republican platform and the chosen candidate, to be delegates to the Congressional District and State conventions. Delegates should be armed with facts and be ready to convince people of the superiority of their chosen candidate.

The congressional caucus is April 6th. It may be a bit of a drive from your house - a county or two away depending on your district and location. It should not require an overnight stay.

The state convention is in Springfield on May 4th. You will want to be there the night before so it would require the expense of a hotel room & food.

The national convention is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bollinger Creek – this is the privately owned cemetery on Bollinger Creek Road where the creek is causing erosion in the cemetery. The case was made that the erosion was eventually going to affect Bollinger Creek Road after it washed out the cemetery property. The Commission allocated \$80,000 of “don’t worry it’s ARPA money” and received an Army Corps of Engineer permit to do the work. The Commission reports that work was completed in September, and the total cost was \$68,456.60. The completed project is a “wall” of piled riprap about 20 feet inside of and away from the concave bank following along the 180 degree curve in the creek. I am a bit skeptical on how that secures the bank from head scarp, but I have been assured this design was approved and permitted by the Corps of Engineers.

Property Tax Cap based on Missouri Senate Bill SB190 - The county ordinance will freeze personal property taxes for those 62 and over in Camden County. There is not yet a process for how citizens complete their applications. We know we must apply every year, but we do not know with what county office, how or when. More to come.

License Plate Reading Cameras (stationary and in police cars) - We heard words about protecting our liberty and banning all surveillance cameras on a video put out by our Presiding Commissioner. Then, at a public meeting, the Commission backed away from the ban and assigned the county attorney to work with the Sheriff’s office to write up restrictions for using the cameras. I expect they are heading toward a ban on stationary cameras in the unincorporated areas (they still exist inside city limits) and allow them in the police cars. In the meantime, we have become aware that cameras in Lake Ozark that feed to Homeland Security have been in place on the Strip since just after 9/11/2001. Speak to your Commissioner if this is a concern for you. My 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner is aware of my stance for zero data gathering in violation of personal freedom. Perhaps they need a second public meeting since they have strayed from the original intent.

Courthouse Renovation Project – Following a recent Sunshine request, I noticed that Veregy (\$4.7 million contractor that was to complete last summer) was on the Commission’s meeting agenda for Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. According to the response received, there is a problem with water in the basement during heavy rains for which Veregy will install a sump pump. I wonder if it leaked prior to their original work. Veregy committed to restoring damaged areas, including replacing flooring, repairing drywall and repainting...that sounds like a lot of water damage.

County Purchasing – The office continues with its unethical practices letting bids without using qualified bidders lists and consistent bid documents. Purchases are made with single bid awards based on phone calls to specific bidders after ineffective ads in a local paper. The Commission does not have the will to take charge and mandate improved purchasing processes in the county. Many of us wonder why. This was definitely on the list for the 2023 “New” Commission to address.