

ARTICLE 10 – ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES DURING A PRIMARY ELECTION
AND OF BALLOT MEASURES (Language as amended in December, 2005 appears in *italics*)

Section 1 - Procedures

1. The Central Committee (PCOs and the Executive Committee) shall be limited to endorsing primary election candidates running for the following positions: State Senator, State Representative, County Commissioner, County Auditor, County Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, County Assessor, County Clerk, and County Sheriff.

2. *In the February of each year partisan elections are to be held, the Chairman shall select a date to hold the Endorsement Meeting.* The date does not have to be the regularly scheduled KCRP general membership meeting date. On the selected date, the Chairman shall place on the meeting agenda the topic of primary candidate endorsement. The Chairman will do so for each contested position of the current electoral cycle, regardless of the number of candidates seeking the Republican nomination (e.g., even if there is only one candidate).

a. *Although the “Endorsement Meeting” is not an official PCO meeting, an official notice of the meeting must be sent, by the Chairman, to all PCOs and Executive Committee members 10 days prior to the meeting.*

b. *If no candidate has announced an intention to run for a particular office by the February Endorsement meeting, but subsequent to that meeting one or more candidates do announce their intention to seek the Republican nomination, the Chairman may call an additional Endorsement Meeting at a time of his discretion. The meeting shall follow the same rules outlined herein, except that the vote to endorse shall take place on the same night at the candidates speak.*

3. During the Endorsement Meeting, each candidate will, privately, be allowed to address the general membership for an amount of time to be determined by the Chairman. Following such address, the general membership shall be allowed to question the candidate for an amount of time to be determined by the Chairman. Each candidate shall receive equal time. This process will continue until each candidate, who so chooses, has addressed the general membership.

4. *Two weeks following the candidate Endorsement Meeting, the KCRP shall reconvene to vote for the purposes of bestowing the KCRP endorsement. The meeting shall be open to the public, but only eligible voters (PCOs and Ex Comm) may hold the floor to discuss and debate candidate qualifications.* Candidates seeking the endorsement of the Central Committee, who are also PCOs, shall not be eligible to vote with respect to the endorsement of primary candidates for the office for which they are running. The Chairman shall allocate an appropriate amount of time for discussion and debate among the general membership.

5. Following discussion and debate, the Chairman will call for a vote to endorse a single candidate per position. Any candidate receiving 60% or more of the eligible votes cast shall receive the official endorsement of the Central Committee. *If no candidate receives at least 60% on the first vote, the Central Committee will continue to vote until either a candidate receives 60% of the vote or there is no change in the vote totals in two consecutive votes. In-between each vote, the Secretary shall inform the voting members of the vote totals for each candidate.*

a. In the case of three or more candidates seeking the Central Committee endorsement, a run-off procedure will be employed. After each vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total will be dropped from the list of candidates, and the eligible Central Committee members will vote

again. This process will continue until there are only two candidates, or until one candidate earns 60% or more of the votes.

- b. Proxy votes will be accepted at the Endorsement Meeting per our Proxy Vote certificate (See Appendix A).
 - c. PCOs appointed by the Chairman within three months of the Endorsement Meeting are ineligible to vote.
6. If, at the conclusion of the voting process outlined in Sec I, Sub 5, no candidate has received 60% of the vote, the KCRP shall have the option of voting to give each candidate the “Kittitas County Republican Party SEAL OF APPROVAL”. To earn such a “seal of approval”, a candidate only need garner 50% of the eligible vote and both candidates may earn the “seal of approval” simultaneously.

Section 2 - Eligible Benefits

1. In a primary election in which there are two or more candidates seeking the Republican nomination, only the candidate earning the official endorsement of the Central Committee shall be eligible for the following resources:
 - a) monetary donations from the Central Committee. Following an endorsement by the Central Committee, the Central Committee may elect to donate Central Committee funds to said candidate. Candidates not earning the endorsement of the Central Committee shall not be eligible for such funds.
 - b) use of Republican Party Headquarters. Candidates earning the endorsement of the Central Committee shall have access to, and use of, the Republican Party Headquarters, if the Central Committee has established such headquarters, and only for the election for which the candidate had been endorsed.
 - c) official documents and media representations. Only candidates earning the endorsement of the Central Committee will benefit from any of the following:
 - i. Newspaper advertisements and endorsements
 - ii. Official Central Committee authorized doorbelling and phone banking efforts.
 - d) In a primary election in which there are two or more candidates seeking the Republican nomination but no candidate received at least 60% of the vote, all candidates shall have access to, and use of, the Republican Party Headquarters, if the Central Committee has established such headquarters. However, the Central Committee will publish no media, contribute any money to, nor engage in any doorbelling or phone banking activities advocating for one primary candidate over another.

Section 3 - Rights of Members

1. Excepting the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, members of the Central Committee shall maintain their rights to campaign for, endorse, and contribute money to any candidate of their choice. However, they must engage in such activity as a private citizen, or solely as a representative of their precinct, but not in any official capacity of the Central Committee.

Section 4 – Cases in Which the Endorsed Candidate Does Not Win the Primary

1. In cases in which the candidate who received the official endorsement of the Central Committee does not win the primary election, the Chairman shall, in the first regularly scheduled general meeting following the primary election date, put before the Central Committee the option of endorsing the winning candidate. If the winning candidate receives a majority vote of the Central Committee, then the candidate will have earned the endorsement of the Central Committee and all the benefits thereof, as outlined in Section 2.

a. Although the “Endorsement Meeting” will take place at a General Meeting of the Executive Committee, an official notice of the meeting must be sent, by the Chairman, to all PCOs and Executive Committee members 10 days prior to the meeting.

Section 5 – Procedures for Endorsing an Initiative or Ballot Measure.

1. The Central Committee may initiate, but is not required, endorsement proceeding for any ballot measure that will appear on the ballot within one year of the endorsement meeting and if the language of the ballot measure has been approved for the ballot by the Secretary of State’s office.

2. In order to initiate an Endorsement Meeting for any initiative or ballot measure, any member of the party may circulate a petition identifying the ballot measure for which he/she seeks an endorsement meeting. If 20% of the Central Committee members sign said petition, the Chairman shall be directed to hold endorsement proceedings in the next regularly scheduled Central Committee meeting, unless the signed petition is delivered to the Chairman less than 15 days before a regularly scheduled Central Committee meeting. In such a case, the endorsement proceeding will take place at the following Central Committee meeting.

3. During the Endorsement Meeting, any member of the party may speak in favor or against endorsing the initiative or ballot measure that is the subject of the Endorsement Meeting.

4. In order for an initiative or ballot measure to receive the official endorsement of the Kittitas County Republican Party, 60% of eligible voters must vote (by secret ballot) to endorse the measure. Eligible voters are identified in Section 1, Subsection 5 of this article (eligible PCOs and Executive Committee members).

5. If an initiative or ballot measure receives the required 60% of votes, the Chairman shall be responsible for sending a letter to the Chief Petitioner of the said measure indicating the party’s support.

Appendix A

PROXY

I, _____, as a Central Committee member for
_____, do hereby authorize _____ to exercise this
proxy as follows:

Cast my support for the following candidate(s): _____

_____.

Cast my vote for any candidate using their independent judgment.

Other: _____

_____.

This proxy is valid for the _____ of _____, _____ primary election.

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____.
(day) (month) (year)

Central Committee Member