



Republican Party of Washington County TN
P.O. Box 808
Mountain Home, TN 37684-008

August 1, 2025

Dear Mr. Golden,

The challenges we face are the same in many of the counties across the state. Take for instance Williamson County.

<https://tennesseeconservativenews.com/a-political-civil-war-is-brewing-among-republicans-in-williamson-county/>

"In the weeks that followed, the group set up competing social events the same night as the WCRP's events, and the WCC PAC began selling memberships to compete with WCRP memberships. Pejorative attacks have intensified in what appears to be a well-financed effort to damage the reputation of WCRP's leadership and impede their ability to implement the mandate voters elected them to fulfill."

This sounds familiar because it is similar to what we are facing in Washington County.

Hamilton County CEC elected new people, as did Williamson County. Despite the opposition, Hamilton County just threw a historic fundraising dinner.

Four people from my slate were elected and three from the other slate were elected. The issue is once you count in the auxiliary organizations, SEC, and Past Chair, it becomes 6-6. As you have pointed out, we are in a transition phase much like the pre-Eisenhower years. Transitions are difficult. Six of the board members used to have full control of the board, now they don't. Instead of working together with the new members of the CEC, they have protested the meetings, declined to serve on committees, and generally worked to impede the functioning of the committee and the implementation of new initiatives.

It is true that we have had too much discussion on minutes with some disagreeing on motions that had passed in prior meetings. We will be fixing this by recording our meetings. We got through the entire agenda in the last meeting in an hour and a half, so we are making progress.

Despite the lack of cooperation and/or participation of all the committee members, we are delivering on our campaign promises. Several examples are listed below:

- My campaign promised transparency of the budget, and our Treasurer is fulfilling this promise by reports at all of the meetings.
- We also promised our support of fiscal discipline, and are in discussions for lower cost alternatives to the rental storage locker.
- My campaign promised to grow the party. Our activities and meetings are well publicized through our new functional website, and Facebook and Instagram pages. Our events are listed, and promoted to all Republicans through a calendar and more. We sent out a messaging campaign to 10k Republicans engaging with more than in the past. We are bringing communications into the 21st century and expanding our outreach.
- We promised to keep people informed about legislation. Our upcoming first quarterly meeting will do just that by having Q&A with several legislators from across the state. As the 2026 elections get closer, we will have candidate forums with all Republican candidates, not just a select few.
- We promised to welcome involvement. We are delivering on including all county Republicans. We have more attending the well-publicized monthly CEC meetings unlike before and more participating in committees. We have made a deliberate effort to include all county Republicans in committee opportunities. Previously, involvement had been limited to just one faction.
- We are working to reestablish a previously inactive Young Republicans chapter in our area. Engaging young conservatives early is vital to building a strong, lasting foundation for the future of our party. By reigniting interest and creating opportunities for involvement, we are investing in the next generation of Republican leaders

The divide in the party predates my involvement by a decade or more. The issues in the county predate me similarly. I am also a member of the groups (ETRC and the Washington County Federated Women's club) that Mr. Wheeler referenced in his letter.

In the bylaws meeting Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Malone listed all the reasons they did not vote for me, but the majority saw my accomplishments, welcomed my transparency, approved my focus on the Constitution's foundational principles, applauded my initiative to start and lead a conservative organization in East Tennessee, and voted to elect me as Chair.

The solution is not to overthrow the will of the people as Mr. Wheeler recommends. It is not to redo the election because some don't like the outcome. The solution is for Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Malone, and others to work to find common ground with the other members of the committee, to support our initiatives to expand and strengthen our party, and to work with us to heal the divisions.

None of my slate of officers on the CEC filed anything with the State Attorney General. Mr. Wheeler's words leave an impression that it could have been one of my slate. That is disingenuous at best. He should either identify who made the filing or clearly state that none of my slate of officers did so.

The goal isn't simply to remove people from the committee, but to ensure that all voting members of the CEC are held to the same standards. As Mr. Wheeler's wife, a member of the

bylaws committee, is aware, we are working toward consistent requirements for membership. These include: being elected to the position, and—if representing an auxiliary group—ensuring the auxiliary club has its own bylaws, adherence to term limits, and verification of bonafide status. When auxiliaries apply there should be a standard. The previous CEC asked applying groups for their bylaws; yet when we asked the same, we were not given any.

There is a disconnect between Mr. Wheeler's proposal for conducting a new reorganization "to break the deadlock", vs his interest to "mend fences", as expressed in his prior paragraph. First of all, a new reorganization does not guarantee that the stalemate condition couldn't reoccur. Secondly, his proposal is far from a means of "mending fences". Furthermore, conducting a reorganization would cause an uproar (not just in Washington County, but statewide), and certainly would further widen the rift. Additionally, a move to dissolve or halt us would be ill advised as our big fundraiser dinner is almost sold out and just a month away.

We don't redo Presidential elections because one side is unhappy with the outcome or as a means of breaking a deadlock or mending fences. Eighteen months from now there will be another reorganization and Mr. Wheeler and others can make their case for electing a different Chair. But overturning the results of a fair election is not right and certainly not in the best interest of strengthening our Party and expanding its reach.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goodrich

Washington County Republican Party Chair

LAW OFFICES OF

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Honorable Scott Golden, Chairman
Tennessee Republican Party
golden@tnagop.org

Re: Washington County Republican Party

Dear Scott,

I trust this correspondence finds you well. It is with a very heavy heart I write to you today to make a very difficult request regarding the Washington County Republican Party.

I served as party chairman in Washington County, elected to two different terms in that position and currently serve as a Republican elected official, County Commissioner. My wife and I have been involved with the Party and volunteered on Republican Campaigns in Tennessee since high school and here in Washington County since we moved here after getting married in 1992. Laura, my wife, served as chair of the Young Republicans and as chair of the county Republican Women after we moved here.

Washington County has always had a strong county Republican Party. Here, where we have almost no elected Democrats in office to campaign against, we have sometimes dealt with perhaps more internal conflict. In the past those were just family squabbles kept out of the public for the most part. We have fought out primaries before, but the party itself has maintained neutrality in those primary elections.

I believe you are aware of the division within the Executive Committee of our County Party here after the reorganization earlier this year. The two sides are currently evenly divided, six on each side, in representation on the Executive Committee. They have not been able to accomplish tasks as seemingly simple as approval of minutes. Now the brawl has deteriorated to bringing the State Attorney General's office into the fight between the two sides. Both of those sides have apparently resigned themselves to one of three options to resolve this dispute within the county party; 1) trying to disqualify members of the Executive Committee, 2) drive members to resign or 3) to influence or control the poor Young Republican that gets selected to lead what will be a newly revived YR chapter here to be the deciding vote on all matters.

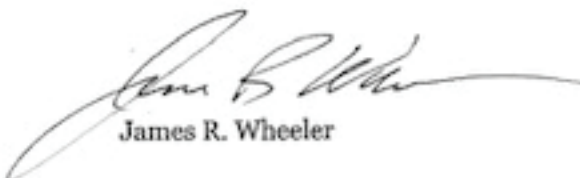
I attended and spoke at a county party Bylaw's Committee meeting recently and was extremely disappointed at the willingness of some CEC members to fight to exclude life-long party volunteers from the party all together on the charge that they were not real Republicans. I do not believe the current Executive Committee is going to be able to lead us out of this dispute. Even if a majority is achieved by one side or the other, there is going to be a deep divide with votes depending entirely on attendance. I will admit that I have strong opinions regarding several individuals here in Washington County that I believe are the cause and will continue to be the cause of this problem. However, as is the duty of the chairman of a county party many times, as a past-chair I am setting aside my personal preference in this for the good of the party and will not level charges to either side of this county dispute.

The East Tennessee Republican Club has a very large membership as does our Republican Women's club. My wife and I are members of both organizations. These people are all good Republican's who support our party and our candidates and have done so for years in most cases. We desperately need to find a way to resolve this matter and move forward to try to mend fences. I have become convinced that the intervention by you and the State Executive Committees is the only way we might be able to keep this from devolving into two separate groups fighting one another for control of the party over the long-term. There is a way for the State Executive Committee to do that without choosing a side in this battle.

I am writing to ask you and the State Executive Committee to invoke Rule G Section 11 of the Tennessee Republican Party Bylaws finding cause for doing so in the deadlock that has been going on for months on the current Washington County Executive Committee and to set a date and conduct a new reorganization to break the deadlock. I believe this would be a better solution than moving forward with more calls to you from here to remove people from their individual positions. This action does not require you to take a side, but only to find that the current deadlock is unacceptable and this is the most reasonable way to resolve the conflict.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request, and I am willing to discuss it further with you at (423) 833-3820 as needed. With best regards, I remain

Very Truly Yours,



James R. Wheeler