

To: Chris Devaney  
Chairman Tennessee Republican Party

Cc: Reince Priebus  
Chairman Republican National Committee

Subject: Notice of Contest

On February 5, the Blount County Republican Party officials barred large numbers of loyal, grassroots, conservative Republicans from a meeting to elect new party leaders. Those banned from the meeting, included State Senator Finney, County Commissioner Jim Folts, three local Judges, and members of the press. An armed member of the local Sheriff's department was called, despite the fact that those seeking entry were peaceful and polite. At a time when the Party is trying to rebuild confidence at all levels, the demoralizing effect of this stupid action on the Party faithful cannot be overstated.

Even worse, this mess occurred, because nearly every step of the election procedure, specified by the Tennessee Republican Party (TRP) rules, was ignored, or subverted, by the Blount County party chieftains.

Rule F, Part I, Section 2 of the TRP rules clearly states: "Counties having a population of at least 100,000 people according to the last official U. S. Census shall reorganize by means of a Precinct Delegated Convention". (Blount County's population was 123,000 in the 2010 census.) Section 3B requires: "In Counties having a population of at least 100,000 people, such meeting shall fix the time, date and places for the Precinct Conventions and for the Precinct Delegated County Convention". Section 5 says: "At least ten (10) days before the Precinct Conventions in a county which reorganizes by means of a Precinct Delegated Convention, the County Chairman shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within said County (no less than 10,000 circulation in Counties having over 100,000 population) a paid advertisement stating the date, time and place for the holding of each Precinct Convention. Such advertisement shall also specify the date, time and place, and the purpose, for holding the Precinct Delegated Conventions to reorganize the County Party".

TRP Rule F, Part II Section specifies: "In Counties having populations of more than 100,000 in the last U. S. Census, the Precinct shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate for each 200 Republican votes, or majority thereof, in that Precinct."

Delegates elected in each precinct are then supposed to elect party officers at a County Convention.

None of these required steps were followed by the Blount County party chiefs. No precinct meetings were held. No County convention was held. No notice of any meeting was published in any local paper.

The party rules allow some County changes to the state rules in the local bylaws, but only with the provision that the changed rules were adopted "in the spirit of fairness, and that fair notice and the opportunity for full participation were given". Over the last several months, we have made repeated requests, for copies of the local bylaws and dates of meetings, to the Blount County Chairman and the state TRP office. The Blount County Chair did not reply to our many phone calls requesting this information. The state TRP office said they did not have a copy of the Blount County bylaws. This leads us to

wonder how the state TRP could have approved any possible changes made in Blount County, if they did not even have a copy of the Blount County bylaws.

As loyal Republicans we are saddened and embarrassed by these actions. We ask your intervention, to provide for a truly democratic election of our Blount County Republican Party officials, in accordance with the rules specified by the Tennessee Republican Party.

Samuel Duck  
Veronica Avery  
Troy Ball  
Barbara Bowman  
Phylis Cascio  
Tom Caywood  
Becky Cole  
Tom Cole  
Mary Cook  
John Cook  
Raymond Finney  
Linda Finney  
Barbara Flannigan  
Jim Folts  
Mary Folts  
Jessie Fowler  
Harry Grathjahn  
Henry Greenwood  
Joyce Greenwood  
Everette Hoy  
Mary Hoy

Shane Hoy  
Richard Hutchens  
Joe King  
Linda King  
Barney Lowe  
Mary Sue Lowe  
Ron McTigue  
Chris Menke  
Karen Miller  
Kenneth Monar  
Tona Monroe  
Steve Moret  
Daniel Rollins  
Judith Rollins  
Wayne Rollins  
Bill Teske  
Karol Thompson  
Shan Thompson  
John Wehrmeyer  
Sandra Worthington