

Process and Timelines for Appeals and Challenges Regarding Delegate Certification Issues

Background.

- Delegate applicants who were not certified by their respective unit committees have the right to appeal their non-certification to the 5th District Credentials Committee (CC).
- Delegates who believe that other delegates from their same unit were improperly certified by their respective unit committees have a right to bring a challenge of their certification to the CC. Accordingly, challenges against an already certified delegate will only be considered if they come from another certified delegate within the same unit.

Timelines.

- Appeals and challenges will only be considered if they are submitted to the CC by the established deadline (27 May). Beyond the deadline of 27 May, the CC will not entertain any further challenges, and will only consider appeals from a proposed delegate who may show up at the convention on 13 June after having applied and states that they did not get notified that they were disallowed.
- The CC will not automatically go through the list of disallowed delegate applicants to review each situation.
- The CC will review documentation submitted to it by the deadline (27 May), along with any interviews and requests for additional materials it deems necessary, and submit its recommendations in time for the full Committee to vote on its recommendations by 6 June, 7 days prior to the unassembled convention.

Process.

- Appeals and challenges, complete with all supporting evidence, need to be e-mailed directly to the Chair of the CC, Greg Schumacher, at the following e-mail address: greg.a.schumacher@gmail.com He will respond to let you know that he received your submission. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt from him on the same day you submitted it, send him a follow-up e-mail and call or text his mobile phone: 703.624.4295. If you call and don't get him, leave a message. Text is preferable for this.
- Be as specific as you can. If appealing, please cite the specific reasons given by your Committee for not certifying you, and rebut them specifically. If challenging an already certified delegate, cite the specific reasons that are the basis of the challenge, complete with documentation. If a delegate is challenged, if the CC believes there is merit to the challenge, the challenged delegate will be given the opportunity to respond. If the CC believes the challenge is either baseless or insufficient on its merits, it will rule that the delegate remains.
- In the event the CC believes it needs more information beyond that which was submitted, it will reach out to the appellant and any others it deems necessary.

Evaluation Criteria.

- Without prejudging any submission to come before the CC, it is presumed that any appeal or challenge will be based on one of the following two criteria, or a combination of both:
 1. A perceived administrative or procedural error.
 2. The perceived degree to which the denied delegate applicant or challenged certified delegate meets or does not meet the participation qualification criteria outlined in the State Party Plan, Article I, Section A. (reproduced below)
- Appellants and challengers should familiarize themselves with Art.I, Sec.A to be sure that the basis of their appeal or challenge is in accordance with those criteria.

ARTICLE I Participation in Party Actions

SECTION A. Qualifications 1. All legal and qualified voters under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, regardless of race, religion, national origin or sex, who are in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, and who, if requested, express in open meeting either orally or in writing as may be required their intent to support all of its nominees for public office in the ensuing election may participate as members of the Republican Party of Virginia in its mass meetings, party canvasses, conventions, or primaries encompassing their respective election districts.

2. A voter who, subsequent to making a statement of intent, publicly supports a candidate in opposition to a Republican nominee shall not be qualified for participation in party actions as defined in Article I for a period of four (4) years.

3. Paragraphs 4 and 5 shall cease having any effect at such time as the Election Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall provide for party registration, at which time only those registered as Republicans may be deemed to be in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, unless otherwise stipulated by the appropriate Official Committee.

4. In addition to the foregoing, to be in accord with the principles of the Republican Party, unless otherwise stipulated by the appropriate Official Committee, a person otherwise qualified hereunder shall not have participated in Virginia in the nomination process of a party other than the Republican Party with in the last five years.

5. A single exception to Paragraph 4 shall be approved for a voter that renounces affiliation with any other party in writing, and who expresses in writing that he/she is in accord with the principles of the Republican Party and intends, at the time of the writing, to support the nominees of the Republican Party in the future. Any voter that utilizes the foregoing exception, and thereafter participates in the nomination process of a party other than the Republican Party, shall not have the benefit of the exception identified in this paragraph thereafter. Within 30 days of receipt, the Official Committee shall provide a copy of this signed renunciation statement to the Republican Party of Virginia, to be maintained for a period of 5 years.

6. In order to be eligible for election as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to any convention, an individual must be registered to vote no later than the prefilng deadline established by the Official Committee or, if prefilng is not a requirement, no later than the date of election as a Delegate. A person who has made application for registration and meets all other requirements of Section A, but whose name does not appear on the local registration books solely because of the books having been closed in connection with a local election, will nevertheless be deemed a legal and qualified voter.