

Prior to May 2025 there were no restrictions on which races for elected office could be endorsed (except State Committeeman and woman) or when endorsements could be made. During the May 2025 quarterly meeting, RPOF Rule 8 was modified. The change was made to limit endorsements to **municipal and county-specific races**. The rationale was to avoid unnecessary conflict within the party where one county might endorse one candidate and another county might endorse a different candidate in races that cross county lines, such as legislative seats, state attorney, and similar offices. Further, endorsements were not authorized until after the qualifying period ended.

Based on the May 2025 rule change, the following endorsements were prohibited:

- Candidates in contested Republican primaries for federal, state, legislative, or multicounty offices.
- Candidates in contested elections for publicly elected positions on a County Executive Committee.
- Authorized county or municipal candidates prior to the end of the qualification period.

As of November 2025 Rule 8 has been amended. The restrictions on which races may be endorsed remains unchanged however, endorsements may now be made beginning **up to 30 days before the qualification period**, instead of requiring endorsement decisions to wait until after qualifying.

Reason for the change:

- Several special elections created very short windows between qualification and the election.
- The old restriction prevented RECs from endorsing until after qualifying, while other organizations had no such limits.
- Voters were already receiving ads and recommendations from outside groups that appeared to be affiliated with the Republican Party or were deliberately masquerading as such, undermining the party's name brand. The RECs were prohibited from countering these endorsements because they had to wait until after qualification.
- This prevented the RECs from participating in a timely endorsement process with a robust deliberative procedure that includes notice to candidates and a required voting threshold to approve any endorsement, as well as providing accurate information to the community based on party recommendations.

Key points moving forward:

- No County REC is required to endorse.
- Financial implications may apply for those that choose to endorse.
- An REC may endorse at any point beginning 30 days before qualification, at any time during the qualification period, or at any point after qualification up to the date of the election.
- If an endorsed candidate withdraws, fails to qualify, passes away, or new disqualifying information arises, the County Executive Committee may call a meeting or if time

requires a special meeting to rescind the endorsement or endorse another candidate as appropriate.

RULE 8 - Endorsements

A. The State Executive Committee may endorse, certify, screen, or recommend candidates in contested Republican primaries only upon unanimous approval of the Executive Board and the approval of 60% of the State Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose and at which a quorum is present.

B. A County Executive Committee may only endorse, certify, screen, or recommend a **qualified** Republican candidate in a contested Republican primary for a county or municipal public office, or a **qualified** registered Republican in a nonpartisan election for a county or municipal public office (including judicial races where it is legally permissible), or a local Unitary Special/General Election, , **no sooner than 30 days prior to qualifying** , by either of the two following methods: (1) Upon the affirmative vote of not less than 60% of the County Executive Committee present and voting at a duly called meeting complying with notice requirements set forth below, provided that the number voting to endorse represents a majority of the full committee, or (2) upon the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at such meeting, provided that a quorum is present at the time the vote is taken. Except for judicial candidates, each announced Republican candidate shall be likewise notified that a vote on endorsement is to be taken and that he or she will be allowed to speak at such meeting in support of or opposition to any proposed endorsement, certification, or recommendation for an office for which he or she is a candidate.

NOTE: Words removed from the May 2025 version of the rule are stricken through. New language effective November 8, 2025 is underlined. All changes are in bold and red font.