

Kootenai County Republican Central Committee
Elections Committee Report
Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Summary:

A meeting of the Elections Committee was held via WebEx due to quarantine. WebEx was conducted at 5:30 PM, Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The meeting was chaired by vice-chair, Clark Albritton at the request of committee chair Bjorn Handeen. In addition, the meeting was attended by Jeff Tyler, Mike Towan, and Barbara Hedden comprising a simple majority quorum.

The committee unanimously resolved on 3 specific items and to request the Central Committee chairman to either communicate these items in a general meeting of the full committee, if one can be held in a timely manner through web conference, or to communicate this report to the committee chairpersons for review, comment or suggested action.

Item 1: Boise Leaks and Secretary of State website details regarding Doug Okuniewicz – candidate for Idaho State House seat 2B

Mr. Okuniewicz has spent the majority of the last two decades working with and for the Alabama/Idaho, Inc., Coeur d'Alene Racing, CDA Greyhound Park, Winning for Idaho, and JH Benefits in various executive capacities and as a lobbyist with a core focus on the Idaho State Legislature to promote and adopt legislation to legalize gambling in Idaho. The clear interests and motive for these extensive efforts is to monetize certain patents Mr. Okuniewicz owns for specific type of gambling machines to be used for such purpose. The associated lobbying included significant contributions and support for Democratic party legislators as well as extensive contributions for Republicans and Republican leadership. Given Mr. Okuniewicz' ongoing substantial personal interests in monetizing patents he owns, the committee strongly feels it may be difficult for Mr. Okuniewicz to comply with the House Rules. However, he has every right to run for office and the House will need to undertake any ethics concerns that may arise if he is elected. (Reference I.C. 74-401)

Item 2: Patrick Mitchell, running for state legislature as a Republican challenger against Jim Addis. Patrick ran in 2016 as a Democrat. We should take appropriate measures to determine if his candidacy as a Republican is legitimate and to alert the committee to this history.

Item 3: The elections committee and the central committee as a whole were to determine and establish vetting criteria and methodology and to move forward with a vetting process that members and Republican voters will have confidence in going forward. This item has stalled.