

***Elbert County Republican Chairman Scott Wills – January, 2012***  
***Role of political party officers in contested Republican primary elections***

*In response to concerns expressed by a certain candidate regarding the role of political party officers in contested Republican primary elections, Scott W. Wills, Chairman of the Elbert County Republican Party, issued the following statement:*

It has been the long-standing policy and will continue to be the practice of each of the Elbert County Republican Central Committee Executive officers to remain neutral in contested Republican primary elections for any and all races to be voted on by Elbert County voters. In a manner consistent with Republican Party bylaws, rules, and governing resolutions, and the duties they owe to the Republican voters of Elbert County, local Party Executive officers will not endorse, publicly support, or contribute financially to any Republican candidate engaged in a primary contest for any county, state legislative, district, or statewide partisan office. County Party Executive officers will not intentionally favor or disfavor any declared Republican candidate in granting access to information, advice, assistance or resources that are to be made available equally to all candidates that are legitimately seeking the Republican Party's nomination. Each of the Elbert County Republican Party's officers reiterate their commitment to be to be fair, respectful, and even-handed in all of their interactions with declared and potential Republican candidates.

It is the responsibility of each of the individual Republican candidates in a primary contest to make their own case directly to the Republican voters as to why they are most deserving of the Republican Party's nomination. It is also the principal responsible of each individual Republican candidate to defend himself or herself against what such candidate may believe are inaccurate or misleading attacks or misrepresentations of their positions or record by other Republican candidates in the primary field.

Nevertheless, there may be rare instances where a certain Republican candidate consistently makes knowingly false statements or criminally libelous assertions with actual malice against other Republican candidates, or where a certain Republican candidate or his or her authorized campaign agents or supporters may employ campaign tactics or rhetoric in a manner that is so clearly unethical, so patently dishonest, so intentionally misleading to voters, or so unfairly damaging to the character and reputation of other Republican candidates that the reputation and credibility of the Republican Party may be damaged if Party officials remain silent. In such rare and unusual cases, it may be appropriate for Party officers to exercise discretion to privately or even publicly express concern about such assertions or campaign tactics, and urge all candidates in the race to conduct themselves with integrity and honor, and in a manner that is worthy of the high standards and principles of the Republican Party. Only in the rarest of circumstances should County Party Executive officers ever publicly condemn specific Republican candidates by name or attempt to arbitrate the truth or falsity of campaign rhetoric or opinions expressed by any particular candidate regarding their primary opponents, even when County Party Executive officers may believe such rhetoric or assertions to be false or even malicious.

Each of the Elbert County Republican Party Executive officers, including the County Party Chairman, reiterate their belief and confidence that the Republican voters in Elbert County are able to gauge the relative strengths of each of the candidates in any primary contest for themselves, and will be able to come to their own conclusions regarding which candidate is most deserving of the Republican Party's nomination in any particular race.

Each of the Elbert County Republican Party officers further reiterate their commitment to ensuring that the process of securing the Republican Party's nomination by means of the February 7th precinct caucuses, subsequent county and district political party assemblies, and the Republican primary election in June of 2012 is fair, transparent, and fully representative of the will of the Republican voters who choose to participate in the nomination process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott W. Wills, Chairman  
Elbert County Republican Central Committee