

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GRIEVANCES

Submission Date:

2024-01-16 12:01:26

REC:

St Johns

Committee Member Filing Grievance:

Roy Alaimo

Mobile Phone Number:

904-806-5863

Email:

royalaimo83@gmail.com

Date Event Occurred:

Oct, Nov, Dec 2023

Detailed facts upon which the grievance is based, including but not limited to, the event, the date of the event, and the aggrieved person or persons that occurred within the last 120 days:

I am a former Chairman of the St. Johns County REC. I am a member of the REC. I am also a member of the St. Johns County Commission, having been appointed by Governor DeSantis to fill a vacancy. I am filed to run for election for the seat that I currently hold.

Chairman Patterson has been using the Facebook page of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee to post disparaging comments about the current Republican majority members of the St. Johns County Commission. He's reposting articles from a third party group, calling for the defeat of the current Republican Majority, and has also directly called for the defeat of the current Republican Majority."

Reference the specific sections of the RPOF Constitution, RPOF Rules, or RPOF County Model Constitution alleged to have been violated:

Chairman Patterson's actions violate the Oath of Party Loyalty, as well as Rule 8 of the Party Rules of Procedure, on Endorsements.

Remedy sought to resolve the dispute prior to filing grievance:

Many members have made Chairman Patterson aware of the rules of the Republican Party of Florida regarding endorsements.

Documentation of Grievance:

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c

Republican Executive Committee County:

St. Johns

County Executive Committee Member Filing Grievance:

Roy Alaimo

Mobile Phone:

904-806-5863

Email:

Royalaimo83@gmail.com

Dates Event Occurred:

Multiple in Oct, Nov, Dec 2023

Facts of the Grievance:

Chairman Patterson has been using the Facebook page of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee to post disparaging comments about the current Republican majority members of the St. Johns County Commission. He's reposting articles from a third party group, calling for the defeat of the current Republican Majority, and has also directly called for the defeat of the current Republican Majority.

Reference to Specific Rules Violated:

Oath of Party Loyalty as well as Rule 8 of the Party Rules of Procedure, on Endorsements.

Remedies Attempted:

Many members have made Chairman Patterson aware of the rules of the Republican Party of Florida regarding endorsements.

Specific Examples:

The specific examples of Chairman Patterson's violations are below:

In the following post, Blake Patterson is accusing the current, Republican Majority of the St. Johns County Commission of not listening to voters and is advocating for that they be removed. This is a tacit endorsement against sitting Republican commissioners, in violation of the Party Loyalty Oath and Rule 8 of the Republican Party of Florida rules of procedure.



StJohns.GOP

6h ·



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Hey St Johns County, did you receive this survey from the Board of County Commissioners? Many citizens have not gotten it. It seems as though we should all have received it, especially considering the majority of the board does not vote our interests, and almost never hear our concerns.

We do have an election coming up in 9 months, let's save our county and get those who refuse to hear us out!

Here's the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJCListenAndLearn>

MUST BE FILLED OUT. BY NOVEMBER 30th! Please share this EVERYWHERE!!



In the following post, the St. Johns County REC reposted from a 3rd party group, showing a mocked up image of Republican County Commissioners with the face of Travis Hutson pasted over their heads. It should be noted that Travis Hutson is a respected State Senator, and that this post makes a mockery of him.

This post calls for removing elected Republicans, and a Republican appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis and names the people that they should be replaced with.

As Chairman Blake Patterson has posted this on the St. Johns GOP Facebook page, it appears as an endorsement of the opposition candidates over the current Republican Incumbent Majority, in violation of the Oath of Party Loyalty and Rule 8 of the Republican Party of Florida Rules of Procedure.



StJohns.GOP

29m · 🌐



Fight For St. Johns County updated their cover photo. · [Follow](#)

1d · 🌐




In 2024, we can change the face of our commission so that Commissioner Joseph will no longer be voting alone against the Travis Hutson developer cartel.

Elect Bill Freeman, Ann-Marie Evans and Ann Taylor.

In the following post from the St. Johns GOP page, Chairman Patterson is reposting, or allowing to be reposted, another post by a third party group, attacking the much of the current Republican Majority of the St. Johns County Commission, and, again, attacking Senator Travis Hutson. In addition, this post advocates for a different set of candidates to replace the current Republican majority, which is a tacit endorsement.

Please watch as Krista speaks out for the citizens of St Johns County and the issues that matter us most. She's a superstar!

 **Fight For St. Johns County** · Follow
3h · 🌐

Our four developer-tied commissioners put politics before common decency, trashing a time-honored tradition. Tuesday was THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS that a SJC commissioner was passed over for her rightful position of Vice Chair, and instead of it going to Krista Joseph, it was handed to a man who was not even elected to his position - Roy Alaimo. The motion was made by Henry Dean whose behavior was deeply disappointing. He and his three Hutson-directed cronies dismissed seniority in the annual selection of Vice Chair (yet Krista honored them when it was their turn, despite her differences with them.)

The public service announcement Krista delivers here in her video is her response to the Hutson cartel (Dean, Whitehurst, Arnold and Alaimo) and their egregious behavior.

The long, grasping arm of Senator/Developer Travis Hutson is clearly involved in so many bad decisions for our county. Hutson is responsible for the appointments of both "Vice Chair" Alaimo, "Chair" Arnold (daughter-in-law of a business associate of Hutson's) and Hutson has heavily funded Dean for years. Voters need to remember Travis' travesty on August 20th, election day, and put three more candidates in office like Krista Joseph, who responds to the people, not to developers.

Learn more about candidates Ann-Marie Evans (D1), Ann Taylor (D5) and Bill Freeman (D3). Remember their names. They are the future of St. Johns County, not

Roy Alaimo voted to DEVELOP THE OUTPOST (100 acres of conservation land) when he served on the PZA, and he voted to develop undeveloped land 103 out of 105 times. Commissioner Dean spearheaded the 15% sales tax increase that was later rejected in a landslide, and he voted to develop undeveloped land 100% of the time during a three-year period. Whitehurst arrogantly demeans his constituents who beg him to slow down the growth while he voted for a total of over 12,000 NEW HOUSING UNITS.

Thank you Commissioner Krista for taking it on the chin for us. Our time will come. August 20th, primary election day in St. Johns County, our slow-the-growth, stop the waste, stop the tax increase candidates will have a majority on the commission. But only if WE vote and WE share this video far and wide. We can't do it without you. Register for the Republican primary before July 20th to have a voice in this election. Let's take back our county! SHARE!!!
www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov



RESPONSE TO ALAIMO GRIEVANCE

Grievance Submission Date:

2024-01-16 12:01:26

REC:

St Johns REC

Response:

I have not and do not post on St Johns GOP social media channels, either individually or as Chair of the SJC REC. Nonetheless, ***I accept full and complete responsibility for any and all violations committed by the ad hoc Social Media Committee Chair*** of the SJC REC, PC Natalie Lewis. She is and has been *the only REC member with credentials to sign in and post on the Board's behalf*. I was unaware of the posts in question until receipt of this grievance.

Mr Alaimo's claims are inaccurate, in that he repeatedly used first person active tense to ascribe actions to me. Furthermore, the all the posts in question (see grievance) were *re-postings of material authored by groups outside of the REC* with only one exception:



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Hey St Johns County, did you receive this survey from the Board of County Commissioners? Many citizens have not gotten it. It seems as though we should all have received it, especially considering the majority of the board does not vote our interests, and almost never hear our concerns.

We do have an election coming up in 9 months, let's save our county and get those who refuse to hear us out!

Here's the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJCListenAndLearn>

MUST BE FILLED OUT. BY NOVEMBER 30th! Please share this EVERYWHERE!!



Like



Comment



Share

While this post was critical of the entire Board of Commissioners, it does not mention any Commissioner by name nor allude to any one specifically.

Nonetheless, I accept full and complete responsibility for any and all violations committed by the ad hoc Social Media Committee Chair of the SJC REC. I accepted Ms. Lewis' resignation as Chair of the SJC REC ad hoc Social Media Committee on Feb 22, 2024. The SJC REC Social media sites in question have ceased all posting activity. Going forward I will ensure that social media postings be approved by me in advance.

Blake M Paterson MD

chair@stjohns.gop

904-810-8665

Submission Date:

2024-01-12 11:29:34

REC:

St Johns

Name:

Jaime Parham

Mobile Phone Number:

904-415-0091

Email:

renegadex117@gmail.com

Date Event Occurred:

01/11/2024 Most Recent

Detailed facts upon which the grievance is based, including but not limited to, the event, the date of the event, and the aggrieved person or persons that occurred within the last 120 days:

I am the elected Vice-Chair of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee. Two meetings ago, without a quorum present, Chairman Patterson asked for a motion to suspend my membership from the REC for 3 meetings. With most of the committee gone, Mr. Patterson's supported voted to suspend me. Despite being told by members of the State Executive Committee, including members of the Constitution and Rules Committee, that suspension of members would be in contradiction to the party's governing documents and Florida Statute, Mr. Patterson blocked me from the following meeting. In January 2024, the Constitution and Rules Committee issued an advisory opinion, specifying that their interpretation of the rules are that members cannot be suspended. At the subsequent meeting (January 11th), Chairman Patterson ordered the police to block my entry, which prevented me from executing my right to vote in a special election for State Committeewoman.

Reference the specific sections of the RPOF Constitution, RPOF Rules, or RPOF County Model Constitution alleged to have been violated:

"Chapter 103, F.S. defines the disciplinary options as removal, for cause. Suspension is not allowed.

Article V of County Model provide for removal, for cause. Suspension is in conflict with that, and not provided for.

RPOF Consitution, Article VI, Section 3 empowers executive board to remove. Suspension is now allowed for.

RPOF Rule 22, Grievance Process details process of removal for Cause. Suspension is not allowed for."

Remedy sought to resolve the dispute prior to filing grievance:

I reached out to Republican Party of Florida to understand whether or not suspension was within the scope of ability of the Chairman or the REC. After myself and the Chairman having been told, multiple times, that it was not, I attempted to attend and was turned away from two successive meetings of the St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee. I have video available of both events.

Documentation of Grievance:

https://form.123formbuilder.com/upload_dld.php?fileid=3be2fb1fa2027a1ff9f0add92d5a808a

Advisory Opinion of the RPOF Rules Committee

Regarding ability of REC and/or its officers to suspend, censure or otherwise discipline a member short of removing a member pursuant to the County Model Constitution, Article V, Section 1

In Re: Regarding ability of REC and/or its officers to suspend, censure or otherwise discipline a member short of removing a member pursuant to the County Model Constitution, Article V, Section 1

Issued: 01-11-2024

The following matter has arisen in certain counties, and the Rules Committee of the Republican Party of Florida is issuing this advisory opinion on the following questions:

Does an REC have the ability to suspend a member?

Does an REC Chairman have the ability to suspend an REC member?

Does an REC have the ability to suspend a member from attending future meetings?

Can an REC censure a member?

In sum:

It is the opinion of the Rules Committee that there is no authority to suspend an REC member.

In one REC, there was a vote to suspend a member from attending three future meetings. Suspending a member from three consecutive meetings is really a backdoor way to remove a member since we are required as REC members to not miss three meetings in a row. This backdoor removal is plainly contrary to our rules (which are superior to Robert's Rules) and not permitted in Robert's Rules either. Even assuming that the suspension was not intended to trigger removal, suspension is still in conflict with our other governing documents.

The only methods of discipline (removal or otherwise) for an REC member are as follows per our party rules, in no particular order:

1) Removal under Article V, Section 1 of the County Model Constitution.

Article V, Section 1: Members or officers of the County Executive Committee may be removed from upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the County Executive Committee present at any regular or special meeting after ten (10) days notice to the membership of the County Executive Committee that a motion for the purpose of removal of a member or officer will be considered at a said meeting, provided that such two-thirds vote constitutes at least a majority of the full County Executive Committee. The removal shall be for cause that includes violation of rules, processes or procedures outlined in the Republican Party of Florida Constitution, Rules of Procedure, County Model Constitution, a violation of the Republican Party of Florida Oath of Party Loyalty or reputational harm to the County Executive Committee or Republican Party of Florida. However, any person wrongfully removed for violation of oath of office may qualify for

reinstatement and reimbursement, including attorney fees as provided under Florida Statute 103.141. Removal shall be valid through the end of the respective member's term of office.

This Section does not apply to the County Chairman in their role as Chairman or Precinct Committee member, State Committeeman, or the State Committeewoman.

This Section does not apply to members of the State Legislature that reside in the county.

Section 2: The member and/or officer cited with removal charges shall be served by certified mail at least ten (10) days prior to said regular or special meeting at which time the removal motion is to be heard with a complaint which shall set forth in particular the reasons for the removal charge.

The above pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the County Model Constitution is one method for an REC Member to be removed, and the only method a local REC can initiate. This process cannot be used to remove a Chair, State Committeeman, or State Committeewoman as they are members of the State Committee and thus only subject to the RPOF Grievance Process and/or removal by the RPOF Executive Board and/or the entire State Committee at a meeting of the full State Committee.

There is no process to "censure" or discipline a member at the REC level. REC's are supposed to focus on getting Republicans elected, and the Party established the appropriate venue for discipline in its Party Rules: the Grievance Process referenced further below. There are no provisions for local censure and no provisions for local Grievance Committees precisely because the RPOF established a statewide Grievance Committee to handle these matters to specifically remove these matters from occupying the time and causing distractions at the local level. We do not want local RECs to publicly go after their members with censures or other similar actions.

2) The Grievance Process per Rule 22 of the RPOF Party Rules of Procedure

This is the proper venue for disciplining an REC member or member of the State Committee. This process could be utilized for all discipline including matters of removal or less than removal. You may review the language of this Rule in the party rules. The Rules Committee considers the Grievance Committee to be the proper venue for intra-party differences where the local REC does not have the ability or desire to remove the member at the local level.

3) The RPOF Executive Board Per Article VI, Section 3 of the RPOF Constitution.

RPOF Constitution, Article VI, Section 3 - Authority -

The Executive Board is vested with all rights of the State Committee and is authorized to act fully and completely in its stead and on its behalf in all matters that may be brought before it between meetings of the State Committee. Furthermore, the Executive Board shall be considered a competent tribunal as specified in Section 103.131(7), Florida Statutes, for the express purpose of considering any member or officer for removal by declaring void his or her election or appointment. The Executive Board is fully empowered to take any actions appropriate for censure or discipline of any officer or member for cause, including removal from office or expulsion from the party, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order,

for a necessary finding of cause and determination of accountability while in session as a competent tribunal. The Executive Board shall keep minutes of its proceedings and such minutes shall be available to every member of the State Committee.

References to Robert's Rules in this section of our Party Constitution only deals with the process for holding a trial for a member of the State Executive Committee.

4) The vote of the State Committee during a meeting of the State Executive Committee.

The State Executive Committee in a meeting of the State Executive Committee could vote to remove a member of an REC or a member of the State Executive Committee since pursuant to the RPOF Constitution, ARTICLE VII: PARTY AUTHORITY, "Final authority in all Republican Party matters and in Party organization and/or government not specified or otherwise delegated by Florida Statutes shall be vested in the State Committee."

We must remember that there is a hierarchy of superiority to our governing documents. That is in order:

1. **Florida Statutes** (specifically Chapter 103, where the parties and the members are defined).
2. **The Party's rules in the following order**
 - a. **RPOF Constitution**
 - b. **RPOF Rules of Party Procedure**
 - c. **RPOF County Model Constitution**
3. **Robert's Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules is intended to provide guidance on operating the meetings and can fill in the blanks, when something is not addressed by any of the other superior documents. Actions taken under Robert's Rules of Order can't conflict with the other superior documents. The Grievance Process is in our Party Rules and is hence superior regarding discipline of REC members.

Even looking at Robert's Rules, Section 61, page 646, the "Chair has no authority to impose a penalty or to order the offending member removed from the hall" and this is not something the chair can do unilaterally. Also, as an aside, our Republican Party of Florida Rules of Procedure Rule 32 dictate that REC Executive Board meetings are not to be held over the phone or online unless there is a state of emergency in the county.

Page 645 of Robert's Rules specifically lays out how to control the "Breach of Order By Members in a Meeting." The method for handling these matters is attached, and should only be used in extreme cases of bad behavior and not simply because someone disagrees with the member's point of view. We remind everyone that these sections only apply when they do not conflict with our party rules. After following these procedures as attached, the REC could vote via a majority vote to expel a member from a current meeting (and not future ones) due to bad behavior in that particular meeting after multiple warnings are given. This member's attendance would still need to show that they were present for the meeting.

To be perfectly clear, membership of our organization(s) is specified in Chapter 103 of Florida Statute. Florida Statute specifies how to remove a member as a disciplinary action. Our party's other governing

documents also specify grievance and disciplinary processes. None of these allow for suspension of any member. There is a process for removal, at the local level, and there is a process for grievances, at which members or officers may also be removed. Suspending a member is in conflict with our party's enabling statute (Chapter 103 F.S.) and it is in conflict with the grievance and other disciplinary processes and procedures established throughout or party's governing documents.

The Republican Party of Florida Rules Committee has approved this Advisory Opinion.

Sincerely,
Constitution and Rules Committee

RESPONSE TO PARHAM / RULES CMTEE GRIEVANCE

Grievance Submission Date: 2024-01-12 11:29:34

Mr Parham's representations are devoid of fact and full of misrepresentation. These are the following False Claims *in italics*:

1. *"...without a quorum present, Chairman Patterson asked for a motion to suspend my membership from the REC for 3 meetings. With most of the committee gone, Mr.Patterson's supported voted to suspend me for three meetings. "*

Response:

- a. I did not suggest nor ask for a motion to suspend Mr Parham during the Oct 12, 2023 SJC REC meeting. The motion in question was spontaneously presented by REC members in response to Mr Parham's repeated defamatory and dilatory behaviors which were preventing the conduct of the most basic of meeting activity, the approval of minutes. All proper parliamentary procedure was followed. See attached approved minutes, green highlighted sections.
- b. 55% of membership was present at the beginning of the meeting, substantially exceeding quorum.
- c. At the time of the vote re: suspension, 73 paper ballots were counted, = 49% of the entire membership. The motion passed 47 yeas (64%), 23 nays, 3 spoiled. Roberts Rules of Order 61.15 stipulates a simple majority vote of members present at a quorum meeting in order to suspend.
- d. By the vote in question, Mr Parham was suspended for 2 business meetings, not 3.

Substantiation: See final approved minutes of the Oct 12, 2023 meeting, sections highlighted in green.

2. *"...At the subsequent meeting (January 11th), Chairman Patterson ordered the police to block my entry, which prevented me from executing my right to vote in a special election for State Committeewoman."*

Response:

- a. Incorrect. Despite his attempts to do so with a protective entourage, he was not allowed to enter our Nov 16, 2023 and our Jan 11, 2024 meetings, pursuant to his 2 meeting suspension – the will of membership. Police were called only when the entourage outnumbered security, and he was asked to leave.

3. *"Chapter 103, F.S. defines the disciplinary options as removal, for cause. Suspension is not allowed."*

Response:

- a. Suspension is **not** mentioned in FS103.141:

"Removal of county executive committee member for violation of oath.—If the county executive committee by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the committee, attending a meeting held after due notice has been given and at which meeting a quorum is present, determines an incumbent county executive committee member is guilty of an offense involving a violation of the member's oath of office, the member shall be removed from office and the office shall be deemed vacant. However, if the county committee wrongfully removes a county committee member and the committee member wrongfully removed files suit in the

circuit court alleging his or her removal was wrongful and wins the suit, the committee member shall be restored to office and the county committee shall pay the costs incurred by the wrongfully removed committee member in bringing the suit, including reasonable attorney's fees", nor elsewhere in 103.

4. *"..Article V of County Model provides for removal, for cause. Suspension is in conflict with that, and not provided for. RPOF Constitution, Article VI, Section 3 empowers executive board to remove. Suspension is not allowed for. RPOF Rule 22, Grievance Process details process of removal for Cause. Suspension is not allowed for."*

Response:

- a. Incorrect. Suspension is not mentioned nor addressed nor prohibited by Article V of the County Model Constitution, Article VI of the RPOF Constitution or RPOF Rule 22. Suspension is not in conflict with removal and not the same as removal. See definition of the word 'suspension' in **Substantiation ii.** below.
- b. Nowhere does the evidence suggest that Mr Parham was removed. Indeed, he has repeatedly refused to remove himself from SJC REC Business Meetings at the request of membership despite multiple requests as a result of his combative and dilatory behaviors throughout 1–3Q 2023.

Substantiation:

- i. See final approved minutes of the Oct 12, 2023 meeting, sections highlighted in green.
 - ii. **DEFINITION OF SUSPEND /sə-SPĒND'; INTRANSITIVE VERB: TO BAR FOR A PERIOD FROM A PRIVILEGE, OFFICE, OR POSITION, USUALLY AS A PUNISHMENT. "SUSPEND A STUDENT FROM SCHOOL."**
 - iii. . In several conversations, Mr Parham was assured by SJC REC Treasurer Bill McMahon and State Committeeman Tom Rivers that his suspension-related absences would not be counted against his attendance requirements.
 - iv. See final approved minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting, section highlighted in green.
5. *"...In January 2024, the Constitution and Rules Committee issued an advisory opinion, specifying that their interpretation of the rules are that members cannot be suspended."*

Response:

- a. The extrajudicial "advisory opinion" was prepared by WS Jones and R DeNapoli, then allegedly passed unanimously the Constitution and Rules Committee in February 2024. (I am informed that there may have been dissenting votes). The two meeting suspension began on October 12, 2023. The suspension expired at the end of the Jan 11, 2024 SJC REC business meeting.
- b. In my conversations with Kathleen King, RPOF NCW and member of the Constitution and Rules Cmtee during the week of February 4 - 10, 2024, she did not recall the advisory opinion nor did she recall voting for it.
- c. The rationale outlined in this grievance and the "Advisory Opinion" repeatedly and intentionally conflates 'suspend' with 'removal'. Remove and suspend are very different words; see #3 above.
- d. The elements of the extrajudicial "Advisory Opinion" were apparently ratified by the Executive Board on Feb 10, 2023. For some reason I did not receive the materials (**Note:** I am Vice Chair of CD-5 Caucus and have previously been copied on materials) – was this an oversight?

Substantiation:

- i. See attached January 11, 2024 email correspondence with Stafford Jones.
- ii. Paterson / King verbal communications, week of Feb 4-10, 2024.
- iii. See Feb 10, 2024 RPOF Exec Board packet of proposed Rules changes.

Response: One of my responsibilities as Chair of the REC is to ensure the safe and orderly conduct of business at our Business Meetings. With his screams, bullying, profanity and harassing taunts, Mr Parham and his brother have prevented orderly conduct in **all** meetings they have attended, and engaged in confrontation with other REC members - even filing a criminal complaint against a 75 year old member in good standing. See the many grievances that have been filed against Mr Parham. While rich in political craft, the Advisory Opinion was issued 3 months after the suspension was passed (by > 2:1 margin). One last point: Ms Sheila Sweeney informed me at the beginning of the Jan 11, 2024 meeting that she had Mr Jones on the phone with the St Augustine police in an attempt to prevent them from asking Mr Parham to leave.

Blake M Paterson MD
Chair@stjohns.gop
904-810-8665



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Members Only Business Meeting

Holiday Inn World of Golf
475 Commerce Lake Drive,
St Augustine 32095

Thursday, October 12, 2023

1. Quorum / Call to Order – 6:31 p.m. 82/149 = 55%
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chuck Labanowski
3. Invocation and Comments – Gerry James
4. Chair’s Remarks, Welcome of Elected Officials, Candidates etc. Canvassing and encouraging Republicans to ask for vote by mail ballot, even if they don’t want to use the ballot. It protects them.
5. Invited Speaker: Madison Cawthorne (R), former US Representative, NC

CLOSED SESSION

(Guests / Non-members Depart; Inductees Remain)

6. Agenda and Minutes – Charlie Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda. It was seconded by Pete Royal and passed unanimously. Diane Dew made a motion to limit the discussion to 2 minutes per person, pro and con alternating, and a limit of 10 minutes on any Item. It was seconded by Liz Gesenhues and passed unanimously.
 - Approval of June 1, 2023 Minutes – Secretary Linda Thomson stated that the membership was invited to listen to the audio tape and make corrections, but no one did so since the August 23 meeting; Sheila Sweeney submitted corrections in an email. A motion to approve was made by Doug Worth and seconded by Dave Pelletier. During discussion, a Point of Order was called by Jackie LeBlanc that “personal attacks (by the Vice Chair) are not allowed.” The Secretary reminded the membership that she offered to review the minutes, line by line, with anyone who was interested. After further discussion, Susan Singer called the question. A voice vote was inconclusive, so a roll-call vote was taken. The Chair called a Point of Order on Vice Chair Parham for making personal attacks on a member – Charlie Williams. The motion passed (54 Yeas, 20 nays, 6 abstains, for 80 votes).
 - Tammi Carver made a motion that when the chair asks a person to please be quiet three (3) times, and they do not respect our chair, that they be removed from the meeting and blocked from attending the next three (3) meetings, seconded by Susan Singer. Discussion ensued, with concern expressed about the broad nature of the

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

WE WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF ONE ANOTHER EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE.
WE WILL DIRECT ALL COMMENTS TO THE ISSUES AND TO THE CHAIR.
WE WILL AVOID PERSONAL ATTACKS AND SHOUTING.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Members Only Business Meeting

Holiday Inn World of Golf
475 Commerce Lake Drive,
St Augustine 32095

motion and the penalty to be applied. The Chair called a Point of Order on Vice Chair Parham for calling the Chair a derogatory name. There was a Point of Order raised regarding the motion being questionable by Roberts Rules of Order. The Chair cited Robert's Rule 61.15 which states (last sentence):

“A motion offered in a case of this kind can propose, for example, that the offender be required to make an apology, that he be censured, that he be required to leave the hall during the remainder of the meeting or until he is prepared to apologize, that the rights of membership be suspended for a time, or that he be expelled from the organization.”

Vice Chair Parham again interrupted the meeting. The Chair called VC Parham Out of Order and pointed out that the motion as originally stated in broad form was unnecessary given the language of Robert's Rule 61.15 (above). Jackie LeBlanc asked to amend the motion on the floor (1) to be specific to Vice Chair Parham due to his refusal to leave in the past and (2) amend the motion to two meetings. Tammi Carver agreed to the amendment to make the motion specific to Vice Chair Parham and limit the suspension to two (2) meetings. There was a question regarding if this motion was specific to VC Parham **only** or would be applied to others moving forward. The answer was that it would be applied to others at future meetings and was not specific **only** to VC Parham.

Susan Singer called the question. Paper ballots were used. For clarification Chair Paterson restated the motion which included Vice Chair Parham specifically:

Yes vote means – For repeated refusal to comply or come to order after three requests from the chair, the individual, in this case Mr. Parham, may be immediately removed and suspended for two consecutive meetings after the vote of the membership.

Melissa Snyder, Sheila Sweeney and Chuck Labanowski supervised the voting and counting of the ballots. The motion passed (47 yeas, 23 nays, 3 blank/wrong color/unclear choice, for a total of 73 ballots). During this discussion, VC Parham again interrupted the meeting with attacks on the Chair and was requested to come to order by the Chair. Chair Paterson announced he was suspended and asked him to leave the room. Mario Dipola made a motion to remove the Vice Chair immediately for his dilatory comments and it was seconded. Mr. Dipola later withdrew the motion.

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

WE WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF ONE ANOTHER EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE.
WE WILL DIRECT ALL COMMENTS TO THE ISSUES AND TO THE CHAIR.
WE WILL AVOID PERSONAL ATTACKS AND SHOUTING.



**ST. JOHNS COUNTY
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Members Only Business Meeting**

Holiday Inn World of Golf
475 Commerce Lake Drive,
St Augustine 32095

- Approval of August 23, 2023, Minutes – The Chair announced that the August 23 minutes were accidentally not sent to the membership in advance, so they will be approved at our next meeting.

7. State Committee Reports – Karen Harvey (SCW) – **At a recent RPOF meeting, Paul Dearing encouraged peace and unity versus arguments within our RECs. Vice Chair Parham interrupted again.** Mario Dipola made a motion for a vote of No Confidence in the Vice Chair. It was seconded by Marlene Zulig. After discussion, CM Dipola tabled the motion so we could move forward. SCW Harvey resumed her report and stated that the RPOF changed the loyalty oath requirement so Donald Trump could be on the ballot.

SCW Harvey also presented plans and asked for volunteers for a Veterans’ Day event on 11.10.23 at the REC Headquarters, 11-3 p.m. and asked for volunteers.

8. Reports

Treasurers Report – Bill McMahon – Bill recently entered 6 pages of transactions, so our revenues are increasing. Our current bank balance is \$49,464.62. Bill directed people who want to see details of each transaction to go to votesjc.gov. There was a complaint that no treasurer’s reports were on the website. Treasure Bill McMahon stated we have to wait for our vendor to post them.

9. Member Inductions, Absences and Removals

Induction 10/12/2023- email to confirm			
Benjamin	Bush	408	
Re-Instatement 10/12/2023			
None			
Excused Absences 10/12/2023			
Brian	Walsh	401	work related travel
Dennis	Clarke	107	notified 9/5/23
Susan	Clarke	107	notified 9/5/23
Lisa	Gaglianese	408	notified 9/5/23
Jennifer	Williams	405	notified 9/5/23
Members with 2 Cons. Absences (to date - if no excused absence received by 10/12/23 will be removed)			
Angela	Hopwood	105	notified 9/5/23
Denise	Wilks	311	notified 9/5/23

Motion to accept Ben Bush was made by Joe Ryan, seconded by Terry Shaw. It passed unanimously.

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

**WE WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF ONE ANOTHER EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE.
WE WILL DIRECT ALL COMMENTS TO THE ISSUES AND TO THE CHAIR.
WE WILL AVOID PERSONAL ATTACKS AND SHOUTING.**



**ST. JOHNS COUNTY
REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Members Only Business Meeting**

Holiday Inn World of Golf
475 Commerce Lake Drive,
St Augustine 32095

Motion to excuse absences was made by Liz Gesenhues and seconded by Chuck Labanowski. It passed unanimously.

10. Accountability and Vetting Committee Update - Consideration of Standing Committee Status – Joe Ryan and Gloria North- Joe clarified that they are not vetting REC members but only candidates for office. Members of the committee are:

- Liz Gesenhues
- Robert Hrifko
- Chuck Labanowski
- Anne Marie McKenna

Members of the committee were trained by Jackie LeBlanc. Candidates were evaluated on engagement, issues, work ethics, knowledge, and accountability and questions were designed to give information on these strengths. A Likert Scale was used to determine interview strengths. Joe Ryan explained a website that traces donation patterns.

A motion to move the committee to Standing Committee status was made by Charlie Williams and seconded by Bill MacDowell and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT 9:00 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Thomson, Secretary**

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

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**St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee
Regular Business Meeting
First Coast Technical College Building C
2980 Collins Avenue
St. Augustine, Florida 32084**

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Call to Order – 6:36 p.m., Quorum announced - 101/143, 71%

The meeting was called to order after six calls by the Chairman, asking for all attendees to be seated.

Pledge of Allegiance – CM John Reardon

Invocation – CW Krista Keating-Joseph

Welcome of Elected Officials

- Scott Thomas, Duval County, State Committeeman
- Paul Deering, REC Chair, Volusia County
- Roy Alaimo, Commissioner, St. Johns County
- Krista Keating-Joseph, Commissioner, St. Johns County

Remarks of the Chair – Blake Paterson

CM Charlie Williams, chair of the Grass Roots Committee, needs 5-10 volunteers. We need citizen patriots, not people with an agenda.

June 20 – REC Leadership Training for NE Florida at RPOF – a great education on how to be a good republican activist and it is free. The chair will send an email.

Capitol Police –operation established in Hillsborough County. A resolution for our area is needed. See CM Terry Shaw or CW Susan Singer.

Reminders – We follow Roberts Rules. Members should not speak unless called upon. Members should not be standing or walking around. Those in the back, please be seated.

Agenda & Minutes

- CW Karen McManus moved that the agenda be approved; it was seconded by CW Gerri Buchanan and passed.
- CW Diane Dew moved that discussion be limited to two minutes/speaker in the order of pro/con and the total time/topic be limited to 10 minutes. It was seconded by CW Susan Singer and clarified by the chair. CM Dave Pelletier was the designated timer. The motion was never actually voted upon due to a point of order by CW Rhonda Brennan questioning the procedure

of a designated holder of the microphone for speakers. Her action was ruled dilatory by the chair and business continued to the approval of the minutes.

- Motion to approve the minutes was made by CM Doug Worth, seconded by CM Charlie Davis and passed unanimously.

Member Inductions, Absences and Removals

- Introductions of applicants for membership, the Secretary began to read new member candidate in the following order:
 - Scott Davis - 208
 - Carol Labanowski - 209
 - Lynne McCormick - 406
 - Robert McCormick - 406
 - Ko Robins - 510
 - Brad Billingsley - 402
- CW Marnie King was noted to be walking around the back of the room and filming the proceedings without the membership's consent. The Chair requested that she stop and be seated. When she refused more than once, the Chair requested she be escorted out by the Sargent-at-Arms. She again refused to stop and be seated or leave. At this point there was much disruption in the meeting and the Chair requested the police officer to remove CW King. CW Angelica Gross began yelling in an antagonistic tone and repeatedly ordered the Chair to "move on." A guest, Manuel P. Asensio-Garcia, began screaming and was asked to leave (as a guest, he had no right to speak). The Chair stated, "We have two people that need to be removed. Sargent-at-Arms – please remove the guest." SCW Karen Harvey made a motion to remove anyone disrupting the meeting immediately. It was seconded by SCM Tom Rivers and passed with a loud majority. The Vice Chair vacated his chair, moved to the back of the room and engaged both the Sargent-at-Arms and the Sheriff's officer in loud debate. The Chair requested that he return to the podium and be seated, to which he replied, "You are the one who started it." Vice Chair Parham was asked to leave by the Chair. He responded, "No Sir, you need to leave." The Chair directed Officer Marcus, "The gentleman in blue scrubs (Vice Chair Parham) needs to leave. Officer, we have three people to remove... (CW Marnie King, guest, the Vice Chair)." General disruption and yelling continued. The chair vacated his chair briefly to speak to the officer and returned. The officer removed CW Marnie King but seemed unable or unwilling to remove the other two people (both loud males). The chair called the police department to request additional police assistance and announced that additional officers were in route. SCM Tom Rivers, made a plea to the members to remember our common goal to elect more Republicans in 2024 and thanked people for settling down to continue with the meeting. Inductions resumed after this 20-minute disruption.

A reading of the biographies of the candidates then proceeded uneventfully and the Vice Chair returned to his seat. Brad Billingsley did not submit an introduction as requested by Ad Hoc Membership Committee, and instead made his own oral introduction to the body. Because of his behaviors during recent interfaces with the ad hoc membership committee staff, a report on such observations was presented on behalf of Monica Demitor, Ad Hoc Membership Cochair. He

had previously applied and was scheduled to be inducted 11.29.22 but did not show and did not respond to communications from the committee; CW Sweeney interrupted the reading with loud objections, exclaiming that is a “bald face lie.” A written statement from the Chair was also shared. Vice Chair Parham took exception to considering anything for membership beyond that the candidate had been a registered Republican for the past 365 days. He publicly admonished the Chair stating he (the Chair) was violating the Rules of the REC.

Each candidate was voted upon separately. Committeewoman Angelica Gross made a motion that the candidates be considered as a group, but there was no second. The chair stated that since January, we have done it individually.

- Scott Davis – The motion to approve was made by Dave Pelletier and seconded by Gerri Buchanan. It passed.
- Carol Labanowski - The motion to approve was made by Karen McManus and seconded by Sheila Sweeney. It passed.
- Lynn McCormick - The motion to approve was made by John Reardon and seconded by Mario Dipola. It passed.
- Robert McCormick - The motion to approve was made by John Reardon and seconded by Mario Dipola. It passed.
- Ko Robbins - The motion to approve was made by John Reardon and seconded by Jackie LeBlanc. It passed.
- Brad Billingsley - The motion to approve was made by John Reardon and seconded by Jaime Parham. Dr. Michel Pawlowski spoke against approval, citing that Mr. Billingsley failed to respect our ongoing processes and procedures. Committeewoman Sheila Sweeney argued that bio information was not in our rules and the guest shouted in agreement. The motion to approve Mr. Billingsley failed despite the interruptions.

State Committeeman & Committeewoman Reports

The Chair asked SCM Rivers and SCW Karen Harvey to carry on with their State Committee reports during his brief absence as he vacated his chair to speak to the newly arrived police. SCM Tom Rivers reported that RPOF Chair Christian Ziegler had clarified his previous remarks. He likes resolutions but his main focus is on electing Republicans. This was in response to a previous question from Rhonda Brennan. Vice Chair Parham took the Chair’s seat and told SCM Rivers that he was in charge. SCM Tom Rivers yielded the floor to the Vice Chair as requested by VC Parham.

SCW Karen Harvey reported that a recent meeting was very positive with lots of answers to questions. During this report, Chair Paterson returned. Vice Chair Parham stood up from the Chair’s seat but did not move to allow the Chair to sit and resume control of the meeting and when Chair Paterson tapped him on the shoulder, the Vice Chair exclaimed, “Officer, did you see the man push me?” Which drew rounds of laughter. He then relinquished the position.

Treasurer’s Report

Bill McMahon reported:

beginning balance	\$23,966.66
Income	\$40,448.93
Expenditures	\$7,272.95
ending balance	\$33,175.98

Police Recommendation

The three officers then present recommended a 30-minute recess to ask the guest to leave and hope that he would do so, or work with the RPOF to assist us legally. A motion to remove the guest was made by CM Michel Pawlowski and seconded by CM Robert Hyttenhove. After discussion, a vote was taken. The Ayes had it – the motion passed. The guest was requested to leave, and he again refused. The officers were requested to remove the guest. The motion to have a 15-minute recess was proposed and was seconded by Charlie Davis. The Ayes have it. The motion was passed.

Jeff Tucker, Sargent-at-Arms announced that the meeting was paused for 15 minutes and “we will do business differently, while still following the rules of a private meeting.”

Motion for Division of the House on the vote for Brad Billingsley

CM Janowicki made the motion for a roll call vote on the membership of Brad Billingsley and it was seconded by CM Hrifko. The vote was done – using the paper ballots that were distributed at member sign-in. A pause was taken to allow those members who claimed to have not received ballots to do so. The motion failed (26 yeas to 49 nays); Brad Billingsley was not inducted.

Candidate Presentations

- Clay Murphy – District 3 BCC (Roy Alaimo)
- Nick Primrose – HD 16 (Cyndi Stevenson)

Oath of Office for new members

The Chair inducted new members Scott Davis, Carol Labanowski, Robert and Lynne McCormick and Ko Robins despite interruptions by CW Sweeney and others.

Noting Ms. Sweeney’s interruptions, Charlie Williams made a motion that there be an official entry in the minutes regarding Sheila Sweeney’s purposeful interruptions and dilatory disruptive behavior throughout the meeting and during the swearing in of the new REC members. It was seconded by SCM Tom Rivers. After discussion, the question was called by Susan Singer; a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Membership Actions (continued)

- Excused Absences – motion to approve by Angelica Gross, seconded by Marty Miller; the vote passed:
 - Claire Frank
 - Paul LeBlanc
 - Mark Littles
 - Spring Ng
 - Tamara Renuart
- Bryan Rendzio resigned, and the following members were removed after their 3rd absence:
 - Kevin Boicken
 - Barbara Duffy
 - David Masters
 - Michelle Milano
 - Georgetta Miller
 - Jarrett Motes
 - Lisa Motes
 - Stan Plachcinski
 - Brianne Sanders
 - William Sanders

Resolution – Ban the COVID Vaccine

CW Rhonda Brennan read the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution was made by CW Marilyn Wolfe and seconded by CW Sheila Sweeney. The Ayes had it.

Fundraising Report

Committeewoman Diane Dew – 20 tickets are still available for the Rick Scott dinner. We are raising approximately \$10,000/month so we should make our budget for the year.

Adjourn

Due to the late hour, the Chair expressed an openness to consider a motion to adjourn prior to the completion of the entire Agenda, which would leave pending the District 3 Ad Hoc Chair Special Election, Membership Committee report and review, and consideration of the endorsement of Donald J Trump prior to an adjournment motion being made. PC Terry Shaw moved to discuss new business.

New Business

Committeeman Terry Shaw made a motion to limit the use of the REC email list for REC business only by the board, district or committee chairs. Any member or person who uses the membership list inappropriately could be sanctioned and possibly removed. It was seconded by

CM Chuck Labanowski. During discussion, a message board was suggested as a way for members to communicate. A motion was made by CM Bill MacDowell and seconded by CW Karen McManus to table the motion until the next meeting. CM Terry Shaw said he was willing to table his motion. The motion to table the email list motion until the next meeting passed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by CW Gerri Buchanan and seconded by CM Dave Pelletier. It passed unanimously and we adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by Linda Thomson, Secretary
St. Johns County Republican Executive Committee
V.10**

From: [Stafford Jones](#)
To: bpatersongop@fastmail.com; tom@tomrivers.com; renegadex117@gmail.com
Cc: "[George Riley](#)"; "[Helen Ferre](#)"; "[Richard DeNapoli](#)"; [Evan Power](#); "[Chairman Mark Cross](#)"
Subject: Re: Advisory Opinion - Suspending REC Members
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:13:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

It is the opinion of the entire constitution rules committee that suspension of a member is in contradiction to chapter 103 of Florida statute.

This has also been cross-checked with our Republican Party of Florida general council.

You have now been told this verbally as well as in writing.

The Constitution and rules committee considers this a grievanceable action. If somebody were to file a grievance over this, it is highly likely that the grievance committee would consider the weight of the constitution and rules committee opinion.

Do as you will.

Stafford

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From: bpatersongop@fastmail.com <bpatersongop@fastmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:07:54 PM
To: 'Stafford Jones' <stafford.jones@outlook.com>; tom@tomrivers.com <tom@tomrivers.com>; renegadex117@gmail.com <renegadex117@gmail.com>
Cc: 'George Riley' <griley@rpof.org>; 'Helen Ferre' <haguirreferre@rpof.org>; 'Richard DeNapoli' <rdenapoli@yahoo.com>; Evan Power <evan@evanpowergop.com>; 'Chairman Mark Cross' <markcrossea@prodigy.net>
Subject: RE: Advisory Opinion - Suspending REC Members

Mr Jones

I am in receipt of your last minute intercession/ opinion. Respectfully I am unable to accept your "guidance" on behalf of the SJC REC membership. Reasons:

1. You have previously and repeatedly asserted (as recently as 1/8/2024), along with the RPOF's recently departed chair, that this SJC REC Chair was in violation of state election code for having allowed membership to suspend our Vice Chair for 2 meetings. But both you and Mr Ziegler were unable to substantiate such statute. Of course, I have also taken this to outside legal counsel, whose opinions confirm my own, that there is no statute prohibiting the

suspension of an REC member.

2. Now today, a couple of hours before our REC meeting, you cynically allege violation of RPOF rules and our parliamentary authority, Robert's Rules of Order (and not state law). Which is it?
3. A key point of your committee's 'advisory' today is that it loosely CONFLATES the term 'removal' with 'suspension'. As you well know, the 2 words have very different definitions, both in legal and lay lexicon. Mr Parham was not removed from office, he was suspended for 2 meetings, by a 47-23 vote. Your "advisory" may sound reasonable when one conflates the two terms, but is entirely without basis or merit. Membership is entirely within its rights to suspend any member who continuously defames, slanders, intimidates and continuously prevents the proceedings of REC Business Meetings. This is pursuant to the Parliamentary Authority granted by RPOF rules to Robert's Rule *in toto*. See RRO section 61. Are we now parsing Parliamentary Authority?
4. Again, on behalf of the SJC REC membership, I am unable to accept your last minute attempt to disrupt tonight's REC meeting (the last meeting of his 2 meeting suspension). Mr Parham will not be admitted. Please feel free to initiate proceedings against this the undersigned Chair if you wish. Either Mr Parham needs to go or this Chair needs to go.
5. Perhaps you might be educated by the attached video (from an earlier meeting) of the Vice Chair in action with his brother Forrest, both dressed in activist black, conspiring to intimidate an elderly member and disrupt the meeting. Please watch in entirety, as he is uncharacteristically quite in the beginning (watching his brother in action). Attached here is a link to an mp4 file in our REC records, you will need to download it first.
<https://stjohns.gop/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Parham-Bros.mp4>

Please feel free to share with Ms Sweeney and Mr Hutson as you wish.

Best regards,

Blake

Blake M Paterson MD

Chair@stjohns.gop

904-810-8665

ST. JOHNS GOP
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

From: Stafford Jones <stafford.jones@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 3:09 PM

To: tom@tomrivers.com; Blake Paterson MD <bpatersongop@fastmail.com>;
renegadex117@gmail.com

Cc: George Riley <griley@rpof.org>; Helen Ferre (haguirreferre@rpof.org)
<haguirreferre@rpof.org>; Richard DeNapoli <rdenapoli@yahoo.com>

Subject: Advisory Opinion - Suspending REC Members

Importance: High

Attached, please find an advisory opinion issued, today, by the Constitution and rules Committee of the Republican Party of Florida, regarding the ability to suspend members from an Executive Committee.

This issue has come up in more than one county, and the Constitution and Rules Committee was asked to provide some guidance on whether members of an REC could be suspended.

The Constitution and Rules Committee began working on this issue in November. The membership of the Constitution and Rules Committee has, unanimously, approved this advisory opinion.

As such, this document reflects the opinion of the members of the Constitution and Rules Committee.

Thanks, so much.

Stafford Jones
Chairman, RPOF Constitution and Rules Committee