

UPDATE regarding the BCRC Bylaws and the Lawsuit Filed by Approximately 50 Republican Precinct Committee Members Against the Bucks County Republican Committee

Dear Fellow Precinct Committee Members,

Below is an important update regarding the ongoing lawsuit concerning the Bucks County Republican Committee (BCRC) bylaws and internal election procedures.

During the June 2022 leadership election of the BCRC, many elected Precinct Committee Members became deeply concerned over the use of hundreds of proxy ballots carried by various individuals during the voice vote election process. Following the election, candidates and some committee members requested the opportunity to inspect the proxy ballots and review the vote tallies. Those requests were denied by the BCRC leadership, raising serious concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and election integrity within our local party organization.

In January 2023, two Precinct Committee Members sought to obtain a certified copy of the BCRC bylaws from the Bucks County Board of Elections. Under Pennsylvania election law, certified bylaws are required to be on file both with the Bucks County Board of Elections and in Harrisburg. However, no properly certified copies could be found on record.

As concerns continued to grow, approximately 50 committee members filed an ethics complaint regarding the bylaws and the procedures used during the reorganization election. Unfortunately, BCRC leadership declined to address the complaint or engage in meaningful discussion regarding these issues.

After repeated attempts to resolve these concerns internally, a formal request was sent to then-PAGOP Chairman Lawrence Tabas asking the Pennsylvania Republican Party to intervene and help correct the inconsistencies between the BCRC procedures and Pennsylvania law. The response received was that the PAGOP would not become involved in the matter.

As a result, approximately 50 Republican Precinct Committee Members filed a lawsuit in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas concerning the bylaws and leadership election procedures. The case was initially heard by Judge McGuffin, who ruled that the court could not intervene because the committee functioned as a private organization.

In June 2024, many of the same concerns arose again during the next leadership election, including the use of hundreds of proxy ballots and voice voting procedures. Once again, requests for transparency and review of the election process were denied.

Following dismissal of the original case, the plaintiffs appealed to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. In 2025, a unanimous three-judge panel ruled that the lower court could, in fact, hear the case and sent the matter back for further consideration.

Importantly, the Commonwealth Court also emphasized that the BCRC must comply with Pennsylvania election law and Pennsylvania nonprofit association law. The court specifically noted that leadership elections are required to be conducted by paper ballot — not voice vote — and that proxy voting is prohibited under such circumstances.

Rather than resolving the issue at that stage, current BCRC leadership and its attorneys sought review before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a process that could delay final resolution for years.

In December 2025, committee members began preparing additional legal action concerning the upcoming June 2026 reorganization election to ensure compliance with Pennsylvania election law and nonprofit association law, while also requesting oversight from the Pennsylvania Republican Party.

At the urging of the plaintiffs, attorneys representing the PAGOP, the BCRC, and the plaintiffs began discussions in January 2026 in hopes of resolving the matter outside of court and avoiding a costly, divisive,

and embarrassing legal battle heading into the midterm elections. PAGOP Chairman Greg Rothman agreed that all parties should work together toward a solution.

Prior to proposing updated bylaws, committee members carefully reviewed the PAGOP state bylaws along with the bylaws of county Republican committees throughout Pennsylvania. A seven-member Bylaws Committee was then formed to review and discuss proposed reforms.

A clear deadline of April 15th was established to demonstrate meaningful progress before additional legal action would be necessary. Unfortunately, that deadline passed without substantive progress or even a formal meeting being held.

The Bylaws Committee eventually met on April 30th and has scheduled additional meetings moving forward. Although progress has been slower than anticipated and an additional lawsuit has now been filed, discussions continue. If agreement can be reached on updated bylaws, the lawsuit may ultimately be withdrawn, allowing the party to move forward united and focused on winning Republican elections.

As this process moves into the next phase — including the proposed adoption of updated bylaws prior to the June reorganization meeting — we would like to share these proposed bylaws with all committee members. We encourage every member to review them carefully. The proposed reforms are designed to create a more transparent, representative, accountable, and effective organization.

To review a copy of the updated bylaws, visit: <https://qrco.de/updatedbylaws> or scan the qr code.



The updated bylaws focus on four major areas:

Restoring Representative Government

- The current top-down governance structure would be replaced with a more representative, bottom-up model. The Executive Committee, currently dominated by appointments made by the Chair, would instead become a body elected entirely by duly elected committee members. This change would restore your voice in endorsements, party operations, and major decisions affecting the committee.
- **Ensuring Fair and Transparent Elections**
The updated bylaws would eliminate abusive and unlawful proxy voting practices and require paper ballots for leadership elections. Individuals running for office would no longer oversee their own elections, and no committee appointments would be permitted between the primary election and the reorganization meeting.
- **Restoring Transparency and Accountability**
The updated bylaws would require disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and establish an Ethics Committee elected directly by committee members rather than appointed by the Chair. This reform would help ensure independent oversight and accountability within party leadership.
- **Growing and Strengthening the Party**
The Assistant Secretary position would be replaced with a Director of Development & Outreach focused on recruiting, educating, training, and empowering committee members to become more informed, engaged, and effective leaders within their communities and precincts.

We look forward to working together with all fellow committee members to turn the page on decades of division and outdated governance practices. By modernizing our organization and restoring transparency, fairness, and representation, we can build a stronger and more united Republican Party focused on what matters most — winning elections and advancing Republican values throughout Bucks County.

Thank you for your continued dedication, commitment, and hard work. Let us move forward together and win elections in Bucks County!

Sincerely, Tom Cochrane – Springfield Township Middle – Precinct Committee Member