

**March 29, 2022**

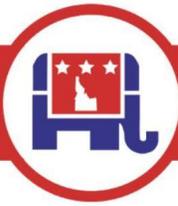
## **Bonneville County GOP, Primary Contributions**

Chairman Mark Fuller and the Bonneville County Republican Central Committee,

According to State Party rules, Article 12, sections 1-2, “The State Republican Party shall exercise supervisory and judicial oversight of all Region Executive Committees, Region Central Committees, County Central Committees...” upon request from an aggrieved party. Further, “the State Republican Party may issue orders to compel performance, prohibit an act from being done, and to otherwise remedy violations of the Idaho Republican Party Rules.”

Due to receiving several requests concerning a possible violation of the Bonneville County Republican Central Committee’s (BCRCC) by-laws, and after offering an opportunity for affected parties to be heard, and reviewing the submitted grievances, here are the facts of this matter.

- The Bonneville County Republican Central Committee (BCRCC) made direct cash contributions to contested Republican races in the 2022 primary election. ([SOURCE](#))
- The BCRCC by-laws, revised February 13, 2020, state in Article 2, Policy (D), “It shall be the policy of the committee to: (D) Take no position in favor of any Republican candidate engaged in a primary election contest.” ([SOURCE](#))
- The referenced Article 2, Policy (D) of the BCRCC by-laws were not amended prior to dispensing candidate contributions.
- Under Article 12 of the BCRCC by-laws, *Procedures Not Covered Under These By-Laws*, “The Idaho Code shall govern this organization in all cases for which it is applicable. The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, revised/latest edition, shall govern this organization in all cases for which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Central Committee’s Bylaws.”
- No actions were taken through Robert’s Rules of Order (RORN) to suspend the rules as outlined in RORN, Section 25, subpart 1.
- The State Party may compel performance to remedy violations within County Republican Central Committees. (State Party rules, Article 12, sections 1-3)



## Conclusion

The by-laws of the BCRCC clearly prohibit the county committee from supporting positions in favor of *any* Republican candidate engaged in a primary election contest. The BCRCC has, through its rules, clearly opted to NOT engage in the endorsement process during primary elections.

By unequally contributing in contested Republican primary races, the BCRCC took a position in favor of those candidates, thus violating the BCRCC by-laws, Article 2, Policy (D). Additionally, despite an established process, there were no amendments to the BCRCC by-laws to match the standard maintained in State Party rules. (Article 9, sections 1-3).

Acting within my duty as State Party Chairman, in response to a filed grievance, to correct this by-law violation, I am proposing three fair and reasonable options. The expectation is that one of these options will be implemented **immediately** to correct the violation.

1. Request a refund from any candidate who received a direct cash contribution.
2. Donate an equal amount to all Republican candidates in the contested primary race.
3. Provide a solution that corrects the violation of the BCRCC Article 2, Policy (D) by-law provision to "take no position in favor of any Republican candidate engaged in a primary election contest."

## Closing Considerations

We may not always agree with the outcome, but we must have trust in the process and in each other to act with integrity. This decision would be the outcome for any county with specific provisions prohibiting a county committee from favoring a candidate in primary elections. We must apply our rules uniformly and in good faith, and that is what I have done. I humbly ask the BCRCC to immediately correct this violation and allow us to move forward together.

Sincerely,

Tom Luna, Chairman  
Idaho Republican Party