



Idaho Republican Party

P.O. Box 2267 • Boise, Idaho 83701 • Telephone (208) 343-6405 • Fax (208) 343-6414 • www.idgop.org

Chairman Tina Jacobson
Kootenai County Republican Party

Re: Support for Nominated Republican Candidates

Dear Tina,

I have been asked to provide the Idaho Republican Party's position regarding support for Republican candidates nominated during our candidate selection process (i.e., the May Republican primary) versus write-in candidates. As you and I have discussed, and as I have mentioned to County Central Committees across the State, the answer to this question is very clear.

As the Republican Party, we must support our candidates during the general election; that is, the Republican candidates that we have chosen during our primary contests.

As the Precinct Committee Leader Training Manual clearly states, one of the primary duties of members of county and legislative district central committees is to support and promote our Republican candidates. Those are the candidates chosen during the primary process.

If someone would like the privilege of being the Republican candidate for a specific elected office, he/she must participate in the primary contest and be selected as our nominee. It is often a difficult and spirited process; sometimes our nominees are chosen in uncontested races. In either case, the Republican Party and its central committee members must support the Republican nominees that are chosen to represent us on the general election ballot. At that point, individual preferences and biases must give way to the will of the party and respect for our candidate selection process.

If an individual precinct leader finds him/herself unable or unwilling to perform the basic duty of supporting and promoting one or more of our Republican nominees, he/she may want to consider letting someone else serve in the position. In no event can an individual precinct leader, or the Party itself, support a write-in candidate over the Republican nominee.



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As our national chairman, Michael Steele, has made clear, the Republican Party supports the candidates that are chosen and put on the ballot through our candidate selection process, not write-in candidates. This is most evident in Alaska, where the incumbent Senator Lisa Murkowski lost the Republican primary and is now running as a write-in candidate in the general election. The Republican National Committee and the Republican Senatorial Committee support the Republican candidate -- the winner of the primary -- Joe Miller, not the write-in candidate, Lisa Murkowski. The same rule holds here in Idaho.

I would be glad to discuss this further with your or any member of your Central Committee. In the meantime, thank you for your leadership and the hard work that all of you in Kootenai County are doing to help elect our Republican candidates and reclaim our great nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norm Semanko".

Norm Semanko, Chairman
Idaho Republican Party