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Subject: Notice of Concern to the Detriment of Rural Counties in *The Call for the Convention 2023*

Republican Party County Chairmen and Members of Committees:

The conservative residents of Georgia rural counties constitute a significant portion of our Republican Party and brought out 36.4% of the Presidential vote in 2020. The predominantly city-dwelling state executives appear intent on making it difficult for smaller counties to enjoy two days to organize their leadership and delegate elections. They have also misrepresented the truth of our party governing *Rules*.

The Call, which shall have recently gone into effect upon submission to the Georgia Office of the Secretary of State (GA Code § 21-2-113 (b)) contains a false representation on page 1. The written direction to under 80k counties is that their precinct caucuses may only be held between March 1-11. This is **directly inconsistent** with the written provisions of State Rule 9.2(A)(5), the **opt-out** provision of 9.2D. The state officers and attorneys responsible for this document and neglectful State Committee members have approved this verbiage with disrespect for our valuable rural Republicans. These electors, who safeguard our heartland's conservative heritage, have received this procedural abuse for several election cycles.

However, State Rule 9.2(A)(5) provides all counties a pathway to an equitable meeting structure. Under 80k counties **may opt to** have their Precinct Caucuses:

(a) on the date and time set forth in the Call for Precinct Caucuses for Counties over 80,000 in population (or within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for such Precinct Caucuses) **[Feb 2-11]**, or (b) on a date and at a time between the period described in Rule 9.2(A)(2) and the date and time set forth in the Call for County Conventions for Counties with a population of 80,000 or fewer **[Mar 2-11]**

The 2,721 voting precincts across Georgia can only be properly organized through competent county leadership and a party that promotes, by action, the broadest possible participation. **Two county meetings are in the best business interest of the Republican party.** An exclusive mass precinct caucus meeting allows qualified electors to organize at a morning coffee event with many invited neighbors. A proper period of officer selection and campaigning is necessary, at which Republicans should excel, not avoid.

Back-to-back meetings or single days for county reorganization are cumbersome options that suppress participation, have been shown to shuffle in the same group of officers repeatedly, and are an unnecessary challenge for the rural county committees. **It is a recipe for failure.**

Several members of the State Committee were notified of these concerns weeks ago, and the matter is in the press. The GA GOP has also failed to reply to a Nov 19 inquiry regarding its Permanent Rules Committee and the minutes and agenda that produced *The Call*. **Additionally, several areas of the 2023 Convention Documents (*The Call and The Manual*) contradict.** This will cause arbitrary application and members will be abused, as they were statewide in 2021. The state party leadership has proven itself incapable of handling appeals with accountability. Is this the GOP leadership we want going into 2024?

To overcome these false representations and demonstrate Republican leadership, I propose the following possible courses of action for under 80k Chairmen: 1) call a zoom meeting to gain a new vote of your county committee, 2) submit a new plan identifying two separate meeting dates, and 3) request a time waiver beyond January 5th of your plan's approval because of the administrative neglect of the State Committee (also the corporate Board of Directors of the GRP, Inc.).

If you are unaware, party officer elections are considered “primary” elections under our Georgia Election Code § 21-2-2 and 21-2-15, and are protected by state and landmark federal case law (*Smith v. Allwright*, US Supreme Court). GOP committees receive qualifying fees for its primaries under GA Code § 21-2-131, and act as agents of the state. Any attempt of the “corporate control side” of the party to misrepresent *The Rules* and assert non-governing “procedures” can be perceived as abusive of authority. County and district committees who “go along” with the state and their abuses may be found personally responsible for willful neglect that functionally disenfranchises Georgia electors from their party-level elective franchise (GA Code § 21-2-596, 597, 598). Finally, party officer primary election cheating has become a public habit of many officers within the party structure, which amounts to direct violations of election law.

Current state leadership is willing to approach the plan deadline without informing you, but I am not.

Sincerely,



Susan P. Opraseuth

Patriots have always been in willing and active defense of our nation around the holidays. This painting is in respectful memory of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Day, 1776.



STATE RULE 9.2 COUNTY PRECINCT CAUCUS MEETING AND CONVENTION PLAN

(Must be adopted by the full County Committee and then filed with the GRP Secretary either: on or before December 15, 2022 or, if using opt out provisions of 9.2(A), on or before January 5, 2023)

Pursuant to Rule 9.2 of the rules of the Georgia Republican Party, Inc. (the "Rules"), the _____ County Republican Party (the "County") has adopted the following plan for the holding of its County Convention (the "Plan"):

1. The Precinct Caucus Meeting shall be held (*Check only one*):

a. _____ On the date and time as set in the Call; or

b. _____ At the following date and time: _____, 2023, at _____ a.m/p.m (the date must be between March 2 - 11, 2023 if in Counties over 80,000 or between February 2 - 11, 2023 (9.2(A)(5)(a)) or between March 2 - 11 (9.2(A)(5)(b) in Counties under 80,000);

under 80K counties may opt of holding caucuses on the same day as the Mar 11 County Convention per 9.2(D)

At the following location(s):

Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip code _____

State Rule 9.2(A)(5) Citation to Opt Out of Rule 9.2(D), allowing for a broader period of local re-organization:

9.2(A)(5) For Counties having a population of 80,000 or fewer, to opt out of the provisions of Rule 9.2(E[D]) specifying that such County hold both its Precinct Caucuses and County Convention on the same date and to hold such County's Precinct Caucuses either: (a) on the date and time set forth in the Call for Precinct Caucuses for Counties over 80,000 in population (or within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for such Precinct Caucuses) [Feb 2-11], or (b) on a date and at a time between the period described in Rule 9.2(A)(2) and the date and time set forth in the Call for County Conventions for Counties with a population of 80,000 or fewer [Mar 2-11]

2. The County Convention shall be held (*Check only one*):

a. _____ On the date and time as set in the Call; or

b. _____ At the following date and time: _____, 2023, at _____ a.m/p.m (the date must be between March 2-11, 2023) and;

At the following location:

Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip code _____

Chairman, _____ County Republican Party

Date

CALL FOR THE 2023 GEORGIA REPUBLICAN PRECINCT CAUCUSES AND FOR COUNTY, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTIONS

The Georgia Republican Party, pursuant to the Rules of the Party, as adopted on June 17, 2020, hereby issues this Official Call (“Call”) to all qualified registered resident voters in the State of Georgia who believe in the principles of the Republican Party and support its aims and purposes, to unite under this Call in the selection of Delegates and Alternates to County, Congressional District, and State Conventions.

The Georgia Republican Party seeks the broadest possible participation by such persons in Party affairs and delegate selection. Participation in all Precinct Caucuses and Conventions shall in no way be abridged for reasons of sex, race, religion, color, age, or national origin.

Precinct Caucuses in counties over 80,000
Population are hereby called to convene at **10:00 A.M.** on
(Or pursuant to an approved plan under Rule 9.2(A)(2) at any other date & time between February 1 – February 11, 2023) **February 11, 2023**

Precinct Caucuses in Counties under 80,000
Population are hereby called to convene at **9:00 A.M.** on
(Or pursuant to an approved plan under Rule 9.2(A)(5) at any other date & time between March 1 – March 11, 2023)

March 11, 2023

THIS IS INCONSISTENT WITH STATE RULES and signed by the State Committee

County Conventions are hereby called to convene in each County in the State of Georgia at **10:00 A.M.** on
(Or pursuant to an approved plan under Rule 9.2(A)(3) at any other date & time between March 1– March 11, 2023) **March 11, 2023**

Congressional District Conventions are hereby called to convene in each Congressional District of the State of Georgia at 10:00 A.M. on
(Or pursuant to an approved plan under Rule 9.3 at any other date & time between April 12 – April 22, 2023) **April 22, 2023**

The **2023 State Convention** of the Georgia Republican Party is hereby called to convene in the city of Columbus in the County of Muscogee Georgia, commencing at **2:00 P.M.** on **June 9th** and continuing from day to day until adjournment
(Registration for Delegates and Alternates shall close at precisely 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 10, 2023). **June 9-10, 2023**

D. The Call shall be issued a reasonable time prior to the Precinct Caucuses, shall include a copy of all forms to be used, and shall be sent by the State GRP headquarters to each County Chairman and Congressional District Chairman.

E. The County Chairman, upon receipt of this Call, shall cause a meeting of the County Committee to be held to make all arrangements necessary for Precinct Caucuses and the County Convention, including, but not limited to, the adoption of any plan authorized by these Rules.

9.2 HOLDING OF PRECINCT CAUCUSES AND COUNTY CONVENTIONS

A. Precinct Caucuses shall be held for each Precinct in accordance with the Call at a single location as determined by the County Committee; provided, however, that a County Committee may adopt a plan to include one or more of the following:

- 1) to hold multiple Precinct Caucuses in multiple locations grouped by other political subdivisions;
- 2) to hold Precinct Caucuses on a date or at a time other than that set forth in the Call; provided that such alternative date and time shall, other than as provided in Rule 9.2(A)(5), fall within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for Precinct Caucuses for such County as set forth in the Call;
- 3) to hold the County Convention on a date or at a time other than that set forth in the Call; provided that such alternative date and time shall fall within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for County Conventions as set forth in the Call;
- 4) for Counties having a population of over 100,000, to provide for the use of one of the alternate divisor numbers specified in Rule 9.5(B) for determining the number of Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention;
- 5) for Counties having a population of 80,000 or fewer, to opt out of the provisions of Rule 9.2(E) specifying that such county hold both its Precinct Caucuses and County Convention on the same date and to hold such County's Precinct Caucuses either: (a) on the date and time set forth in the Call for Precinct Caucuses for Counties over 80,000 in population (or within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for such Precinct Caucuses), or (b) on a date and at a time between the period described in Rule 9.2(A)(2) and the date and time set forth in the Call for County Conventions for Counties with a population of 80,000 or fewer.

B. Any such plan must be submitted in writing by the County Chairman or other person designated by the County Committee to the State Executive Committee to the attention of the State Secretary at GRP headquarters on or before December 15* of the year preceding such Precinct Caucuses or Conventions. With regard to any such plan submitted, the State Executive Committee may: (1) approve the plan as submitted, (2) approve the plan subject to certain conditions, or (3) reject the plan. If the State Executive Committee takes no action on the plan on or before January 5* of the year in which

* Superseded by Call

such Precinct Caucuses are to be held, such plan shall be deemed approved and the County may proceed with the plan.

C. If, at a Precinct Caucus, any precinct does not caucus or does not elect a full delegation, any unfilled Delegate or Alternate positions for that precinct may not be filled by any other precinct or by the Precinct Caucus. No alternate position may be filled until all delegate positions are filled.

D. Counties whose population is 80,000 or fewer shall hold both their Precinct Caucuses and County Conventions on the date set by the Call for County Conventions unless such County shall have filed a plan pursuant to Rule 9.2(A)(5) and such plan shall not have been rejected by the State Executive Committee.

Reject of any plans pursuant to 9.2(A)(5) will welcome a lawful restraining order.

E. In instances where multiple Precinct Caucuses are held in locations per 9.2(A)1, there shall be one Convener, one Secretary, and one registration committee appointed by the County Chairman (or as otherwise specified in the County party rules) for each location. Whether precincts caucus in single- or multi-locations, each precinct shall elect its own delegates and/or officers. The County Chairman may also appoint, or shall delegate to the Convener the authority to appoint, a temporary Precinct Chairman for each Precinct, giving preference where possible to the ranking officer of such precinct.

F. The County Chairman shall appoint interim County Convention Committees and their respective Chairmen, subject to the approval of the County Committee. Except when the County's Precinct Caucus and County Convention shall be held on the same date pursuant to Rule 9.2(D), the County Chairman shall send written notice of the date, time, and location of the County Convention by mail or by written electronic communication at least ten (10) days in advance of the date of said Convention to all Delegates and Alternates elected to such Convention at Precinct Caucuses, which notice shall indicate that the Convention is to be held pursuant to the Call.

9.3 HOLDING OF DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

A. Congressional District Conventions shall be held in each Congressional District in accordance with the Call at a location as determined by the District Committee ; provided, however, that in a non-presidential election year a District Committee may adopt a plan to hold the District Convention on a date or at a time other than that set forth in the call; provided that such alternative date and time shall fall within the ten (10) day period ending on the date and time for District Conventions as set forth in the Call.

B. Any such plan must be submitted in writing by the District Chairman or other person designated by the District Committee or District Executive Committee to the State Executive Committee to the attention of the State Secretary at GRP headquarters on or before December 15* of the year preceding such Convention. With regard to any such plan submitted, the State Executive Committee may: (1) approve the plan as submitted, (2) approve the plan subject to certain conditions, or (3) reject the

* Superseded by Call

plan. If the State Executive Committee takes no action on the plan on or before January 5* of the year in which such Convention is to be held, such plan shall be deemed approved and the District may proceed with the plan.

C. Each District Chairman shall send written notice of the date, time, and location of the Congressional District Convention by mail or by electronic communication at least ten (10) days in advance of said Convention to all Delegates and Alternates elected by the applicable County Conventions, which notice shall indicate that said Convention is to be held pursuant to the Call.

9.4 PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF PRECINCT CAUCUSES

A. Each County Chairman shall cause to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in their County a notice of the date, time, and place of each Precinct Caucus to be held in such County at least fifteen (15) days, but not more than sixty (60) days, before the date of the Precinct Caucus and shall arrange for such other notice of the Precinct Caucus as may be directed by the County Committee.

B. The date, time, and place of the County Convention and, if known, the District Convention for each Congressional District located in whole or in part in the County shall be included in this notice.

C. If a County's Precinct Caucuses and County Convention are to be held on the same date, the notice shall specify that the Precinct Caucuses and County Convention will be held at separate times on the same date and shall specify the location for each.

D. The County Chairman shall provide a written or electronic copy of the notice to the State Secretary at GRP headquarters within five (5) business days after publication.

9.5 ALLOCATION OF DELEGATES TO COUNTY CONVENTIONS

A. Each Precinct shall be entitled to one Delegate and one Alternate to the County Convention. Each Precinct shall be entitled to one additional Delegate and one Additional alternate for each 50 votes and major fraction thereof (26 or more) cast for the Republican candidate for President in the immediately preceding presidential general election.

B. Provided however, that in lieu of the foregoing calculation, pursuant to a plan adopted by the County Committee as provided in Rule 9.2(A)(4): (1) in Counties having population of over one hundred thousand (100,000), each Precinct shall be entitled to one Delegate and one Alternate for each one hundred fifty (150) votes and major fraction thereof (76 or more); or (2) in counties having a population of over five hundred thousand (500,000), each precinct shall be entitled to one Delegate and one Alternate for each two hundred and fifty (250) votes and major fraction thereof (126), cast for the Republican candidate for President in the immediately preceding presidential general election.

C. Any county which has had changes in precinct lines since the last Presidential Election may use percentage of the vote totals cast by each precinct for the Republican candidate for Governor in the immediately preceding gubernatorial general election to apply to the presidential vote total in

* Superseded by Call