

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee Passes Resolution Supporting a Closed Republican Primary**

**Charleston, WV — January 6, 2026**— The Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee (KCREC) has formally adopted a resolution reaffirming its support for maintaining a closed Republican primary in West Virginia, limiting participation to registered Republican voters.

The resolution was approved ahead of the West Virginia Republican Party State Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Saturday and reflects the Kanawha County GOP's position that Republican nominees should be selected exclusively by Republican voters.

Committee members emphasized that a closed primary safeguards the integrity of the Republican nomination process, protects grassroots participation, and ensures that Republican candidates reflect the principles and priorities of the Party's voters.

"At a time when party unity, clarity of values, and voter trust are paramount, it is essential that Republicans stand together in defense of a closed primary," said Linda Suson, Vice-Chair of the Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee. "The Republican Party must retain the right to determine its own nominees without outside influence. Closing the primary accomplishes this goal and we urge the State Executive Committee to stand with President Trump in opposition to non-Republicans voting in our primary. As President Trump "Truthed out" on 1/23/24, "So ridiculous that Democrats and Independents are allowed to vote in Republican primaries..."

The resolution notes that West Virginia law permits political parties, through action of their state executive committees, to determine whether voters unaffiliated with the Party may participate in its primary elections. The West Virginia Republican Party voted in January 2024 to hold a closed Republican primary beginning in 2026.

Under the current election calendar, the Republican primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The voter registration deadline, including party affiliation changes, is April 21, 2026.

The Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee is encouraging other county Republican executive committees across the state to adopt similar resolutions and to make their positions known prior to further consideration of primary election rules at the state level.

The Committee also urges Republican leaders and activists statewide to engage their local organizations, communicate voter registration deadlines clearly, and advocate for maintaining a closed Republican primary.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM A CLOSED REPUBLICAN PRIMARY IN WEST VIRGINIA FOR 2026**

WHEREAS, the Republican Party is a voluntary political association whose nominees represent the Party's principles, platform, and priorities; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia law provides that political parties, through the official action of their state executive committees, may determine whether unaffiliated voters or voters of other parties shall be allowed to vote that party's primary ballot; and

WHEREAS, in January 2024, the West Virginia Republican Party executive committee voted to hold a closed Republican primary beginning in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 12, 2026, and the voter registration deadline (including party affiliation changes) is April 21, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned West Virginians hereby affirm and support maintaining a closed Republican primary in 2026, limited to registered Republicans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we respectfully urge the West Virginia Republican Party, its state executive committee, and county executive committees to maintain the closed-primary rule for 2026 and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage robust public communication of the applicable deadlines and procedures so that any voter who wishes to participate in the Republican primary may do so by affiliating with the Party by the registration deadline; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we invite unaffiliated voters who generally support Republican candidates and principles to register Republican by April 21, 2026 to participate in selecting the Party's nominees for the May 12, 2026 primary.