



Republican Party of Virginia
www.rpv.org

May 12, 2015

Nancy S. Russell, Chairman
Hanover County Republican Committee

VIA E-mail nsrussell29@yahoo.com

Dear Chairman Russell:

By letter dated May 5, 2015, you requested a ruling regarding proxy voting in connection with the election of Magisterial District Chairs by the Hanover County Republican Committee at its April 16 meeting. In addition to your request, on April 20, I also received a request for an opinion on related issues from Daryl P. Carr, a member of the Committee. However, his request did not meet the Party Plan's requirement that a request be made by the chair or twenty percent of the members of an Official Committee. Nevertheless, I have reviewed both the information provided by Mr. Carr as well as the information in your letter.

The office of Magisterial District Chairman is not established by the Party Plan. The Hanover County Republican Committee has created that office in section B of article V of its bylaws, providing for the election of a chairman for each district by the members of the Committee who reside in that district. The election is accomplished by a caucus of Committee members who reside in the district at a meeting of the Committee after appropriate notice in the meeting call.

Because these votes are taken at a meeting of an Official Committee, in contrast to a Mass Meeting, the proxy rules established by the Party Plan are controlling on the question of proxy voting. Proxy voting is allowed. An individual may not cast more than one vote, so a Committee member may not carry a proxy, only non-members may do so. The proxy holder must be a member of the Republican Party and, in this case, reside in the same Magisterial District as the absent member whose proxy he or she carries. *See* Art. VII, Sec. A. The proxy rule is well-established and no advance notice is required to allow proxy voting.

Based on the information you provided, the procedures followed in the election of Magisterial District Chairman at the April 16 meeting of the Committee appear to comply fully with the Party Plan, faithfully implementing the proxy voting rules established therein. As such, I need not reach the second part of your question.

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The questions presented by Mr. Carr are predicated on the notion that the April 16 meeting was not, in fact, a meeting of an Official Committee, but, rather a Mass Meeting of all Republican voters in Hanover County. My predecessor's opinion in 1980 related to proxy voting at a Mass Meeting, which is, in fact, prohibited, but is not applicable to the current issue.

This letter constitutes a ruling or interpretation under Article X of the Party Plan and, as such, may be appealed within 30 days of its posting on the RPV website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Marston,
General Counsel