



**Republican Party of Virginia**  
*www.rpv.org*

December 18, 2018

Rebecca Simmons, Chair  
Augusta County Republican Committee

Dear Chairman Simmons,

On December 18, you requested an interpretation of the Party Plan relating to contests and appeals related to your Committee's recent removal of its former chairman. Specifically, you ask whether that removal on November 16 is subject to appeal 32 days after the decision if no appeal has been made to the Augusta County Republican Committee.

That decision is no longer subject to appeal. Under Article X, a contest or appeal relating to action by a unit committee must first be raised at the unit committee within the 30-day deadline. Only after unit consideration may an adversely affected party further appeal to a congressional district committee.

In an interpretation responding to a request from the chairman of the Winchester Republican Committee on July 17, 2015, I outlined this requirement of the Party Plan and the rationale behind it. A copy of that ruling is attached hereto.

Additionally, at its April 29, 2016, meeting, the State Central Committee reached the same conclusion in its consideration of an appeal from a decision by the 10th Congressional District Committee. A task force, appointed by the chair, recommended, and the Committee adopted a motion to "deny the appeal based on Article X, Section B (of the Party Plan) for the failure to apply the procedures for handling appeals which require that appeals start at the lowest possible level within in (*sic*) the committee and work its way up to State Central." A copy of the minutes from that meeting are attached hereto.

Based on my prior ruling and the State Central Committee's subsequent decision, a controversy of contest of an action by a unit, such as the removal of its chairman, must be considered by the unit committee within the deadlines set by the Plan, before any further appeal will lie with a congressional district committee.

This letter constitutes a ruling or interpretation of the Party Plan. Pursuant to Article X, it may be appealed to the Appeals Committee or directly to the State Central Committee within thirty days of the date it is posted 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