



Republican Party of Virginia

www.rpv.org

March 8, 2016

Michael E. Thomas, Chairman
Eleventh Senate District Committee

VIA E-mail mthomas@surreywood.net

Dear Chairman Thomas,

By letter dated March 8, 2016, you have requested a ruling or interpretation under Article X of the State Party Plan on the following question:

May a Unit Committee require a voter to pre-file in order to vote in any elections or nominations for public office to be decided by a Mass Meeting or Party Canvass?

No. Such a requirement may not be imposed.

As you note in your letter, the Plan authorizes an Official Committee to require pre-filing by individuals seeking to be elected or nominated by a Mass Meeting or Party Canvass, as long as the requirement is included in the call and published at least seven days prior to the pre-filing deadline. *See* Party Plan, Art. VIII, Sec. A, para. 3.

There is no similar authority to establish pre-filing requirements for participants to vote in a Mass Meeting or Party Canvass. The only requirements for participation in Mass Meetings and Party Canvasses are those enumerated in Article I of the Party Plan, one of which, the statement of intent to support Republican nominees, is an option for the Official Committee issuing the call. No other options are enumerated for the Official Committee

In contrast, Article VIII, specifically authorizes Official Committees to impose pre-filing requirements for election of convention delegates.

Comparison of these two cases supports the general interpretive guidance of our parliamentary authority that where the Plan authorizes certain things, it thereby prohibits other things of the same class. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, p. 589, l. 33-p.

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590, 1. 8. Article I authorizes certain requirements that may be imposed on participants and thereby prohibits other requirements.

You note in your letter that some Official Committees have included optional pre-registration for Mass Meetings and Party Canvasses in calls for administrative convenience. That practice, because it is voluntary in nature, is entirely consistent with the Plan.

This letter constitutes a ruling or interpretation under Article X of the Party Plan and may be appealed to the Appeals Committee or 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