

## **Formal Complaint and Request for Immediate Action**

To AKRP State Chair Carmella Warfield:

This formal complaint is submitted regarding the conduct of Steve Johnson, District 25 Chair. The undersigned allege that Mr. Johnson has acted with clear bias, abused his authority, and violated applicable rules and norms governing district procedures. We request prompt investigation and corrective action, including removal from position if the investigation substantiates these allegations Allegations (summarized and presented factually)

### **False statement regarding knowledge of precinct leaders**

- At a public meeting attended by over 20 members, Mr. Johnson stated he did not know who the precinct leaders were, attributing that lack of knowledge to a failure of the former chair to pass on information.
- Fact: Mr. Johnson presided as Chair at the District Convention where precinct leaders were elected by convention attendees. Therefore he had access to, and knowledge of, the identities of those elected precinct leaders at that time.

### **Refusal to hear a motion to reconsider mishandled endorsements**

- A motion to reconsider previously mishandled endorsements was presented following guidance from the Rules Chair (Charlie Franz) and an email from the Rules Chair advising the matter be brought for reconsideration.
- Even though the alleged incident happened during his tenure as chair of District 25, Mr. Johnson refused to allow the motion to be heard without presenting any evidence that the endorsement was handled correctly.

### **Refusal to properly follow Roberts Rules of Order**

- On multiple occasions, Mr. Johnson refused to call motions that had been seconded for orderly debate or for a vote.
- On at least one occasion, Mr. Johnson ruled a motion out of order solely because he disagreed with its substance.

### **Refusal to seat present precinct leaders who requested seating**

- On multiple occasions Mr. Johnson refused to seat precinct leaders who were physically present and requested to be seated, despite there being no competing candidates for those precinct positions and despite the absence of existing precinct leadership in the affected precincts.
- Seating precinct leaders expeditiously is required by district rules; his refusal denied duly-elected or eligible precinct leaders their recognized status and participation.

### **Conflict of interest and obstruction of endorsement process**

- Mr. Johnson repeatedly refused to consider an already-vetted candidate who would oppose his spouse, the District House Representative, in an upcoming primary.
- Furthermore, despite properly seconded motions and repeated calls for Mr. Johnson to recuse himself, he declined to step down as chair notwithstanding the clear and significant conflict of interest.

- He asserted the absence of a vetting tool until mid-July, then approved cancellation of a July meeting despite a vetted tool having been provided by AKRP, effectively preventing endorsement consideration before the August primary and blocking coordinated district support for that primary campaign.

### **Pattern of gatekeeping and exclusionary conduct**

- Mr. Johnson has acted repeatedly as a gatekeeper, blocking or refusing to consider matters, candidates, and precinct leaders that conflict with his or his spouse's political interests.
- This behavior creates a de facto control of district processes by Mr. Johnson and his spouse and prevents district members from participating on an equal basis.

### **Request for relief and action**

- Immediate independent investigation into the conduct described above, including review of contemporaneous records (minutes, sign-in sheets, email correspondence, Rules Chair communications, and convention reports).
- Temporary suspension of chair duties pending completion of the investigation, if the investigating authority deems such suspension necessary to preserve impartiality and the integrity of the district process.
- If the investigation substantiates the allegations, removal of Mr. Johnson from the position of District Chair and any other district leadership positions where a conflict exists.
- Remedial measures as appropriate, including rescission and reprocessing of improperly handled endorsements, seating of eligible precinct leaders who were denied seating, and procedures to prevent recurrence (e.g., clear timelines, independent vetting mechanisms, and conflict-of-interest disclosures for leadership).
- Communication to district members summarizing findings and corrective steps taken.

### **Preservation of evidence**

We request immediate preservation of all relevant records and communications, including but not limited to meeting minutes, attendance rosters, sign-in sheets, email correspondence (inbox and deleted items) involving the Chair and Rules Chair, any vetting tool documentation supplied by AKRP, and recordings or notes from the District Convention and subsequent meetings.

### **Closing**

The undersigned are prepared to provide sworn statements, copies of relevant documents, and any additional evidence available upon request. We urge timely action to protect the integrity of district governance and restore members' confidence in fair, impartial procedures.

Sincerely,

Signatories: *Joshua Hanson, Hannah Hanson, Dan Kurka, Lonnet Kurka, Pam Melin, Nan Potts, Dana Raphanelio, Kathleen Shoop, Desiree Terry, Tim Terry, and James Ziegler*

Date: June 5, 2026

*Legal notice: This document sets forth allegations and a request for investigation. It is submitted for the purpose of initiating a formal review. The undersigned assert these statements in good faith based on their recollections and available records; they are prepared to cooperate with any authorized inquiry.*