

Official Use of the name “Republican”

Of course, in this country of free speech and exchange of ideas, any individual can define himself as he sees himself. Organizations can do the same. However, a difference exists between official and unofficial definitions. And, in Illinois, the use of “Republican” in the name of an organization and in the official statements attributed to the organization, its officers, and its members is allowed with the approval of the officially elected Republican committee of responsibility in the political district the organization operates.

Republican Party is defined by law. The law dictates the rules of election and organization of the Party. The law determines how members are elected to the official Republican Party Committees and gives to the elected Party officials the responsibility of determining who else can officially represent the Party, including the use of “Republican.”

The Republican Party at all levels of governance is responsible for the nomination of Republicans to elected office. Elected Republican Party officials are responsible for the management of their organizations and represent Republican voters in their relationship with State Election Officials (the State Board of Elections.)

The official committees of the Republican Party are responsible for nomination only of Republicans. Therefore, official Republican Party organizations authorize the use of “Republican” to those individuals and organizations who recruit, support, promote only Republicans.

In Illinois, in each Primary election and during the period of petition signing, each voter officially defines his political party affiliation by participation in the process by Party. Voters may change Party affiliation at will but must be consistent during each cycle of petition signing.

Defining who can use “Republican” in the name of an organization and in literature describing an organization shall include:

- ❖ Support for nomination and election only of Republican candidates
- ❖ Recognition that differences of policy and issue views have a place in the Republican Party but that no view is “official” nor a disqualifier for an individual claiming a particular view
- ❖ Public support of all Republicans nominated for government office
- ❖ Public support for all elected Republican committee members