



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

**KURT S.
BROWNING**
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supervisors of Elections

FROM: Donald L. Palmer, Director *DF*
Division of Elections

DATE: June 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Republican Party of Florida Committee Persons

This is a follow-up to the email that was sent to you on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, regarding qualifying for the Republican Party of Florida committee persons. After a conversation with Mr. Richard Coates, Interim General Counsel, Republican Party of Florida, we provide the following clarifications:

- (1) The State Committeeman and Committeewoman will qualify with the Supervisor of Elections office.
- (2) The District and Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman will qualify with the Supervisor of Elections office.
- (3) Filing officers do not have to verify that candidates for committeeman or committeewoman have a party oath on file with the Republican Party.

Regarding the last point, the letter forwarded to you by Mr. Coates requested that the filing officers verify that each candidate has a party oath on file with the Republican Party before qualifying is complete. The Division's position is that the fulfillment of this request would be outside the jurisdictional scope of the filing officer's responsibilities. A filing officer within the Division of Elections or the Supervisor of Elections office serves a purely ministerial function during qualifying and must accept properly executed and complete qualifying papers submitted under oath. The candidate's oath indicates that the person is qualified for the office and the filing officer has no obligation to look beyond the four corners of the oath document. Therefore, we have notified Mr. Coates that filing officers cannot fulfill this request.

I hope this resolves any confusion. When we receive them, the Division will forward to you the updated copy of the Republican Party of Florida Rules, which updates will correct minor technical scrivener's errors. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

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