



August 11, 2021

Members of the State Central Committee:

This letter is in response to a so-called resolution making false allegations regarding State Candidate Fund expenditures. These potentially libelous allegations are from self-promoting individuals that have done little to support the Republican Party and its candidates. This letter will set the record straight and should be shared with your constituents.

The Ohio Republican Party (ORP) State Candidate Fund (SCF) is a statutorily created fund, which various individuals and entities, including candidates, are permitted to support and raise funds into, and the contributions into the fund and expenditures out of the fund cannot be earmarked; however, expenditures out of the account are made for the purposes of supporting statewide and general assembly elected officials or endorsed candidates.

ORP has a longstanding tradition of supporting incumbent Republican elected officials during their term of office. This year, ORP has made SCF expenditures to two incumbent Republican officeholders, Governor Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost. Those expenditures are lawful and proper and are made at the discretion of the Chairman.

In addition to SCF expenditures, the ORP may provide incumbents with in-kind contributions, which can include things like office space, staff payroll and other services. These types of in-kind contributions have also been long-standing practices for the ORP and are also made at the Chairman's discretion.

Support of incumbent elected officials outside the election year does not constitute an official endorsement. It is important to note that the filing deadline for candidates for the 2022 election cycle is February 2, 2022. Endorsement of candidates in those races will be at the sole discretion of the members of the State Central Committee and may take place at any regular meeting of the committee.

The scurrilous charges being made by people who do not understand Ohio campaign finance law or the ORP bylaws should be ignored. I cannot begin to understand the motivations behind their misguided actions, but I do know they have no interest in the well-being of the Ohio Republican Party.

Your constituents should know that when and if the ORP endorses candidates for the 2022 election cycle those decisions will be made by a majority vote of you and your colleagues on the committee. Please contact me or ORP senior staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Robert A. Paduchik, Chairman