

REPORT OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

APPEAL OF THE BUCKINGHAM COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

August 22, 2024

BACKGROUND

- On January 30, 2024, Buckingham County Republican Committee Chairman Ramona Christian submitted a Call for the unit's biennial Mass Meeting to be held on February 15, 2024, as well as its delegate filing form for the Fifth Congressional District and State Conventions, to the Republican Party of Virginia. Chairman Christian also forwarded the Call and filing form to the then-current members of the Buckingham unit via email. The Call, which the Buckingham unit approved at its January 18, 2024, meeting, featured a February 6 filing deadline for Committee Chairman, Committee Members, and Delegates to the respective conventions.
- The number of candidates for Chairman, Committee Member, and Delegate to the District and State Conventions who had properly filed by the February 6 deadline having not exceeding the number of positions available, the Chairman announced the cancellation of the Mass Meeting.
- On February 16, 2024, the Fifth Congressional District Republican Committee Chairman Rick Buchanan contacted the Buckingham Chairman via email to assert that the unit's Mass Meeting Call was "not in compliance with Article VIII of the Party Plan." Specifically citing eight alleged deficiencies in the Buckingham unit's Mass Meeting Call, including the Call not being posted to the Republican Party of Virginia website, he directed the Chairman to issue a new call.
- On March 8, 2024, the Buckingham Committee held a Special Meeting to consider how it would respond to the Fifth District Chairman's directive that a new Call for a Mass Meeting be issued. Citing that no resident of Buckingham County had appealed the original Call or the result of the Mass Meeting, the Committee unanimously approved a resolution stating that the Committee "declines to abide by [Fifth Congressional District Committee Chairman] Rick Buchanan's directive to issue a revised Call."
- On March 23, 2024, the Fifth Congressional District Republican Committee held a Special Meeting "for the purpose of determining the status of the Buckingham County Republican Committee." Exercising its authority under Article IV, Section D.1(e) of the Party Plan, the Fifth District Committee voted that the Buckingham Committee "failed to function as such." An Acting Chairman of the Buckingham Committee was subsequently appointed and a Call for a Canvass of the Republican Party of Buckingham County to be held on April 13, 2024.
- On April 2, 2024, (immediate past) Buckingham County Chairman Christian, acting on behalf of herself and the members of the Buckingham unit who had been deemed elected on February 6, 2024, filed an Appeal of the Fifth Congressional District Republican Committee's actions related to declaring the Buckingham Committee had "failed to function."
- On April 14, 2024, the Canvass of the Republican Party of Buckingham was held. Ramona Christian was re-elected as Chairman.

RELIEF REQUESTED BY APPELLANT (as filed, April 2, 2024)

Appellants, the Buckingham County Republican Committee, ask that the State Central Committee grant their appeal and restore the membership of the Buckingham County Republican Committee.

FINDING OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

As the relief sought by the Appellants on April 2, 2024, was achieved by the results of April 13, 2024, Canvass, the Appeal is effectively moot.

- Upon questioning, Chairman Christian confirmed that all who had been deemed elected on February 6, 2024, had been either elected at the April 13, 2024, Canvass, or have since become members of the Buckingham County Republican Committee. As a result, the relief requested has already been achieved through subsequent events.
- Responding to questioning from the Appeals Committee, Chairman Buchanan stated that there is no cause for further deleterious action concerning the Buckingham Committee and that Chairman Christian has full voting privileges on the Fifth District Committee.
- Believing it beyond the scope of the authority of the State Central Committee, and finding no provision in the Party Plan permitting relief beyond that requested by an appellant, the Appeals Committee makes no determination regarding the validity of the claims or appropriateness of the actions by either the Buckingham County Republican Committee or the Fifth Congressional District Republican Committee.

This report is unanimously approved and respectfully submitted by:

Jeff Ryer, Chairman
Caleb Cruey
Mark Daniel
Dennis Free
Zack Thompson