October 14, 2014

John D. Rhodes
1st Vice Chairman
Graham County Republican Committee
1420 1st Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Dear John:

You asked that I provide clarification and discussion of legislative district committees within the hierarchy of legally recognized political parties. You also asked how political clubs interact with the Arizona Republican Party and its various county and legislative district committees.

At present the State of Arizona recognizes four political parties: the Republican Party, the Democrat Party, the Libertarian Party as well as the Americans Elect Party. Each recognized party shall have a county committee. ARS §16-821. These same political parties *may* have legislative district committees. Pursuant to the Continuing Bylaws of the Arizona Republican Party (the "Bylaws"), the Republican Party has chosen to create legislative district committees only in counties with populations of 500,000 persons or more. *See*, Article II, sections A – C; Article III, sections E and H, Article VI, sections C and F of the Bylaws.

Precinct committeemen in counties of less than 500,000 persons conduct their business at two levels: the precinct level or the county level. ARS §16-821. Precinct committeemen in larger counties conduct their business first at the precinct level and then at the Legislative District level. ARS §16-823.B. However, where a Legislative District crosses county boundaries, precinct committeemen participate only in the county party activities of the county in which they actually reside. For example, Legislative District 1 covers both Maricopa and Yavapai counties. Maricopa has a population of more than 500,000 persons and Yavapai's population is less than this threshold. As a result, all precinct committeemen in LD1 operate as a single organization for purposes of advancing Republican Party efforts in the District. But, when LD1 precinct committeemen are engaged in county party activities they separate and meet with the county party of these residence.

The Party's Bylaws do create a role for Republican political clubs. The President of any "Republican auxiliary organization with at least 2,000 members" is entitled to serve on the Executive Committee of the Party. Article VI, section A of the Bylaws. The Bylaws do not provide for any other official role for political clubs. That being said, we are aware of a wide variety of Republican political clubs that provide substantial support and resources to the State, county and legislative district committees. That relationship and the support provided is entirely voluntarily and the State, county and legislative district committees have no role in the management or operations of any such club.

At present, only Maricopa and Pima counties have populations in excess of 500,000 persons. The Bylaws and State law expressly recognize legislative district committees in those two counties. In all other counties the Party operates first at the precinct level and next at the county level, there are no legislative district committees in Arizona's 13 other counties. Where a legislative district crosses county lines the residence of a precinct committeeman determines whether they participate in an LD committee, county committee or both. Again, that issue is only relevant for precinct committeemen who live in Maricopa and Pima counties.

There are a number of Republican political clubs throughout Arizona. With the exception of the Arizona Federation of Republican Women[1], none of those clubs has any official role in the operation and management of the State, county or legislative district committees.

Please let me know of any additional questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lee Miller
General Counsel
Arizona Republican Party

cc: Chad Heywood

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[1] The Arizona Federation of Republican Women has more than 2,000 members and its president is also a member of the State Party Executive Committee.