



Resolution to Close Partisan Primary Elections in NC

WHEREAS, North Carolina Session Law 2023-140, in contravention to established federal case law, permanently opened partisan political primaries for participation by Unaffiliated voters, allowing crossover influence by individuals who do not associate with the parties' respective platforms and values, to invade and influence the nomination process without any loyalty or accountability to those parties; and,

WHEREAS, this indefensible violation of federal case law erodes party autonomy, enables strategic manipulation by hostile voters, invites chaos, facilitates weak candidates, and tramples the fundamental associative rights that belong to Republicans alone; and,

WHEREAS, the integrity and sovereignty of partisan primaries demand that only committed members of the party - those who have formally affiliated with and share its principles, platform and long-term vision - be allowed to choose their candidates for the general election; and,

WHEREAS, in the wake of the devastating 2018 loss of Republican Supreme Court Justice Barbara Jackson, where a last-minute Democrat-turned-Republican spoiler, Chris Anglin, split the GOP vote and handed the seat to Democrat Anita Earls; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Republican Party failed to demand fully closed primaries and instead settled for a weak open system that left the door wide open to manipulation; and,

WHEREAS, a fully closed primary system restores accountability, builds stronger party loyalty, forces voters to make a clear and public commitment to the party they wish to shape, and protects the Republican Party from those who would undermine it from within; and,

WHEREAS, the permanent opening of partisan primaries to Unaffiliated voters has directly fueled a crisis, with Democrats now exploiting the rules by openly filing as Republicans in multiple 2026 primary races statewide, most glaringly Democrat Kate Barr, who switched her registration to run in the GOP primary against incumbent Rep. Tim Moore in North Carolina's 14th Congressional District, while similar infiltration risks loom in open seats like NC House District 32 and other legislative contests, allowing outsiders to sabotage and undermine Republican nominations from the inside; and,

WHEREAS, multiple states, including Kentucky and Florida, have long enforced closed primary



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systems where only registered party members may vote in that party's primaries, proving again that such systems work effectively to preserve party integrity; and,

WHEREAS, our neighbors in South Carolina's Republican Party have issued a decisive mandate for the same reform, with Republican primary voters casting over 1.5 million votes (more than 90% in recent cycles, including 82% in the past four elections) in favor of partisan registration and closed primaries; the SCGOP State Chairman Drew McKissick has declared unequivocally that Republican primaries are not public property, they belong to Republicans; and the legislature is advancing H.3643 to close primaries and require party affiliation with the reform set to apply to primaries after March 31, 2026. This bold regional movement demands that North Carolina Republicans stand up and lead, not lag behind; and,

WHEREAS, closing Republican primaries to Unaffiliated voters will provide incentive for those who share Republican values to join the Republican Party and help stem the explosive growth of Unaffiliated voters across the State of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lee County Republican Party recommends the North Carolina Republican Party communicate its intent for a fully closed partisan primary system in all future Republican primary elections, urging the North Carolina General Assembly to immediately revoke its open primary mandate from Session Law 2023-140; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Republican Party must unequivocally require that only voters registered as members of the Republican Party by the statutory voter registration deadline shall be eligible to vote in that party's subsequent primary election, with no exceptions or loopholes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, an electronic copy of this resolution will be immediately transmitted to all members of the North Carolina Republican Party 13th Congressional District and the NCGOP Resolutions Committee.

Passed by Lee County Convention, March 21, 2026

Adopted by Congressional District 13, April 11, 2026

Roger Farina, Chairman

Jean Casanave, Secretary

Chairman - Roger Farina
2nd Vice-Chair - Marshall Conrad
Treasurer - Kyle Burns

1st Vice-Chair -TBD
Secretary - Jean Casanave
Finance Chairperson-Steve Fergus