



From the Chairman



Fellow Members of Our Committee and Friends of Our Party,

The primary election is almost here, and we will find out soon who the Republican voters pick as their nominees for offices serving Colbert County and the entire state of Alabama. The campaigns have heated up, with teams canvassing the county knocking on doors and handing out push cards. The cyber-campaigns have also intensified, and candidates and their supporters have deluged the CCREC Facebook page with posts and re-posts, comments, and requests to join the page. For several months now every issue of the Timesdaily and the Currier Journal have been festooned with campaign ads and sponsored articles. Residents cannot check their mailboxes without finding at least one or more campaign mailers, and I have even seen a candidate video commiserating with recipients of these mailers and promising not to send any more. I haven't even mentioned the signs. Yard signs, poster signs, billboard signs, need I go on?

Of course 95% of the campaign activity we are seeing is on behalf of Republican candidates, and, as supporters and leaders of the Republican Party, we think all this attention for our candidates is great, right? I say yes, and I have always been a supporter of competitive primary elections for Republican nominees. I believe this process helps to connect the candidates with their voters and helps to promote the Republican Party's principles of conservative, accountable, and fiscally responsible

government. What is strikingly absent, however, is the presence of trusted media sources engaged in actively reporting on the political debate about issues and policy.

During the final weeks of every election cycle, I get requests from voters for advice about which candidates are the real Republicans and who best represents our values, and this election is no exception. The questions that people ask are always a clear indication of the lack of good political journalism in our area that leaves voters wondering 'who stands for what?'. The people I talk to do not feel prepared to make an informed decision between candidates who all seem equally qualified and politically indistinguishable.

When I get these questions, I point voters to the tools that our Party has provided in an attempt to fill this gap in information. I always invite them to visit our website at www.colbertrepublicanparty.com. I explain to them that this is the primary place where they can access information about who will be on the Republican primary ballot, the principles of the Colbert Republican Party as laid out in our Creed, a link to the CCREC Facebook page with lively posts and comment discussions between candidates and voters, archives of the Republican newsletter like this one, and links to the CCREC Youtube channel where they can watch videos from the Republican Candidate forum that we held on May 2nd.

With all of these resources, the CCREC is doing more than ever before to provide Republican voters with the information to make informed decisions at the polls. That said, we are just an organization of volunteers



doing the best we can, and our voters and our community deserve much more. As a primary example, on May 2nd the CCREC held a forum at the Ritz Theater, exclusively for Republican candidates to come and connect with voters and answer their questions about their values and policy positions. The event was well attended with an audience numbering in the hundreds. A subsequent internet livestream and posted video segments from the event have been viewed over 3,600 times. The event was promoted for weeks and press releases were sent to all the local newspapers, periodicals, and television stations serving Colbert County. How many journalists did I see attending the event? None. How many articles did I see printed in the local papers about it? None. How many news stories did I see run on the Huntsville-based TV stations (after I spent hours uploading video segments so they could download them for use in their broadcasts)? None. The only mention I saw about the CCREC forum in local media was an article on April 22nd in the Quad-Cities Daily letting readers know about the event. Interestingly, I was able to find a letter to the editor in the Timesdaily appearing on May 1st, the day before our forum, complaining about candidates avoiding appearing in forums.

So, while a lot has been accomplished and Republican voters in Colbert County have more resources for information than ever, there is still much to do if we want to have an informed electorate deciding who our future leaders will be. I have been in discussions about what we can do to fill this gap and I invite input from all of our members, readers, and supporters. I have said it before and I'll

say it again and again, as a Republican who believes that government should be limited to the most essential functions of public works and law and order and that people prosper most when they are free to live and work on their own terms, I trust the voters of Colbert County to make decisions that I'll be happy with.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at the next meeting of the CCREC at Donna and Friends restaurant on Monday, May 23rd at 6:30pm.

Phill Green, Chairman, CCREC
colbertgopchair@pm.me
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www.colbertrepublicanparty.com

May Agenda

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd.

Last month we hosted candidate for U.S. Senate, Lindy Blanchard.

This month we will host Ernie Yarbrough, who will tell us about his campaign for state representative for district 7.





Future Events

Following is the most current calendar of events for the Committee.

Keep these dates in mind when planning your individual and campaign calendars.

Colbert County Committee Events Calendar	
Date	Event
May 23, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
May 24, 2022	Primary Election
June 21, 2022	Primary Runoff Election (if needed)
June 27, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
July 25, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
August 22, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
September 26, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
October 24, 2022	CCREC regular meeting
November 8, 2022	General Election

CCREC Special Events for 2022

Dates and information for special events will be announced here as they become available.

Constitution Day is commemorated on September 17th, and this year that falls on Saturday during football season. Both Alabama and Auburn play at home, with Alabama playing ULM and Auburn playing Penn State. I will establish a subcommittee to plan this year's celebration and dinner activities and we'll discuss what date is best to get to most attendance as we head into the final weeks of critical races in the general election.

The CCREC Republican Candidate Forum

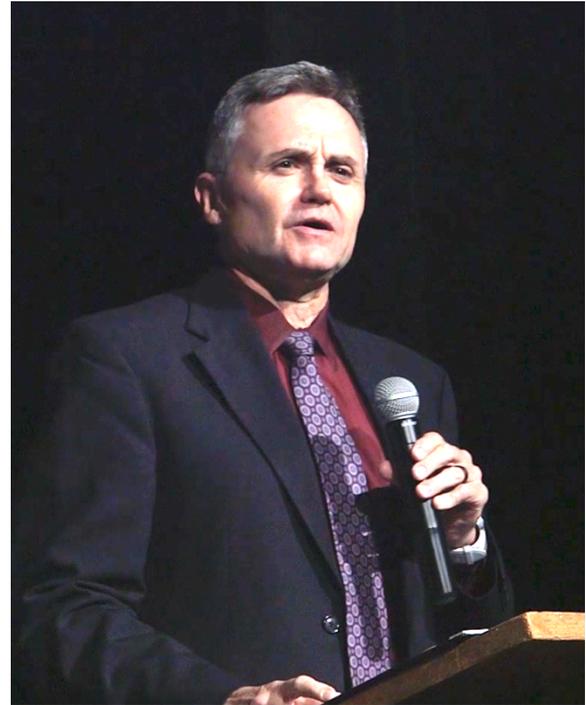
I am extremely proud to tell you about the Colbert County Republican Candidate Forum

for Primary 2022! This event was held at the Ritz Theater May 2nd in downtown Sheffield with a large live audience of voters and supporters. The entire program was professionally recorded by Jackson Media Group and then streamed live on Facebook on Thursday, May 4th. Since that time the main program video and the separate segment videos have been seen collectively more than 3,600 times, and there have been hundreds of re-posts and shares. For Colbert County, where the closest television station is more than an hour away and coverage of local politics is completely inadequate, this exposure was truly groundbreaking.

The program was kicked off by our master of ceremonies and Colbert County School Board nominee, Mr. Steve Stayton. Steve addressed the attendees and reminded everyone of the long history of the Republican Party and public political discussion, beginning with the Lincoln-Douglas debates. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer before attending candidates were given time to introduce themselves and speak on behalf of their campaigns.



Mr. Steve Stayton, CCREC member and Republican nominee to the Colbert County school board for district 6, was the master of ceremonies for the evening.



Circuit Court Judge and former CCREC member, Judge Kyle Brown, led the opening prayer.



Lakon Bunt, Cherokee High School FFA President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Candidates who are unopposed in local races were given time for remarks. Local office candidates attending were (L to R) State Rep. Jamie Kiel, Eric Balentine (candidate for sheriff), and Coroner Justin Gasque.



Candidates from across the state were invited to speak. Candidates attending were (L to R) Robin Litaker (Public Service Commission plc 2), Brent Woodall (PSC plc 1), Judge Debra Jones (AL Supreme Court plc 5), Robert McCollum (PSC plc 2), John Hammock (PSC plc 1), Greg Cook (AL Supreme Court plc 5), and AL Rep. Jamie Kiel spoke on behalf of Wes Allen (AL Secretary of State).



Mr. Phil Williams, retired Army colonel, former AL state senator, and host of Rightside Radio, was the moderator for the forum.

After the introductions from the state-wide candidates and unopposed local candidates, the forum was scheduled to have question & answer sessions with candidates for local offices with opposition in the primary. There

are four local races where more than one candidate is seeking the Republican nomination, and each of these races was scheduled for a 30 minute session of questions from the moderator. All the candidates from each race were invited to participate side-by-side with their opposition in the race to allow voters to hear how they might answer the same questions differently. This format was designed to be non-confrontational as opposed to a debate, where candidates are asked specific questions and allowed time to respond to each other's answers.

The first q&a session was for candidates seeking the office of District Judge serving Colbert County. Three candidates have been certified to the Republican ballot for this office, Mrs. Mary Baschab-Haslacker, Mr. Nathan Johnson, and Mr. Chad Smith, and all were invited to participate. Mr. Smith did not respond to the invitation to participate in the forum, while Mr. Johnson responded with a video posted to the CCREC Facebook page just moments before the program began, declining to take part.

In his video response, Mr. Johnson said that the forum's format was "improper" and that there was a possibility that the "...debate will devolve into something that is not becoming of a judicial candidate..." Of course, as stated earlier, the forum q&a sessions were not intended to be debates between candidates and the CCREC subcommittee spent weeks preparing the format to ensure it complied with guidance issued by the Judicial Inquiry Commission of Alabama for ethical conduct of judges and judicial candidates.



Note: The various opinions of the JIC referenced to prepare for this event, specifically 1980-85&86, 1982-140 thru 157, and 1994-537, can be found at the following link:

<https://www.alabar.org/for-the-public/alabama-jic-opinions/opinions-index/>

Mr. Johnson’s video in its entirety can be viewed by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/100003438949014/videos/398294722168211/>

With only one candidate present, the session for District Judge candidates was changed to a one-on-one interview with moderator Phil Williams and Mrs. Baschab-Haslacker. The



two discussed her background, qualifications, and reasons for seeking office. The full interview can be viewed on the CCREC Youtube channel by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/TSfxtoU99vY>

The next candidate q&a session was for candidates seeking the office of District Attorney serving Colbert County. The Republican Party has certified two candidates to the primary ballot for this race, Mr. Hal Hughston and Mrs. Angela Hulsey. Mr. Hughston declined to participate, citing

scheduling conflicts, and so this session time was also used for a one-on-one interview



with the participating candidate, Mrs. Hulsey.

Mrs. Hulsey discussed her background and experience working in the district attorney’s office. Her entire interview can be seen on the CCREC’s Youtube channel by following the link below:

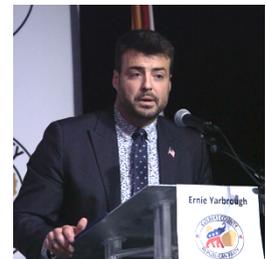
https://youtu.be/_WJfnCxjDYE

The next session was for the candidates seeking to be the next State Representative



from district 7. Both qualified Republican candidates, AL Rep. Proncey Robertson and Mr. Ernie Yarbrough were

present to participate. Rep. Robertson is the incumbent and was first elected in 2018. The session was an engaging and interesting look into both candidates’ views and policy positions.



This entire q&a session can be viewed on the CCREC Youtube channel by following the link below:



<https://youtu.be/GqjDho4Edok>

The final session was for candidates for State Representative for district 3. Both qualified Republican candidates, Mr. Fred Joly and Mr. Kerry “Bubba” Underwood were in attendance and participated in this question and answer session.



Joly and Underwood are seeking the Republican nomination to fill the position of district 3 Representative left without an incumbent when Rep. Andrew Sorrell decided to run for State Auditor instead of re-election to his AL House seat.

I want to extend my thanks to everyone who helped to make this event happen. Thanks to my high school volunteers Bryce, Christina, and Kaleb, to our MC Steve Stayton, to Lakon Bunt, Judge Kyle Brown, Senator Larry Stutts, to timekeeper Sherry Johnson, to moderator Phil Williams, to Christi Britten and Keith McMurtrey from TVAA and the Ritz Theater, to the CCREC for spending the money to make it happen, to the forum subcommittee for hours of meetings and planning, and to all the candidates, supporters and attendees who made it something meaningful for the community. I hope this is just the first of many!

Student Goes to SkillsUSA National Championship

CCREC Treasurer, Mr. Mike Ricketts, recently told me about an opportunity we have to help one of his over-achieving

students. Many of you may know that when Mike is not treasuring for the Republican Party, he is the computer science teacher at Colbert County High School in Leighton. One of Mike’s students, Brandon Underwood, has won the state championship in extemporaneous speaking with SkillsUSA, and has earned the honor of representing Alabama in the national championship in Atlanta. The competition involves students given a topic and a short preparation time, 3-5 minutes, to then give a 5 minute speech that is compared to speeches from other students.

Brandon will travel to Atlanta June 20-25 for the competition, and Mike is asking for donors to help with the expenses for this trip. He estimates that the total cost for rooms, registrations, meals, and transportation will be around \$5,000, and has already made a lot of progress toward that goal.



If anyone would like to help out, please contact me or Mike directly. Mike can be reached at mricketts0929@gmail.com.



Republican

This sample ballot for the Colbert County Republican primary election is provided by the Secretary of State's office. Please note the highlighted sections for races for offices serving Colbert County.

SAMPLE BALLOT

This is a common ballot, however, this office will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

THIS OFFICE RUNS BY DISTRICT

OFFICIAL BALLOT		REPUBLICAN PRIMARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA MAY 24, 2022
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER		
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! <input checked="" type="radio"/> IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
FOR GOVERNOR (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> LINDY BLANCHARD <input type="radio"/> LEW BURDETTE <input type="radio"/> STACY LEE GEORGE <input type="radio"/> KAY IVEY <input type="radio"/> TIM JAMES <input type="radio"/> DONALD TRENT JONES <input type="radio"/> DEAN ODLE <input type="radio"/> DAVE THOMAS <input type="radio"/> DEAN YOUNG 	FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> HAL HUGHSTON <input type="radio"/> ANGELA HULSEY FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, COLBERT COUNTY (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> MARY BASCHAB-HASLACKER <input type="radio"/> NATHAN JOHNSON <input type="radio"/> CHAD SMITH 	"Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the State of Alabama of up to \$85,000,000 for the purposes of the improvement, renovation, equipping, acquisition, provision, construction, and maintenance of Alabama state parks under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and public historical sites and public historical parks under the jurisdiction of the Alabama Historical Commission. (Proposed by Act 2021-326) <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> LILLIE BODDIE <input type="radio"/> KATIE BRITT <input type="radio"/> MO BROOKS <input type="radio"/> KARLA M. DUPRIEST <input type="radio"/> MIKE DURANT <input type="radio"/> JAKE SCHAFER 	FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> STEVE MARSHALL <input type="radio"/> HARRY BARTLETT STILL III 	
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 3 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> FRED JOLY <input type="radio"/> KERRY "Bubba" UNDERWOOD 	FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 4 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> GREG COOK <input type="radio"/> DEBRA JONES 	
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 7 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> PRONCEY D. ROBERTSON <input type="radio"/> ERNIE YARBROUGH 	FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE 5 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> WES ALLEN <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN HORN <input type="radio"/> ED PACKARD <input type="radio"/> JIM ZEIGLER 	
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> STAN COOKE <input type="radio"/> RUSTY GLOVER <input type="radio"/> ANDREW SORRELL 	FOR STATE AUDITOR (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> JOHN HAMMOCK <input type="radio"/> STEPHEN McLAMB <input type="radio"/> JEREMY H. ODEN <input type="radio"/> BRENT WOODALL 	
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 1 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> CHIP BEEKER <input type="radio"/> ROBIN LITAKER <input type="radio"/> ROBERT L. McCOLLUM 	FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 2 (Vote for One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> ROBERT L. McCOLLUM 	
END OF BALLOT		