B2026-06 Bylaw 5.E
Allow Support of Convention Only Candidates

Sponsor: Charles Wood, UCRP Vice Chair

Constitution & Bylaws Committee: 7-0 favorable

Executive Committee: 20-0 Favorable

Central Committee:

Purpose: Begin to define a campaign assistance package for convention-only candidates while maintaining convention neutrality for dual-path candidates.

Legend: Changes with <u>additions underlined</u> and deletions having a ~~strikethrough~~, all in **bold.**

Purpose: To strengthen and incentivize the caucus-convention nomination process, which is the preferred method of the Utah County Republican Party for selecting nominees, the Party may provide enhanced pre-convention resources to candidates who commit exclusively to seeking nomination through the county or state party convention and do not declare intent to gather signatures for ballot qualification.

<u>Bylaw 5.E – Convention-Only Candidate Support</u>

<u>Convention-Only Status</u>

1. **<u>A candidate for partisan public office qualifies as "Convention-Only" if, on their official Declaration of Candidacy filed with the appropriate election officer the candidate:</u>**
    - **<u>Did not declare intent to gather signatures to qualify for the primary ballot via petition; and</u>**
    - **<u>Is seeking nomination exclusively through the county or state party nominating convention.</u>**
2. **<u>Convention-Only status shall be verified by the Party using publicly available filings from vote.utah.gov or confirmation from the filing officer. Status is determined as of the candidate filing deadline and remains fixed unless the candidate amends their filing in a way that declares signature intent.</u>**

<u>Pre-Convention Resources for Convention-Only Candidates</u>

3. **<u>The Party may provide only to Convention-Only candidates access to discounted or subsidized tools, materials, and resources to support name recognition and campaign preparation prior to the convention. Examples include (but are not limited to):</u>**
    - **<u>Signs, fliers, yard signs, or printed materials at reduced cost;</u>**
    - **<u>Digital advertising templates, social media graphics, or email templates;</u>**

    - **Access to Party mailing lists or voter data beyond basic delegate information;**
    - **Website or newsletter promotion;**
    - **Door knocking or other canvassing tools or applications;**
    - **Other similar aids approved by the Executive Committee.**
4. **Basic neutral resources shall continue to be provided equally to all qualified Republican candidates, who have qualified for the convention, including:**
    - **Delegate lists and contact information;**
    - **Voter data necessary for convention purposes;**
    - **Participation in "Meet the Candidates" events;**
    - **Access to convention facilities, speaking time, and other convention-related support.**

Post-Convention Support

5. **Following the county or legislative district nominating convention:**
    - **The Party may provide full resources, including public-reach tools, Party information, services, support, and funding, exclusively to the convention nominee(s).**
    - **Candidates who advance to the primary via signature gathering (including those who declared intent to gather signatures or pursued both paths) but did not receive the convention nomination shall not receive Party resources, information, services, or support.**
6. **Enforcement and Revocation**
    - **The Executive Committee shall establish published policies to administer this section and may, by majority vote, resolve any disputes regarding status, eligibility, or resource allocation after review of official filings.**

Severability

7. **If any provision of this Bylaw is found to conflict with state law, it shall be null and void to that extent without affecting the remainder.**

Justification:

Utah's dual-path nomination system lets candidates bypass the caucus-convention process entirely by gathering signatures to reach the primary ballot. Because current bylaws treat convention and signature-path candidates identically until a nominee is chosen, there's no practical benefit to committing fully to convention — even though the Party's own bylaws state that caucus-convention is the preferred nomination method. That erodes incentive to engage with delegates, attend convention events, or forgo the signature-gathering shortcut.

This amendment lets the Party offer a defined package of pre-convention resources (discounted materials, digital templates, canvassing tools, etc.) exclusively to candidates who commit to the convention path, while preserving neutrality on the basics: delegate lists, voter data, "Meet the Candidates" participation, and convention facilities remain equally available to every qualified candidate regardless of path. It's not picking a winner — it's rewarding commitment to the process the Party has already designated as preferred. After convention, full Party support shifts to the convention nominee(s), consistent with that same preference, while candidates who reached the primary solely through signatures receive no further Party resources.

This also prevents the Party from committing resources and providing momentum to candidates that it may ultimately be required to campaign against in the Primary election.