

Secretary Minnich:

We, the undersigned St. Joseph County Elected Officials and GOP Executive Team Members, write to express our strong disagreement with the reprimand issued to Chairman Jackie Horvath.

The letter from Secretary Minnich simultaneously refers to the charges as *frivolous* while also issuing a reprimand. To call allegations frivolous and then still proceed with disciplinary action is contradictory, unfair, and hypocritical. Such inconsistency undermines the credibility of the decision itself.

Further, the letter implies that Chairman Horvath has the authority to sign off on or prevent an individual—specifically Dan Schatzle—from seeking office. This suggestion is both misleading and contrary to State Party Rules. The rules clearly state that no county chairman possesses such power over ballot access. To frame the matter in this way unfairly places blame and responsibility where none exists.

As elected officials and party leaders in St. Joseph County, we know firsthand the value Jackie Horvath brings to the Republican Party through her leadership, integrity, and dedication to growing our party. Over the past year alone, Jackie has personally invested more than \$400,000 into Republican causes—from President Trump's campaign, to statewide initiatives, and to numerous local candidates who benefitted directly from her generosity. Notably, during the last election cycle, she provided \$65,000 of support to Lori Zappia's campaign, reflecting her commitment to lifting up candidates at every level of government.

This is not the record of someone working against our party—it is the undeniable proof of a leader whose time, energy, and resources are fully devoted to strengthening the Republican Party at every level. To diminish that work through an unclear and self-contradictory reprimand weakens our collective efforts to advance our cause and build victories across St. Joseph County and Indiana.

For these reasons, we stand firmly in defense of Chairman Jackie Horvath and request clarification that she has not violated State Party Rules and does not have authority to allow or disallow Dan Schatzle from running for office.

Sincerely,

Tony Hazen, County Commissioner