

RESOLUTION OF THE SALUDA COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY: Urging the South Carolina Republican Party and the South Carolina General Assembly to Require Gubernatorial Candidates to Name a Lieutenant Governor Running Mate at Least Thirty Days Prior to the Primary Election

WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina amended the state constitution in 2012 to provide for the joint election of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on a single ticket, recognizing that the Lieutenant Governor serves as the immediate successor to the Governor and a key member of the executive team; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is a reliably Republican state in which the winner of the Republican primary (or runoff) is overwhelmingly likely to win the general election, making the primary the decisive election for choosing our state's chief executive and his or her successor; and

WHEREAS, recent experience in the 2026 Republican gubernatorial primary demonstrated that the early announcement of a running mate can strengthen a candidate's ticket by showcasing preparedness, team unity, and shared vision, while the absence of such an announcement can leave voters uncertain about the full executive team they are choosing; and

WHEREAS, the Lieutenant Governor position carries genuine executive importance with the constitutional responsibility to assume the governorship if needed; and

WHEREAS, voters in the Republican primary deserve to evaluate the complete gubernatorial ticket — both the candidate for Governor and the candidate for Lieutenant Governor — before casting their ballots, enabling them to assess compatibility, qualifications, policy alignment, and readiness to govern as a team; and

WHEREAS, requiring gubernatorial candidates to name their running mate at least thirty (30) days before the primary election strikes an appropriate balance: it provides sufficient time for public scrutiny and informed voting while still allowing candidates flexibility in selecting a strong partner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Saluda County Republican Party:

1. Respectfully urges the South Carolina Republican Party to adopt a rule requiring candidates for Governor to designate their Lieutenant Governor running mate no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the primary election.
2. Further urges the South Carolina General Assembly to consider legislation codifying this thirty-day disclosure requirement for all gubernatorial candidates.
3. Believes this reform will enhance transparency, promote more deliberate candidate selection, strengthen public confidence in the process, and ensure that South Carolina voters make fully informed decisions about the executive leadership team that will guide the state.
4. Directs that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, the Governor, the members of the Saluda County legislative delegation, and the leadership of the South Carolina General Assembly.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Amy Potts, Chairman

Greg Sander, 1st Vice Chairman