

YAVAPAI COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
Information Requests from Outside Parties

Effective 8/1/21

POLICY

It is Yavapai County Republican Committee's (YavGOP) policy for office volunteers, employees, or anyone else representing YavGOP, except the Chair or anyone with authority to act on behalf of the Chair, to refrain from answering questions about Republican Party positions on its platform, primary election candidate endorsements, or give opinions not consistent with the party to anyone who visits the office or calls on the phone

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES

People often visit the YavGOP office or call to ask questions and seek information. Unfortunately, their true motives for requesting information cannot be known and it may be different from the reasons they state. Caution must be taken. Journalists, party operatives and others often seek information for the purposes of embarrassing the party or other detrimental reasons that may jeopardize our public image. They may mislead us on their intentions.

It can be difficult in this age of disinformation (intentional information designed to mislead or create conflict) and misinformation (information that's inherently wrong) to know what is accurate. The following is intended to provide an approach and information sources that are reliable, accurate and trustworthy.

WHEN SOMEONE DROPS BY THE OFFICE

When someone you don't know stops by the office or calls and ask a question, in their mind, you represent the Republican Party and YavGOP. The last thing you want is for your opinion to appear in the press as representing the Party. To help protect yourself and our members, ask the following questions:

1. Name of the person,
2. Where they live,
3. Why they are asking the question,
4. Are they looking for facts or an opinion,

If they are looking for an opinion, try to redirect their question into a factual one. Questions such as "what do you think?", or "why would they do that" are opinion questions and require you to speculate., which becomes dangerous for you and/or the party.

The approved and appropriate party response is: "I'm a volunteer and I don't have the authority to provide that information or officially respond for YavGOP. If you would like, I can have someone who is authorized, contact you to discuss these issues. I will need your name, phone number, and your address, and what organization you represent (if applicable)". They will get back to you as soon as possible."

THEN, You MUST follow through by immediately giving the information to the person who will respond, making sure that they know they need to contact the inquisitor.

While you can answer for yourself, personally, we highly recommend against it. Be aware that your opinion could be construed as fact and that is not an appropriate way to handle someone whose intentions are unclear. If you do state your opinion, be sure to state it as such and that it does not necessarily represent the party's official view.

AVOIDING CONFLICT

You want to avoid a situation in which you give an answer to a question that creates conflict. You also need to be aware of "hidden" questions where the person is probing for information that is relevant to more than one topic. This occurs when they ask a question, but the intent is not to get an answer to the question asked, but to solicit some other type of information. This is a trap.

EFFECTIVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The most effective way to respond to questions is to refer people to websites that specialize in information on topics the visitor is interested in. Doing so gives you a way to deflect the question, yet give an answer that does not jeopardize you or our public image. It also gives you a way to not become an unofficial party spokesperson, which you never want to do, and gives them a resource that provides content of the subject matter. This helps to remove you as a target for possible aggressive or belligerent behavior.

See the attached for websites that provide information. State that the information is provided as a courtesy and is for educational purposes only. We don't endorse nor are we responsible for the contents of the websites.

Give a copy to the questioner.