



May 4, 2025

Dear Graham Paterson,

I have reviewed your “formal request for a procedural review and corrective action regarding the conduct of the Ada County Republican Central Committee Executive Board meeting on February 27, 2025, in which I and another voting board member were improperly removed from the meeting”.

Chair Thad Butterworth explained that he believed Robert’s Rules of Order Chapter 61 justified your removal from the meeting because of a conflict of interest. However, this motion was not made as a disciplinary measure, the interpretation must be interpreted as a forced recusal. However, Ada County’s Bylaws prohibit forced recusal, which was out of order. Had a point of order been called, the Chair could have researched Ada County Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order before his final determination. Since the members complied with the motion and once the meeting was adjourned, the opportunity to object was lost.

After discussing the issue with his Parliamentarian, the Chair acknowledges, “that the motion should have been ruled out of order and that he will rule differently in the future, should we face another situation like this”.

Regarding your request to amend the meeting minutes, they cannot be amended once approved.

Robert’s Rules of Order 48:15 state: “If the existence of an error or material omission in the minutes becomes reasonably established after their approval – even many years later – the minutes can then be corrected by means of the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted* (35) which requires a two-thirds vote, or a majority vote with notice, or the vote of a majority of the entire membership, or unanimous consent. **In such a case, the content of the original minutes must not be altered, although it may be advisable or the secretary to make a marginal notation indicating the corrected text or referring to the**

minutes of the meeting at which the correction was adopted. The minutes of the latter meeting must include the full text of the motion to *Amend Something Previously Adopted*, which necessarily includes all information required to construct an accurate record of the actions taken at the earlier meeting.”

At the Ada Executive Committee meeting, March 27th, I understand Chair Butterworth explained to you that he had a discussion with the Parliamentarian and acknowledged that the motion should have been ruled out of order. The meeting minutes cannot be amended, but there is a process to follow that is outlined above to add a correction.

Regarding your request for “Training & Procedural Guidance for the ACRC Executive Board.” State Party Rules authorize “supervisory and judicial oversight” (Article XII) but do not officially provide for training to individual central committees. As a courtesy, IDGOP offers Precinct Committeeman training on request and as resources allow.

This is my final ruling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.