



MEMORANDUM



Date: September 20, 2025

To: All Interested Parties

From: Alton Absher III, *NCGOP General Counsel*
Kyle Offerman, *NCGOP Assistant General Counsel*

Re: RNC Rule 11 & 2026 U.S. Senate Election

According to Republican National Committee (“RNC”) Rule 11, “[t]he Republican National Committee shall not, without the prior written and filed approval of all members of the Republican National Committee from the state involved, contribute money or in-kind aid to any candidate for any public or party office of that state, except the nominee of the Republican Party or a candidate who is unopposed in the Republican primary after the filing deadline for that office.”¹

The RNC requires written consent from all RNC State Members to fund any specific election. Although typically uninvolved until after primary elections, the RNC is collaborating with the North Carolina Republican Party through a Joint Fundraising Agreement to secure contributions for the Republican nominee for the 2026 U.S. Senate race, ***not any particular candidate***. None of the funds from the Joint Fundraising Agreement shall be used in the primary election for any candidate.

Nonetheless, questions continue to be raised, and misinformation has been spread, regarding the North Carolina Republican Party's recent decision to allow the RNC to begin fundraising for the 2026 U.S. Senate general election.

Put simply, a Joint Fundraising Agreement is a vehicle that facilitates the raising of significant campaign funds beyond traditional regulations. For example, traditional

¹ RNC RULE 11 (a) *Candidate Support*

contributions shall not exceed \$3,500.00 – however, a Joint Fundraising Agreement allows for substantially higher contributions. Thus, they are used in high-profile elections, such as the U.S. Senate race.

As has been echoed throughout North Carolina, there is a broad consensus that the 2026 U.S. Senate election will be the most expensive Senate race this cycle—*perhaps the most expensive Senate race in United States history*. With this U.S. Senate election projected to generate at least **\$500 Million** in campaign spending, it is crucial that whomever is our Republican nominee heading into the general election, they are financially equipped to defeat Roy Cooper.

The early involvement by the RNC in this election is crucial and warranted. The NCGOP has communicated, and the RNC has assured, these funds *will not be allocated for any primary candidate* but *only* for the Republican nominee in the 2026 general election.

The North Carolina Republican Party has and continues to maintain strict neutrality during the primary election process.² The North Carolina Republican Party does not, has not, and will not, engage in electioneering activities or the solicitation of funds on behalf of any specific candidate until the primary election process has concluded.

The fact that the NCGOP Chairman, National Committeeman, and National Committeewoman provided approval pursuant to RNC Rule 11 does not run afoul of this neutrality requirement. *As explained above, RNC Rule 11, permits the engagement of the Joint Fundraising Agreement for investments related to the 2026 general election—not the primary election.* Simply doing what Rule 11 permits is in no way “utilizing the powers and dignity of his office or position in any Republican primary,” as set forth in the State Plan of Organization.

Furthermore, the North Carolina Republican Party continues to welcome **all federal candidates** to enter into a Joint Fundraising Agreement with the North Carolina Republican Party to ensure the continued success of North Carolina. We look forward to continuing to work with each of you towards our common goal, which is electing Republicans up and down the ballot.

² See State Plan of Organization, IX.F (“Each officer and each member of any Committee created pursuant to this Plan of Organization shall refrain from utilizing the powers and dignity of his office or position in any Republican primary for public office at any level.”).