

Elect Merry Guy for Chair

NCGOP Congressional District 11

FAQ: General

Q. What is the role of a District Chair?

A. The State Plan gives a complete description, but the primary role is to work with each county in the district to provide the tools and resources they need to be successful in their critical mission of winning elections. In my experience, counties function best when they are self-managed and have the District Party as readily available support when needed. The District Chair should maintain a good working relationship with each County Chair in the district with regular interaction to make sure the county is getting all the help they need. My four-year experience as a Henderson County Chair equips me to help counties find best practices and avoid reinventing the wheel. There are other administrative responsibilities similar to the County Chair such as holding Executive Committee meetings, Conventions and participation in the State Party leadership, but the majority of the work is focused on providing support and resources for the Counties.

Q. What is the difference between a County Party and the District Party.

A. We are all on the same team and all have the same goal – that singular goal is to win Republican elections! Everything we do as Party officials and volunteers needs to take us closer to that goal. All the “action” so to speak is at the county level. Voting takes place at the county level. The Party grows and succeeds at the county level. Elections are won at the county level. The District Party has administrative responsibilities to help at the state level but recognizes that to win elections the counties must be focused on election success, unified toward that goal and have access to all the help and resources they need. That is the role of the District Party and specifically, the District Chair. As the only candidate with County Chair experience, I am uniquely qualified to help the other Counties in that capacity.

Q. What were the most important things you did to be successful as a County Chair?

A. First, I made party unity a priority. I made sure that differences of opinion or disagreements didn’t develop into party divisions. Recognizing the diverse personalities and agreeing to disagree on some topics is necessary. Redirecting all efforts back to doing

the tasks necessary to win elections keeps the team focused on the right priorities. Folks can take their differences offline without impacting party unity.

Second, and equally important, I understand that volunteers are the lifeblood of the party. I appreciated all the volunteers and recognized them as valuable members of the team. Many of them remain dear friends today.

I earned the respect of the volunteers by working hard side by side “in the trenches”. Everyone knew I was there to help and pull my own weight. That is the way I will function if elected District Chair.

Q. What State Party experience do you have?

A. I served on the State Executive Committee for 6 years. I served on the Credentialing Committee for several years and was appointed to the State Election Integrity Committee where I served until the committee completed their charter.

Q. What are the District Chair’s responsibilities at the state level

A. District Chairs are members of the State Central Committee and would be expected to attend those meetings to represent the district and participate as a voting member. As District Chair I would be an enthusiastic participant in the Central Committee, but the primary role of District Chair is to support the County Chairs, and as District Chair, most of my effort would be spent in that capacity.

Q. How can the County Parties recruit Precinct Chairs?

A. The Precinct Chair has such an important role in the county and yet nationwide, it is estimated that 30% of the precincts are unorganized. As County Chair here are some of the ways I was able to successfully organize our precincts:

- Make sure the County Plan includes Precinct Chairs on the Executive Committee, so they have more incentive to do the work.
- When explaining the duties of a Precinct Chair, accept that some will have more time and interest than others and don’t discourage good prospects by making the job sound overwhelming. Sometimes, just having the precinct staffed on election day is all they can do, but that is better than an unorganized precinct.
- Help keep Precinct Chairs stay engaged and effective by giving them the tools they need.

- ✓ Regularly provide up to date voter lists including contact information where provided so they can contact others to help (I sort the voter lists by latest registration dates because those newly registered Republicans were often looking for ways to get involved)
- ✓ For election day, provide each Precinct Chair with a “precinct staffing kit” that includes candidate signs, handouts and a schedule sheet they can fill out. We have 35 precincts in Henderson County and it was easier to have a few volunteers put together signs etc. rather than have 35 Precinct Chairs scrambling to figure out what they needed.
- ✓ If the Precinct Chair convenes a precinct meeting, try to be there.
- ✓ We grouped the precincts by County Commission districts so they could hold joint meetings to get started.

Those are just a few ideas for organizing precincts. As District Chair, I will help our counties share good ideas and best practices across the district, so folks aren’t reinventing the wheel with every new Board.

Q. What guiding principles can you give new County Chairs.

A. Major on the majors. Minor on the minors. Make new friends! Whether taking on new initiatives or spending money, the question should be asked: “How does that help us win elections?” If there isn’t a direct tie back to that primary goal, then the idea may not be appropriate for the Chair to take up.

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