

A Resolution of the State Executive Committee of the Tennessee Republican Party Responding to state Rep. Kent Williams

Adopted January 30, 2009  
Nashville, Tennessee

Whereas the stated purpose of the Tennessee Republican Party is to elect Republican candidates to office and foster good citizenship; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party believes good government and the people's faith in the process is undermined when leaders put their own ambition ahead of the people's interests; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican party believes, as do the voters of Tennessee, an elected office is a trust held based on stated principles and not a personal possession; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party believes good government and the people's faith in the process is undermined by elected officials who gain power through betrayal and deliberate deception; and

Whereas dishonor, deception and betrayal undermine and negate the core values of the Tennessee Republican Party; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party raised more than \$2 million in campaign funds from supporters across the state on the promise that it would be spent on an all-out effort to win a majority in both houses of the state legislature; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party won a majority in the state House; and

Whereas the supporters, voters and donors of the Tennessee Republican Party have a right to expect that, having collectively campaigned for and won a majority in the state House for the first time since 1868, both houses of the legislature would be lead by loyal Republican leadership; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams, having first won his House seat in 2006 as a Republican, cast his first vote in the General Assembly in January 2007 to re-elect the incumbent Democrat as Speaker of the House; and

Whereas, Rep. Kent Williams had verbally committed to countless individuals his votes for the House Republican Caucus nominees for leadership and even signed a pledge to do the same; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams stated many times to various media outlets and Republican colleagues that he would vote for the House Republican Caucus nominee for Speaker of the House on January 13, 2009; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams caucused with the other 49 Republican members of the majority during the 30-minute recess that immediately preceded the nominations and vote for Speaker of the House and, during that time, joined with Representatives Jason Mumpower, Glen Casada and Charles Sargent in prayer and offered no hint or indication of his intent to betray his Republican colleagues and break his solemn promises less than a half-hour later; and

Whereas the evidence shows that Rep. Kent Williams had been planning his betrayal for eight weeks and conspiring with Democrats to crown him Speaker in exchange for betraying his fellow Republican caucus members; and

Whereas the evidence shows that Rep. Kent Williams intentionally concealed the conspiracy for eight weeks by telling lies to fellow Republican colleagues, members of the media, and even to the public via the radio airwaves; and

Whereas two other Republican House members were solicited by Democrats to betray the Republican caucus but refused, choosing honesty, integrity and loyalty over deception and betrayal; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams showed no such personal integrity; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams was elected Speaker solely with Democrat votes, receiving no votes from Republican lawmakers other than himself; and

Whereas Rep. Kent Williams rewarded his Democratic allies with committee chairmanships, putting at risk the Republican agenda the majority of Tennessee voters voted for; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party is concerned that the people of Tennessee will wrongly assume Rep. Kent Williams' pattern of lies and dishonor is tolerated by the Tennessee Republican Party; and

Whereas Kent Williams' actions and words provide indefensible evidence to the 30 written challenges questioning the Bona Fide status as a Republican; and

is entitled to its constitutional right of Freedom of Association; and

Whereas the Tennessee Republican Party seeks to disassociate with Rep. Kent Williams;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That state Rep. Kent Williams of Carter County, Tennessee, be forever barred from seeking elective office in Tennessee on a Republican ballot; and

2. That the Tennessee Republican Party immediately request all media outlets in Tennessee to cease referring to Rep. Kent Williams as a Republican.

3. That Kent Williams receive no support, endorsements, or financial backing by those affiliates of the Tennessee Republican Party.