



July 2, 2020

Dear Governor Ivey,

We, both as elected officials and leaders of the Jefferson County Republican Party Steering Committee, on behalf of the entire Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee wish to express our displeasure in your appointment to Jefferson County Probate Judge, Place 1.

Our main objection is we had one request and that was one request only – **the appointment of qualified Republican to this post.** In recent history, your pick for this position was given the opportunity to participate in the Republican Primary, he chose to vote as a Democrat. In 2018, when you were running for Governor in the Republican Primary, he choose to vote a Democrat ballot. Even this past March of 2020, when he had a chance to cast his vote for President Donald Trump, he again chose to vote in the Democrat primary.

Secondly, this position runs all elections for Jefferson County. On June 30th, Secretary of State John Merrill was quoted in Alabama Today as stating *"The probate judge has a significant level of influence. I cannot emphasize how important it is that this person is involved, interested, and informed on all things related to elections."* **We have no knowledge of your appointee's experience in this area.** We are not aware of his previous expertise in the election process at the county level or having been involved with any level of ballot security activities in our County.

**Additionally, all of our Republican legislators and commissioners recommended a specific qualified Republican to be appointed to this post.** This Republican had been recommended and mentored by a former ALGOP General Counsel who you personally hired to be your legal counsel during your last campaign. This choice was clearly experienced in the elections area of the Probate position and was best prepared to serve as our chief elections officer. Rarely, if ever, do all of these people agree on one thing and they agreed on this.

These above stated reasons are why we, both as elected leaders in Jefferson County and members of the Jefferson County Republican Party, would like you to be aware of our displeasure for your selection of Probate Judge, we request a clear explanation of why this choice was selected despite the request as outlined above, and we hope you will listen to our counsel on future appointments in Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

Paul DeMarco  
Chairman, Jeffco-GOP

Mike Kozlik  
Vice-Chairman, Jeffco-GOP

Deanna Frankowski  
Secretary, Jeffco-GOP

Chris Brown  
Treasurer, Jeffco-GOP

Senator Jabo Waggoner  
Chairman  
Jefferson County Senate Delegation

Rep. Jim Carns  
Chairman  
Jefferson County House Delegation

Commissioner Jimmie Stephens  
Chairman  
Jefferson County Commission

Members of the Jefferson County Republican Party Steering Committee

Jonathan Barbee  
Phillip Brown  
Sallie Bryant  
W.A. Casey  
Joe Domnanovich  
Cindy Douglas  
Gilbert Douglas  
Jeannie Faherty  
Britney Garner  
Joel Kimbrough  
James Mathews  
Keith Mitchell  
Glenn Parmley  
Phil Sims  
Tammi Taylor