



# The Davidson County Republican Party

*Strength, Freedom, Unity*

[www.davidsoncountygop.org](http://www.davidsoncountygop.org)

## Officers 2009-2011

*Kathleen Starnes*

Chairman

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Vice Treasurer

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*Dewey Cooksey*

Region II

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Tootie Haskins

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## Statement Regarding Removal of First Vice Chairman Matt Collins

On Tuesday night November 24, 2009 during an Executive Session of the Davidson County Republican Party's Board, Matt Collins was removed from his position as First Vice Chairman and as a member of the DCRP Executive Committee. However the vote did not impact his membership within the Republican Party.

The Board voted to remove Collins for engaging in conduct unfit for a member of the Executive Committee. Of the 19 voting members in attendance, 14 voted to remove Collins and five voted against removal. The vote was by secret ballot.

Collins was cited for behaviors not supportive of the Republican platform including unprofessional actions and words and use of the DCRP title when expressing personal opinions that were often "derogatory to and disrespectful of Republican candidates or elected officials." It was noted that his personal stances were undermining the credibility of the local and State parties. Although Collins often included disclaimers on his personal statements that his comments were his own, the use of his title created an impression that he was speaking for the Republican party.

The DCRP's action concerning Collins were handled in accordance with the Tennessee State Party's Bylaws which allow for removal of an Executive Committee member "for cause" as defined in Article 3, Sec. 4 and permitted by Rule H of the Tennessee Republican Party.

Collins was elected First Vice Chair on Saturday, April 4, 2009 during the Davidson County Republican Party Convention.

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