

WCRP approves resolution supporting Washington County BOE Ten Commandments vote

From staff reports

The Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee approved a resolution on Tuesday supporting the Washington County Board of Education's decision to display the Ten Commandments, specified passage from the Declaration of Independence and Preamble to the U.S. Constitution in Washington County schools.

The resolution, according to a press release, commends the board for exercising the authority provided under Tennessee Public Chapter 924, formerly HB-47, and encourages full implementation of the law throughout schools under the board's jurisdiction.

"Founder Benjamin Rush warned that early education shapes the moral framework through which future citizens understand freedom, responsibility, and government," said WCRP Chair Danielle Goodrich in the release. "He argued that the Bible provided essential moral instruction and that those early impressions were critical to sustaining a free form of government. This is a step in the right direction to handing down

liberty for the next generation to do the same."

Public Chapter 924, which took effect July 1, 2026, addresses the display of the Ten Commandments, the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, and the Preamble to the United States Constitution in prominent locations within school buildings.

The law specifies the text to be displayed and provides requirements concerning prominence, readability and font size.

The WCRP's resolution states the documents "provide students an opportunity to encounter primary-source material concerning the nation's history, constitutional order, moral traditions, natural rights, individual responsibility, and the development of American government." It also points to the historical writings of Founding-era figures, including Benjamin Rush and George Washington, "as evidence of the role that religious and moral ideas played in the intellectual and civic life of the founding generation."

"We are grateful for the Washington County Republican Party's support of the Washington

County School Board as they boldly uphold the Ten Commandments, the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution in our school buildings," said Pastor Justin Hoss in the press release, who was in attendance at the passing of the resolution. "Their stand affirms that moral clarity and foundational truth still matter in shaping the next generation. We urge Johnson City Schools to join in this effort, not out of politics, but out of a commitment to anchor our students in the principles that have guided our nation and strengthened our communities for centuries."

The press release states the WCRP's resolution also encourages other Tennessee boards of education to consider the authority provided by Public Chapter 924 as an opportunity for historical and civic education.

The resolution concludes by affirming that students should have "the opportunity to encounter the historical record, including the moral, religious, philosophical, and constitutional ideas that contributed to the founding and development of the United States."