

Unfortunately, we have generated this list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the Oconee County Conservatives (OCC) because of the epidemic of misinformation targeting our group. Hopefully, this will set the record straight on much of the misinformation.

- 1) Did the OCC “ruin” the 2021 OCRP Convention and did law enforcement have to get involved?

No. Law enforcement was not involved in any way. No altercations occurred in the 2021 OCRP Convention. The OCC had over two-thirds of the participants there and were able to secure a landslide victory. The Convention ran very well considering a completely new and inexperienced group of working class folks took over and ran it. In the words of one individual who is actually no longer with the OCC: “Good morning Dave. I just wanted to say that I thought you did a great job yesterday with the motions as you presented them. You all really had out a good plan together and it was executed nicely. A total change has been made within the local party and that deserves a big pat on the back to everyone. Keep up the good work and even more change is possible... You all put in a lot of work in a short amount of time. I was really impressed. Not sure that I have ever seen that kind of party take over happen that quickly. Attendance was historic and it dominated every aspect...” The person who quoted this is an Establishment Republican, by the way!

- 2) Is the OCC a “far right” group?

No. The OCC is a like-minded group of grassroots Conservatives. Most of us are just Conservative Republicans who want to see about 90% or more compliance with the SC Republican Party Platform and Principles. So often, our lawmakers, who are Republicans, are only complying with SC Republican Party Platform and Principles only about 40-60% of the time. In these cases, our group has felt the obligation to call out these non-compliances with the platform. As in any group, there are some who are farther left or farther right than what would best be called “conventional Conservatism”. However, if one reviews our platform, it is clear that we are not “far right”.

- 3) Is the OCC familiar with Qanon and did it support that movement?

No. The OCC leadership was not familiar with the Qanon movement. When we were “accused” of being “Q-nuts” and “Qanon followers” by some of our detractors, we actually had to go look up what they were referring to. There were a few of our “further right” members that were actually familiar with the Qanon movement, and so we asked them to explain it to the OCC leadership so we could counter the misinformation being floated around about it.

4) Is the OCC “racist”?

No. We do not support or condone racism of any kind. We welcome minority members! We were actually the first Republican faction, in Oconee County history, in the 2023 OCRP Convention, to sponsor and support a minority individual for OCRP Chair. Actions speak louder than words! All that is required to join us is that you have a political philosophy of “Conservative” and that you don’t try to sabotage our movement. There are some of our detractors that have mischaracterized our opposition to the Marxist “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” program and “Environmental Social Governance” program as us being “racist”, but that is a fallacious allegation and a typical argument that Democratic Socialists would make. The OCC believes not in equity, which is equality of outcome, but, rather, in equality, or, equality of opportunity. This is clearly described in our platform. Our detractors have also falsely asserted that we do not support diverse recreational activities and festivals, but, what we actually stated was that we wanted to ensure local Appalachian and other old traditional, activities, history, and festivals were not discarded or under-funded at the expense of what many long-term American citizens would consider “foreign” ones. We do encourage other cultures to become a part of the American melting pot and to embrace local culture with us, instead of isolating themselves to their own cultural activities. We believe integration of all individuals into the American culture is healthy for society. As a result of this misinformation, which was even being propagated by the current OCRP Chairman, who told the previous Pickens County GOP Chair that “the OCC is a racist group”, sadly, we have had to counter this misinformation with TRUTH.

5) Does the OCC “bully” people?

No. Unfortunately, in order to hold legislators accountable for their actions, the OCC, out of the gates, was “frank” and “forthright” in presenting our concerns at the county council meetings and other public meetings. This approach could have come across as bullying to some “thin-skinned” individuals looking to be victimized, but was not bullying. Nevertheless, the OCC adheres to the general approach to the “bullying” matter as “don’t start anything, and there won’t be anything”. That being said, we will defend our own with rigor and formality, and we attempt to stick to the facts and issues in debates so long as the opposition does. Conservatives are by their nature very opinionated, passionate about their beliefs, and have a strong sense of order. There are detractors who actually bully us but who peddle the false narrative that we are the bullies. It only takes a few minutes of reading the Journal comments or other social media threads to figure out that the OCC folks, as a collective, are not the aggressors.

- 6) Is the OCC full of so-called “Dixiecrats”? What is a Dixiecrat, anyway?

No. This was a “smear” that was spread by the current OCRP Chairman in his campaign to try to destroy the OCC movement. He peddled this narrative in the Journal in an editorial and tried to convince some of our followers that it was the case. One of our most ardent followers, a county political historian of sorts, just laughed at this allegation from the Florida native who made the claim. It is ridiculous and completely false. A “Dixiecrat” is defined as “any of the Southern Democrats who seceded from the party in 1948 in opposition to its policy of extending civil rights”. Most of us in the OCC weren’t alive in 1948. Most of us have been lifelong Republicans and had parents who were also Republicans their whole life. There are some folks in this county who may meet the Dixiecrat definition, but they are mostly folks in opposition to the OCC – some are even likely current legislators at the county and state level. This was just part of the current OCRP Chairman’s false narrative to portray the OCC as “racist”.

- 7) Is the OCC a “private” and “overly exclusive” organization?

Somewhat. We welcome all like-minded Conservative folks to join our cause. The OCC is a PRIVATE Facebook Group with a PUBLIC Facebook Page and PUBLIC Website. We only ask that you do not spy on, slander, attack, or take other subversive actions against our group, our leadership, and our members. Also, if we know that you are a Democrat, vote as a Democrat, and believe in and support the Democratic Platform, then we probably won’t invite you into the group! There were many OCC members over the course of the last two years who decided that they were not “team players” and that they could violate the rules and tenets stated above. Many of these people left of their own accord when exposed, and some others were removed from the group by a majority vote by the OCC Board of Directors. We even have folks that we know are not Conservatives in the group, but, they do not violate the rules or cause trouble.

- 8) Is the OCC a “white nationalist” group?

No. This is a slanderous allegation made by some of our detractors along with their Democratic operatives who are just trying to smear and destroy the Conservative movement in this county. We welcome all races and ethnicities into our group and we are continually reaching out to anyone who we know is a Conservative. We are largely an “America First” movement, which one could describe as a “Nationalist” political position, but this should NOT be confused with the derogatory term of “White Nationalist”.

- 9) Did the OCC “break lots of rules” in the OCRP when they ran it?

No. The claim by our opposition is that many OCC members broke Rule 16 of the SCGOP Rules because they supported Perry Smith's write-in campaign against Bill Sandifer. While it is true that many of the OCC folks supported Perry Smith, they did not do so publicly as defined by SCGOP Rule 16. They did so privately. However, they were removed from party leadership positions without any due process as afforded by the SCGOP Rules, the OCRP Bylaws, or Robert's Rules of Order Revised. The claim that the OCC faction broke OCRP rules is one that has not been backed up by a list of violations. The current OCRP Chairman even admitted in court that they did not provide a legitimate list of rule violations. The OCC did, however, provide a lengthy and very clear list of rules broken by our opposition before, during, and after their seizure of the OCRP in late 2022.

10) Are the OCC really "Republicans"?

Yes. We certainly are! Most OCC members are Conservatives first and Republicans second. Unfortunately, we are trapped in a two party system. We have the most voice in one of the two "big" parties. The sad thing though is we are the most compliant of all Republicans with the stated party platform and principles, yet we are often the most shunned.