KNOX COUNTY
OHIO
REPUBLICAN PARTY
FRED DAILEY, CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knox County Republican Party Votes "No Confidence" in County Commissioner Drenda Keesee

Mount Vernon, Ohio (November 24, 2026) – At a special meeting this evening, the Knox County Ohio Republican Party Central Committee and Executive Committee unanimously passed a vote of "No Confidence" in Knox County Commissioner Drenda Keesee. She was invited to the meeting but failed to appear.

On November 6, Knox County Republican Chairman Fred Dailey called upon Keesee to resign from her elected position as Knox County Commissioner following the trial and conviction of her son, Gary Keesee Jr., of rape and sexual assault. Sworn testimony from multiple juvenile victims, including Keesee's own family members, indicate she was aware of many of these criminal acts and her son's sexual proclivities, yet failed to disclose these crimes and abuses to authorities. As of this release time, Commissioner Keesee has refused to resign.

Commissioner Keesee was elected to her position in November of 2024. She was not endorsed by the Knox County Republican Party. The first allegation of wrongdoing was made to a Knox County Deputy Sheriff in January of 2025. During her tenure as commissioner, Keesee has missed many official meetings, including 17 so far this year.

"Commissioner Keesee's failure to disclose her son's crimes and her performance as a commissioner do not reflect the integrity and high standards we expect of our elected officials," said Dailey. "The Knox County Republican Central and Executive Committee each passed a unanimous resolution of 'No Confidence' in Commissioner Keesee."

If Commissioner Keesee continues to refuse to resign, the Knox County Central Committee will pursue all available options, including those available under Ohio Revised Code 3.08.

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