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April 26, 2024

SCGOP
Drew McKissick
State Chair Republican party

Dear Mr. McKissick, Tony Denny and SCGOP Rules Committee:

This is my official statement that you are abusing your position and misinterpreting the Rules, of the SCGOP, particularly Rule 16 c to misinform the Republican delegates, the SC Republican party as a body. This severe abuse of the Rules is unacceptable and will not go unaccounted for by you and each of these making incorrect conclusions to the detriment of our SC GOP and President Donald J. Trump, who is counting on me and others to vote for him in July as National Delegates in Wisconsin! I have voted as a Republican since I was 18 years old. I voted in the primary and general in 2016 for Donald J. Trump, in the primary and general in 2020 for Donald J. Trump and in the primary in 2024 in February which is when Donald J. Trump became my official Republican nominee. In fact, before February 2024 he was not an official Nominee per Rule 16 c.

The deceptive manner of writing a letter at 5:30pm on April 26 after a “backroom” meeting of the Rules “committee” with no notice or opportunity to be heard on the issues is trial by ambush with no due process or opportunity to correct your error in thinking and wrongful actions to malign Keith and Olga Blandford and me by a gross misuse of the SCGOP Rules is unacceptable. The evidence of the abuse and over-reach by the entrenched SCGOP leadership, namely Drew McKissick, who was already had to vacate the National level of the RNC. This is egregious and apparently a retaliation of America First Republicans. The letter you sent is used to lower standards of the Republican Platform and to infringe on free and critical thinking.

I attended the 2024 State Convention in Summerville, SC. I responded to the call to the convention from Kevin Hennley our local Beaufort County chairman. I called him prior

to me registering for this congressional convention and verified very clearly that I was properly credentialed as of April 13, 2024. It was confirmed that I would be able to vote, that my vote would count and that I was eligible to run for the National Delegate. I was assured by Kevin Hennely that I could vote and I was credentialed and that I was eligible to run for National Delegate. Relying on this confirmation, I paid my convention fee and National delegate fee and made plans to attend the convention a 2 ½ hour drive and a day commitment for me to make. I checked in on the day of our conventions, April 13, 2024 and was issued my official credentials and they verified my driver's license and reviewed my properly procured tickets to 1st congressional convention. This was done by the state SCGOP credentialing staff.

Now, after they lost across the board by the popular vote at the congressional convention, you are trying to mis-apply the rule.

RULE 16 States: Verbatim:
CODE OF CONDUCT

(c) Any officer, delegate or alternate who publicly endorses or financially supports a candidate for partisan office other than a duly nominated Republican candidate, **unless there is no Republican nominee** in the relevant race, shall immediately vacate their Republican Party office. The State Executive Committee may waive this provision in statewide and multicounty elections, and the county executive committees may waive this provision for their county and less-than-county elections.

You are absolutely erroneous in your conclusion that I have not abided by this Rule. There was NO REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL candidate until AFTER February 2024. I voted in that primary for Donald J Trump.

I attended with many other Republicans an event on Johns Island South Carolina for which I paid \$500 on June 26, 2023 for a dinner and meet and greet. I went mostly to listen to issues pertaining to vaccine injury from vaccines which as an attorney, I am very concerned about here in SC, especially with the weak position that has been taken on regarding medical freedom, choices to vaccinate, choices for covid protocol, choices to not have to mask up and true information on certain ingredients in vaccines that have been proven in scientific studies to have severe neurological defects and myocarditis in not only children but also adults. I appreciate learning more on these issues and RFK Jr., has taken a strong position on learning more about how certain ingredients breach the blood brain barrier to cause irreparable damage. I did go to an event in SC to hear him speak on these issues, that as a lawyer are important to learn more about. RFK was NOT the democrat nominee, in fact, he left the democrat party and is now Independent. There are many articles have come out over the past two years on the possibility of RFK, Jr. being Donald J Trump's VP.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/04/15/rfk-jr-trump-running-mate-00152272>

<https://www.newsweek.com/steve-bannon-robert-f-kennedy-jr-donald-trump-running-mate-2024-1796369>

I am a lawyer who cares about Law and Order. I have questioned the 2020 election and how Donald J. Trump has been treated since that time and fully supported him. Rules

matter, however, a gross misapplication of the Rules by the current SCGOP rules committee is unacceptable.

I do not vacate my position as a SC State Delegate and SC National Delegate. I have purchased plane tickets and I have incurred fees and costs to attend the National Convention. It's unacceptable for you to attempt to take away what has been duly worked for and elected by the popular vote by your unilateral misinterpretation of the Republican rules.

We were all properly credentialed and properly followed Roberts Rules and properly elected all delegates and officers on April 13, 2024 in Summerville, SC.

This is pattern of behavior that is incompetent at best, deceptive and illegal at worst. I hope the SC Delegation at State Convention will look at the rule and facts.

You have caused me damages, as well as Keith and Olga Blandford.

I am not going to step down. I am a duly elected State and National Delegate and I plan to attend the National Convention in July of 2024.

Sincerely,

s/ Lauren L Martel

Lauren L Martel

CC: National RNC

Lara Trump, Michael Whatley
SCGOP Rule Committee