



**March 10, 2016**

The Republican Party - the party of Abraham Lincoln, the party of smaller government, more individual liberties, and core conservative principles - can only be as strong as its leaders and those who appoint them. If the leaders are corrupt, the Party will be corrupt. If the leaders are people of integrity, the Party will be a party of integrity. This suit is not against the Republican Party. The party of Lincoln, smaller government, more individual liberties and core conservative principles, is my party. This suit is against the corruption of a few in leadership who are poisoning our party; who are, like rust, eroding the body of our once pristine Grand Old Party; whose desire for personal gain at the expense of our principles is like a cancer eating away at the very soul of our party. For the good of the party and to protect the integrity of our election process, this corruption must be stopped.

We, as citizens of Lake County and this great country, are aware of and frustrated by the control that the political establishments in both parties have over the election process. Much like bullies on the playground, this control is maintained by the establishment through political game-playing and manipulation tactics. Those who succumb to these shenanigans are either rewarded with protected political positions or hung out to dry, depending if the establishment thinks they will play ball or not.

This has been going on for years at all levels. It's how they gained their control, it's how they maintain their control, and it's the reason We the People are consistently betrayed by officeholders in whom we placed our trust. We vote for them believing they will represent us, our values, and the policy positions claimed by the Party, then time and time again they make deals and turn their backs on those values they promised to uphold because Party power and influence is more important to them than good policy, principles, and certainly the opinions of the "little people". That's the game, and for a long time if you wanted to be in the political arena, you had to play the game - or else.

However, over the last few years we have had a new breed of citizen representatives rising up and throwing their hats in the ring because of the betrayal, because of the shenanigans, and because of the deal-making that has caused the current political class to abandon the good policy and principles of our Party for their own personal gain within the Party power structure. We recognized that the only way to stop this corruption was to try to do it from the inside.

The establishment continues to use the same bully tactics against this new breed of citizen representatives, expecting us to cave or play along because those tactics have worked so well and for so long in the past. But we are different. We see that they're trying to manipulate and intimidate us into submission, to convince us to either betray our principles for the benefit of the power holders or to take our ball and go home.

They tried this in 2014 after I was duly nominated by Lake County Republicans as the Republican candidate for Commissioner over two establishment candidates, by attempting to withhold their endorsement of me alone in exchange for my endorsement of another candidate. Across the span of two meetings, after all other Republican

candidates had been endorsed unanimously with no dissent; they interrogated me, berated me, and tried to force me exclusively to endorse that candidate. I stood firm that my endorsement can only be earned by candidates who I believe will actually represent my values, kept faith in my belief that the establishment would know as well as I did that it would be a slap in the faces of Republican voters if they refused to endorse the candidate duly nominated in a contested Primary election, and I ultimately received the reluctant endorsement from the Party without compromising my standards.

After the election I heard that my Democrat opponent had been bragging that he was grateful for the help he received from the Republican establishment in his bid for re-election against me, and that he received this help in exchange for his promise not to run against that same candidate who my endorsement had been held hostage over, for that position in the future. If this is true, it proves that the establishment would prefer to lose an election than to have one of their own in office who they can't control.

After announcing my intention to run for Commissioner again in 2016, the leaders of the Party stooped to an even lower low in their desperate attempt to bully me off "their" playground. We spent months giving these individuals opportunity after opportunity to do the right thing and correct the damage they had done, but they held firm to their plan and never took advantage of those opportunities.

Just as with toddlers throwing a tantrum, if I were to give in and let them get away with this new low, they would learn that this tactic would work even on this new breed of citizen representatives. And so, I have no choice but to stand against this corruption and mistreatment by the Party power holders, lest they continue to use ever-increasingly hostile bully tactics to manipulate the election process and maintain their power. Control of the election process must be returned to the people where it belongs before all integrity is lost.



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2014 & 2016 Republican Candidate for Lake County Commissioner

