

March 3, 2024

St. Clair County MI Republican Party

Press Release

Grand Rapids, MI – On March 2, 2024 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the Michigan Republican Party under the Peter Hoekstra Administration attempted the disenfranchisement of St. Clair County Precinct Delegates.

These past several months have been chaotic and confusing for the Michigan Republican Party, the County Chairs, the Precinct Delegates, and the citizens of Michigan. As usual, the biased media outlets are quick to put out a narrative of information that fails to lay out facts including National and State Party bylaws and election laws. This press release is intended to provide facts solely regarding the disenfranchising of St. Clair County Precinct Delegates by the MIGOP Peter Hoekstra administration, not the change in administration.

The Republican National Committee (RNC) rule 16(f)(1) regarding conventions states (1) On or before October 1 of the year before the year in which the national convention is to be held, each Republican state committee shall adopt rules, procedures, policies, and instructive materials (prepared pursuant to Rule No. 15(a)) governing the election, selection, allocation, or binding of delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention to convene during the following year and shall certify and file with the secretary of the Republican National Committee true copies of the same and of all statutes governing the election, selection, allocation, or binding of such delegates and alternate delegates.

Pursuant of the Convention Rules adopted by the Michigan Republican Party State Committee, prior to October 1, 2023, as per the RNC rule 16(f)(1) stated above, and per Michigan election law MCL 168.591, some required dates and convention rules include the following:

- **Thursday, January 11** Call to Convention to go out by Email by 11:59 PM Monday, January 15 Delegates must notify Chair of receipt of Call to Convention by 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 16** Call to Convention must go out by mail to those who have not replied to email.
- **Wednesday, January 17** Convention of Receipt 5:00 PM Call to Convention for County Clerk and MRP
- **Thursday, February 15** County Conventions at 7:00 PM (notification of non-attending delegate by 4:00 PM)
- **Wednesday, February 21** List of Delegates and Elevated Delegates to County Clerk and MRP

- **Friday, February 23** Conventional Challenge Deadline at 5:00 PM
- **Monday, February 26** Credentials Committee Meeting
- **Saturday, March 2** District Conventions at 10:00 AM, State Committee Meeting to follow

Convention Rule 9. PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

The chair of each county convention shall send a certified list electronically in Microsoft Excel format of the delegates and alternates chosen by such county convention in a form prescribed by the State Party Chair to the MRP by 5:00 PM Eastern Time of Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and to the District Chair. Each delegate certification list shall provide the registered voting address and preferable email of each District Convention delegate and alternate so that the temporary roll of the District Convention may be prepared. Any delegate certification list not received electronically in Excel format by the MRP by 8:00 PM Eastern Time of Wednesday, February 21, 2024, will not be received and therefore will have to be presented before the District Credentials Committee (see Rule 8C) prior to seating any delegate from the county convention in question.

St. Clair County Republican Party, met the above deadlines and followed state party convention Rule 9 by sending a certified list electronically in the prescribed format, on the proper form to the MRP (Michigan Republican Party) on 2/20/2024 via the secretary of the state party, who was the undisputed, legal sitting state party secretary at the time of the deadline of February 21st. There was an email that I seemed to have received on 2/21/2024 @ 1:30 AM by "cochair@mi-gop.org", which clarified the due date of the delegate reporting forms to be by 12:00 PM (Noon) that day. We had already sent our proper reporting forms, as stated within the convention rules, by the time I was able to read this email at 5:00 PM that day. As per the Convention Rules passed by the Michigan Republican Party State Committee, the Credentialing Committee held a meeting 2/26/2024 and credentialed all of the submitted county delegates. Immediately following the court ruling on Tuesday, February 27th, the MIGOP secretary forwarded all of the county delegate lists to the court appointed administration. It was Wednesday, February 28th that 23 county chairs, who followed the same prescribed Rules, were notified that their county delegates would not be credentialed for the District conventions. Within the same day, we were then notified that the administration would "re-open" the credentialing process if lists were received by 5:00 PM that day. County chairs resubmitted their list to the new administration, only to be denied at 10:30 PM that night. After several emails to the Hoekstra administration, we were informed on Thursday, February 29th at 10:00 PM, that they would "re-open the credentialing process if delegate lists were received by 9:00 AM Friday, March 1st. I resubmitted the convention delegate list by 10:30 PM Thursday, February 29th, prior to the deadline, to yet again, be denied. It was at that time that several counties, decided to hold their own District caucuses at a separate location, since many of them made up their entire district.

The morning of Friday, March 1, District 9, of which St. Clair County is a part of, held an emergency Zoom meeting, lasting approximately 4 hours. During that meeting with

approximately 27 attendees on the call, we spoke with Mr. Hoekstra briefly on the phone, who could not be bothered answering any of our questions, responded "I have no idea about that" to many of our questions and ultimately ended his call. We then contacted his current administrative assistant, or I assume the acting secretary, Stewart Foster. He was also not solid on any answers, responded "I have no idea", and couldn't even state the actual deadline of the original Reporting of Delegates. When asked why St. Clair County delegates were not accepted, he responded that there was a challenge, however, could not identify what or who the challenge was regarding, and never answered the question. I later emailed Mr. Foster requesting information on the challenge for St. Clair County and he responded, "You never submitted a list. I took it as you not participating", disregarding my question on the challenge. The truth was, there was NO challenge. Just for completeness, I resubmitted St. Clair County Delegate list, since he misunderstood the 4 prior times it was sent.

The day of the convention, 26 out of our 46 delegates were able to head to Grand Rapids for the convention with no guarantees of being seated. Out of those 26 delegates, 22 of them were not credentialed. Why were 2 delegates and 2 alternates credentialed when they supposedly did not receive the list from the county chair, as prescribed by the convention rules? That means they accepted some partial list from someone other than the official county party administration, which does not align with the convention rules.

At the start of the District 9 Convention, all but the 2 credentialed delegates were kept out of the caucus. A delegate from another county challenged Rule 8C of the convention rules and motioned to allow the 2 counties within that District to be credentialed and seated. Following the discussion on the motion, it was the majority of the delegation that approved to allow St. Clair and Huron County delegates to be credentialed and have a vote. This was the moment, that although many had opposing opinions, the body of delegates came together, so as to not allow the disenfranchising of duly elected Precinct Delegates to vote in their District Caucus. Many may cast shame on the county chairs for this situation, and I will accept it, since that comes with the position. This is uncharted territory for all of us and we are fighting on all levels, from local, to national, to keep our freedoms and liberties. We The People want non-politicians in office because most of the politicians seem to forget or maybe never had learned the constitution and their only concern is how they can gain more money and power. Peter Hoekstra is a long standing politician and was not elected by the delegates of Michigan. He was chosen by a small fraction of the party to run the Michigan GOP. Mr. Hoekstra did not "make every effort" to reach out to counties to submit their lists as he stated. Sending an email from a new email address at 1:30 AM the day of the deadline and changing the time of the deadline from 8:00 PM to Noon that same day, is not "making every effort". Mr. Hoekstra did not "welcome everyone to the Grand Rapids Convention" as he stated on one of his interviews. It was the delegates of one district that were able to over-ride his disenfranchising of our county delegates. Precinct Delegates, the most basic elected position, representing your community and your neighbors, essentially the grass roots of the governmental structure. The Precinct Delegates can and did take the power from the top, and be the real voice of the people, We The People!