

December 14, 2023

Mr. Dave Williams
Chairman, CO Republican Party

Ms. Suzanne Taheri
Chairwoman, CO GOP CD6 Committee

Dear Mr. Chair and Madame Chairwoman:

I, Richard Sokol, hereby resign my position as the CD6 Representative on the State GOP Executive Committee.

It is clear to me, Chairman Williams, that your vision of the State Party Chairman's role is supported by a significant majority of the members of the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, I find many of the actions taken by you in your role do not further the goals of the CO Republican Party. Since my understanding of what a State Party Chair should do differs with your view and the concurrent view of a majority of the State Executive Committee, my conscience dictates that I resign my position.

Chairman Williams, I have two main issues with your actions as CO State Party Chair. Allow me to explain:

1. You seem to believe that you are the arbiter of what "correct" GOP policy should be. Stated simply, that is not your role as State Party Chair. Of course, you are entitled to your opinion on what GOP policy should be. In fact, I most likely agree with you on the majority of positions you hold. But you should not hold out your personal policy preferences as Republican gospel – and publicly broadcast your position - when a significant number of other Republicans hold competing views.

For example, you sent an email blast in June 2023 to the Colorado GOP list lambasting any Republican who voted for the Debt Ceiling Compromise. Some Republicans in Congress voted for it; others voted against it. As Chairman of the State Party, you should not take sides. It is well outside the boundaries of your role.

2. You have used your position to demean and denigrate fellow Republicans. As State GOP Chair, you of all people should adhere to Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican". You should be empowering and lifting up our elected GOP officials, not tearing them down. There are plenty of Democrats willing to denounce our fellow Republicans; you should not be aiding them in their actions.

To cite just one example, the email referenced above that you sent about the Debt Ceiling was titled "Fake Conservatives Sold You Out". You then lambasted US Representative Doug Lamborn for his vote. No matter what your personal policy position was on the Debt Ceiling compromise, you greatly overstepped your role's professional bounds with your inflammatory rhetoric. As State Party Chair, you need to remember the advice that all our moms gave us when we were little: "If you have nothing good to say, then say nothing".

Chairman Williams, I believe your job is to help Republicans get elected. That means all Republicans, not just those with whom you agree on certain policy issues. Demeaning elected Republican officials does not help them get re-elected, and taking sides on policy issues contested within the GOP caucus does not help Republicans get elected. Our GOP Party is already greatly splintered, and your actions have furthered divisions instead of unifying. How does this help us?

It is up to the voters in each district to judge our elected GOP representatives' policies and votes, and at election time, to retain them or throw them out. You have no right to put your thumb on the scale. Our elected Republican legislators should be judged by voters, not by you.

If you feel strongly about a policy position and feel that fellow elected Republican legislators are on the wrong side of the issue, then you are free to become a candidate and run against them. But you should voice your policy position and disapproval of fellow Republicans as a candidate, not as a State Party Chair.

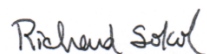
And it is clear that your tactics are not helping you fundraise for our party. The state GOP fundraising results have been abysmal. Quite simply, we need money to win elections. Your divisive rhetoric has led to these poor fundraising results, which hurts all our candidates' election chances.

What's really puzzling to me is this: shouldn't we be focusing all our efforts on defeating the Democrats? There are so many critical issues where Democrat policies have failed our country. Inflation, soaring debt, increasing crime, a porous southern border, a failing education system, just to name a few. Why waste our energy fighting fellow Republicans – even those you disagree with - when our focus should be fighting the disastrous policies of the Democrats?

Chairman Williams, I truly appreciate your commitment to public service. Being in the public eye is not easy nor often enjoyable, and you are willing to step up and serve when many others are content to sit at home and not enter the fray. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

For the good of the Party, I hope you will change your tactics in your role as State Party Chair. We cannot be the "Big Tent" party – and have any hope of winning elections - unless your vision and the Executive Committee's vision of the role of State Party Chair changes dramatically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Sokol".

Richard Sokol