

Dear Livingston County Republican Party Executive Committee,

I am informing you that after months of consideration, I am resigning effective immediately as your Vice Chair. First, I would like to thank you all for your confidence and support of me during my tenure. Please allow me to share a few things with you that have led me to my decision.

I got involved in politics, perhaps like many of you, to try and help what feels like so many wrongs, mainly a 2 tiered system of justice and gross violations of our constitution. I was stunned when so many of our peers, many conservatives, were so quickly agreeable to masking up, allowing businesses to be shut down, and simply stop working. Covid really accelerated this. But I was seeing so many accomplished doctors silenced from dissenting opinion, as well as opposing research. I am a small business owner, and I had no say in how I could lead my staff, having to follow the new protocols. Guess I should have just been happy we were deemed "essential." Anyway, I put my name on the ballot, and began seeking ways to connect with fellow like-minded conservatives in the county. Attend meetings, walked parades, knocked on doors, etc. Local impact is the way to fix this mess. I won my election, becoming a delegate, and I felt my circle was growing. I was gathering energy, feeling my research wasn't as crazy as some thought, and was eager to continue where this path would take me. Unfortunately, before November 2022 ended, just one month after the election, things began to unravel.

I so love, how we all speak of unity, yet nearly everyone puts fellow conservatives in a box and labels them. I found out, by talking with those whose names always came up as active leaders already trying to make a difference, to be careful of who I talked to. I was stunned, why couldn't all these "leaders" work in conjunction with each other. Why is this a competition? A list was developed for the 11/22 convention, for the grassroots to take over the EC. The list was 90ish percent, maybe it was even 100% elected. What a night right, a grassroots power play!!!! Then we head into December for elections, and utter chaos. At least that's how I perceived it. No clue, no plan, who would be this force, who would become officers? I recall having lengthy conversations with two on this email, and another still active delegate, on me being on this team. As late as the day of the vote, even.

As it gets sorted out, I became the Vice-Chair. That same night, I had several people approach me, concerned and worried that they voted for me, because I was observed having a roughly 5-minute conversation with our outgoing chair. I asked if she would be willing to help us transition, and more specifically, would she share some of her fundraising success with us. After all, we are all involved to beat Democrats, and elections take money. Wow, was I unprepared and naive how strong the division was. Guess she wasn't the right conservative to talk to. Even though she raised what appears to be a nice amount of money for the 2022 election. One person even said, "How dare I."

As for that transition, I knew it would be rocky and was prepared for it. Just the tasks alone would be, let alone a new team of people in leadership working intimately together who

barely knew each other. As we approached the summer, I felt we were becoming a cohesive working unit. I believe we saw that manifest in the Lincoln Day dinner. Jessica's great event skills allowed us to host a great event. Again, I was wrong. Things began to unravel quickly. I was very transparent with the folks I talked to prior to the election. I have a very unpredictable work life. And that reality did get in the way of some things, as well as a repeated health scare from my youngest son who lives in Utah. At one point, Chairwoman Smith asked me if I needed to resign. Behind the scenes, however, she told other officers it was her desire to get me to resign by dumping as many tasks as she could on me. Wouldn't this qualify as usurping the delegates' voice as is now being claimed by Chairwoman Smith? Is this the transparency that was committed to the EC and delegates?

So how and why are we here now? As I dissect it, it's simple. Chairwoman Smith is anything but a leader. Her style is of absolute control, trying to pin herself as the center piece of all things. She admitted to circumventing me from all communication, around August. Yet would openly complain that I wasn't doing anything. She would tell you, "You are the only one I can trust," and complain about other officers. And then tell others the exact same thing. Chairwoman Smith spent lots of time placing herself as the centerpiece and attempted to isolate us from each other. But her manipulation didn't work, some of the officers maintained communication, finally uncovering hard truths. Chairwoman Smith has continually spun the narrative into her favor, while void of addressing truth or issues. She also deflects criticism to, "if anyone thinks they can do better, they can have the job."

Someone has asked her for the job. We are a year into the powerful grassroots take over. Yet we have no plan on how we will win elections this year. Only held 1 event after Lincoln Day dinner, the Christmas Gala. The Christmas Gala is also in some circles, known as the Hoity Toity Gala. I bring this up, because Chairwoman Smith and Membership Officer Paul Funk, were strongly against this event taking place. Jessica worked tirelessly on this event. I was out of town for this event, asking Jessica to let me know if I could help. I also stayed in contact with Jessica, and together stayed focused on the good of the LCRP. At the 11th hour, enough ticket sales had come in to at least break even. The LCRP stood to lose a \$1,000 deposit to Crystal Gardens. Yet Chairwoman Smith and Paul held fast to cancel it. Thankfully, Jessica was persistent and held the event, and I received great feedback, except for Chairwoman Smith's remarks that night. Those were mostly viewed as a poor message given the event and audience. And Jessica's reward was to have a demeaning label attached to it. Why? What kind of leadership is that?

You are seeing many lies, or at best mistruths on Social Media channels. Since Chairwoman's Smith's remarks at the August EC meeting, coupled with the Treasurer remarks, this conversation began in small circles. Yet somehow it has been attached to the "same coup to remove Karamo." Other than timing being close, they are separate issues. We are at this moment for several reasons in my opinion. There is no plan, and a serious void of leadership on the behalf of Chairwoman Smith. For those worried about timing, "only 300 days before an election," what's the plan for these 300 days? The Chair put a stake in the ground. If someone

can do better, you can have it. Someone asked for it, and the Chair apparently wasn't truthful about that either. The EC of the LCRP has some serious thinking to do, and a robust discussion needs to take place.

It is because of Chairwoman Smith's manipulation, lies, and lack of leadership, that I will no longer be part of this toxic environment. The email she sent Jessica, and I is a perfect example of her yearlong leadership. She is going to dump the convention on us if Jessica and I continue this path? These tactics clearly spell out the void of leadership I have mentioned. Leaders run into issues; they don't make empty threats. This also now leaves Chairwoman Smith as the only remaining Officer the EC and delegates elected just over a year ago. Three resignations, plus Chairwoman Smith's first action as Chair was to appoint Jessica Barefield as Events Officer. You saw Jessica's resignation last week.

I look forward to staying on the EC and being part of the conversation how to have this county be a beacon of conservative leadership, always beating Democrats, and having locked arms with ALL my conservative voters.

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