

The GOP has been my party for more than 18 years, and it was an organization I considered to be an American institution which stood for the rule of law, the rights of all citizens, and the idea of fair play which is inborn in all of us.

In the last 16 months, I have volunteered my time and rooted myself within the structure of the Republican Party in order to help actively facilitate change. No more would I apathetically sit by and watch as our Country, State and Cities decay into moral and economic despotism - only to speak upon it as a casual topic of discussion. I decided that I would invest my time and efforts inside the only party that I knew to fight for a Constitutional limited government.

In that time I have been elected as a municipal delegation chair, a state delegate, a national delegate, Penobscot State Committeeman, Chair of the Penobscot County Rules and Procedures Committee and board member of the Republican Liberty Caucus.

I have also been chosen to serve as a member of the Rules and Procedures Committee for the State Party, as well as the Bangor Leadership Team and have served as a liaison for the grassroots to Republican candidates and State Party officials through a number of various Republican-based organizations.

I have used my social media and web development skills, including developing a web and social media presence for Bangor GOP, Penobscot County GOP, Washington County GOP, and Republican candidates and organizations throughout the state to help increase our communication not only amongst ourselves but the broader general public as well in the hopes of enlarging the party.

I have done this all while supporting the United States Constitution, the Maine Constitution, the Republican Party platform, its by-laws and rules.

But I found, at every turn, those of us who have a more liberty-minded view of conservatism have encountered resistance, abuse, mistreatment, and have been subject to some of the most disrespectful conduct by party officials.

The GOP has been my party for more than 18 years, and it was an organization I considered to be an American institution which stood for the rule of law, the rights of all citizens, and the idea of fair play which is inborn in all of us.

In the last 16 months, I have volunteered my time and rooted myself within the structure of the Republican Party in order to help actively facilitate change. No more would I apathetically sit by and watch as our Country, State and Cities decay into moral and economic despotism - only to speak upon it as a casual topic of discussion. I decided that I would invest my time and efforts inside the only party

that I knew to fight for a Constitutional limited government.

In that time I have been elected as a municipal delegation chair, a state delegate, a national delegate, Penobscot State Committeeman, Chair of the Penobscot County Rules and Procedures Committee and board member of the Republican Liberty Caucus.

I have also been chosen to serve as a member of the Rules and Procedures Committee for the State Party, as well as the Bangor Leadership Team and have served as a liaison for the grassroots to Republican candidates and State Party officials through a number of various Republican-based organizations.

I have used my social media and web development skills, including developing a web and social media presence for Bangor GOP, Penobscot County GOP, Washington County GOP, and Republican candidates and organizations throughout the state to help increase our communication not only amongst ourselves but the broader general public as well in the hopes of enlarging the party.

I have done this all while supporting the United States Constitution, the Maine Constitution, the Republican Party platform, its by-laws and rules.

But I found, at every turn, those of us who have a more liberty-minded view of conservatism have encountered resistance, abuse, mistreatment, and have been subject to some of the most disrespectful conduct by party officials.

In this most recent instance, I felt compelled to appeal what I consider to be the absolutely wrong decision of the Party Chair, which stated that a legal voting member of the Penobscot County Committee, and one who has been active in the Maine State GOP for more than a decade, was "unaffected" by what was clearly a flawed election of county officers. This election, wherein 71 people voted despite the fact that there were fewer than 50 legal voting members, ignored by the Chair who was warned about it weeks prior and minimized by him once it happened.

I personally feel that the decision that was made was extremely disingenuous to the core issues that were addressed in the appeal by Ken Anderson – someone I have known to be honest, principled, active, and in good standing within our county committee. As a witness and the only 'affected' individual in the eyes of the Chairman, I appealed the decision.

Yesterday I received the decision of the Chairman, included was the chairs memorandum, the party ruling and a lawyer summary.

What should've been a simple in-house exercise of our County and State Party rules and procedures turned out to be nothing more than what is already publicly considered a "heist" and an outright libelous attack on my character and integrity.

My original contention in the second appeal of a tainted election of Penobscot County Committee election of officers was that there remained an ongoing bylaw breach that occurred during the December Penobscot meeting which continues to be in direct violation to our County Bylaws. That breach is specifically that a vote to suspend the bylaws was taken by non-voting members, with no quorum or roll call taken.

The breach which allowed more than 20 illegal voters in the election of county officers was not enough; when the appeal the Chair knew would be written was filed by a legal voter in that election, he then bypassed internal path laid out for just such incidents in the bylaws and went to an attorney instead.

And again, when my appeal was filed with the party, the chair used the exact same process. Ignoring the procedures to consult with at least the executive committee, he decided to go with an outside lawyer.

In a monumental contortion, the Chairman, used this excuse to ignore that breach as well as the flawed election:

"To summarize, Mr. Daugherty's contention fails to recognize that Party Rule 27 supersedes Robert's Rules of Order and therefore his contention that a continuing breach of Party By-laws exists is not accepted."

To be clear, Maine Republican Party Rule 27 states: "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the Rules of the Maine Republican Party so far as they are applicable and consistent with these rules as written."

In his memoranda, which were shared with members of the Republican Party, Chairman Cebra decided to incite criticism and divisiveness, and he then added to the insult by making defamatory remarks regarding the intention to resolve these matters.

It is a great dishonor to me personally that the Chair would insinuate that I have acted with any ill-intent, acted to stir up controversy for the sake of controversy or that I took up the banner of exclusion, disenfranchisement and pay-to-vote principles.

I have approached this situation with the utmost integrity, sincerity, respect, and due regard for our party, its rules and its founding principles only to face ridicule and false accusations both privately and publicly.

I have requested that the Chairman produce any evidence that I have made any disparaging remarks regarding anyone involved with this situation - and if he

does not, I hope he will have the decency to clear my name with same publicity for which he has now besmirched it.

Having been witness of the blatant exclusionary efforts of GOP leadership at every level, it is obvious that the leadership of the "Grand Old Party" is content with keeping their small tent while fearing truly doing what they have claimed for years: welcoming conservatives of all stripes into a "big tent."

I cannot in good conscience continue giving my time and effort to a party which is the opposite of what they claim to be.

They are not in favor of "a big tent;" they are not "the party of the open door;" they are not "the party of law and order."

They are the party of the small tent full of a few people who are content to march in lockstep and not upset any applecarts.

They are the party of the closed door for anyone who dares to question anything leadership decrees: from bogus votes caught on teleprompters to illicit elections of GOP-sanctioned officers of committees from the municipal level through the national level.

They are the party of bending and plastic rules, where those rules are determined by desired outcomes of leadership rather than through equitable application of them to all members and committees.

Therefore, I hereby tender my resignation from the Maine State Republican Party, and having made the decision to leave the party entirely, I feel free of its corruption and my naive 18-year participation in it for the first time in years.

I will continue to advocate for change in the top-down style which our federal government has adopted over time. I will continue to look for people of integrity and principle with whom to align myself in this fight.

I will just be doing this from an environment which is not so rife with self-serving decisions of leadership.

Signed, Bryan Daugherty - Grassroots Activist