

Amici Brief in Support of the Appeal of Caryn Ann Harlos

Introduction

This amici brief supports Caryn Ann Harlos' appeal against her suspension by the Libertarian National Committee (LNC). The LNC alleges that Ms. Harlos disrupted the Party's "tranquility" by ensuring ballot access for Chase Oliver in Colorado. However, evidence from our donor sentiment data demonstrates that dissatisfaction with the LNC predates and overshadows Ms. Harlos' actions. The suspension reflects deeper issues within the LNC and is inconsistent with Party principles, due process, and its stated governance standards.

The Chair's Assertion

The LNC claims that Ms. Harlos' actions, including her fulfillment of routine duties such as assisting in ballot access efforts, caused discord within the Party. However, her appeal highlights that these claims lack evidentiary support and fail to meet the removal standards outlined in the Party's governing documents. The burden of proving "gross malfeasance" or failure to perform duties, as required by LNC policy, has not been met.

Evidence from Donor Sentiment Polls

On March 26, 2024, we conducted Twitter polls targeting individuals likely connected to the Libertarian Party, particularly followers of the Classical Liberal Caucus. While open to the public, the polls were focused on Libertarian donors and included a "show results" option for self-selection. The findings reinforce concerns raised in Ms. Harlos' appeal about LNC governance issues and their impact on Party tranquility.

Key Findings:

1. **Widespread Dissatisfaction with the LNC**
 - 86% of respondents (133 donors) reduced contributions due to the LNC's personal and professional conduct.
 - Only seven donors increased contributions due to LNC actions, while 14 remained unaffected.
2. **Specific Grievances**
 - Handling of the Michigan lawsuits: 67% dissatisfied.
 - Chair's partner's salary: 82% dissatisfied.
 - Social media messaging: 76% dissatisfied.
 - Ballot access efforts: 59% dissatisfied.
 - Treatment of staff: 68% dissatisfied.
 - Affiliate and candidate support: 70% dissatisfied.
3. **Outreach Failures**
 - Of 109 former donors, the LNC contacted only 18 (13%) and asked just 9 (7%) why they stopped donating.
4. **Potential for Renewal**
 - Among former donors, 52% would resume contributions if LNC policies were changed, demonstrating that addressing systemic issues could restore donor confidence.

Broader Implications

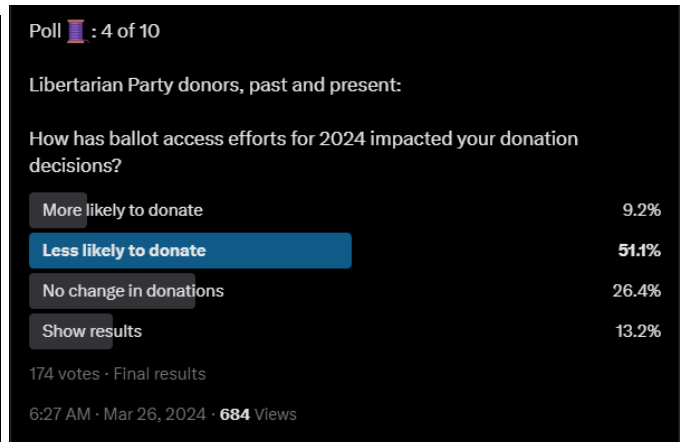
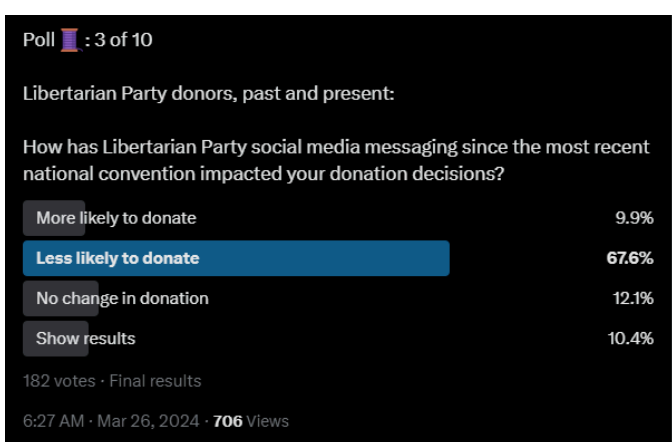
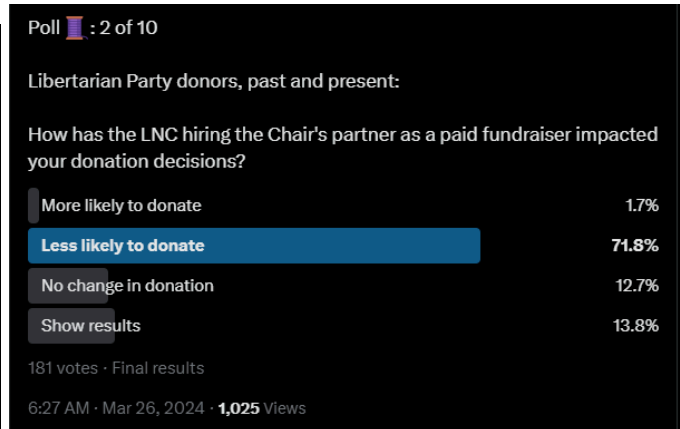
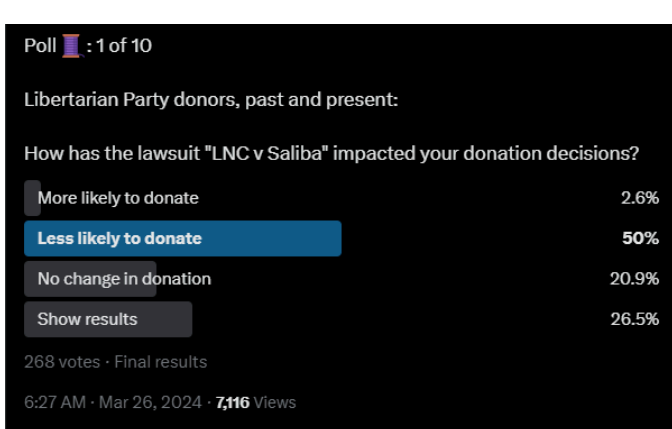
The poll data refute claims that Ms. Harlos' actions disrupted the Party's tranquility. Instead, they highlight pre-existing dissatisfaction with LNC governance as the primary source of member and donor discontent. The LNC's actions undermine principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency. By penalizing Ms. Harlos for actions aligned with Party values, the LNC risks alienating members and donors, further exacerbating the Party's challenges.

Conclusion

The suspension of Caryn Ann Harlos is unsupported by evidence and violates due process. It reflects systemic issues within the LNC, as corroborated by donor sentiment data, rather than misconduct by Ms. Harlos. The Classical Liberal Caucus urges the Judicial Committee to void her suspension, reinforcing the Party's commitment to integrity, fairness, and democratic governance.

Layla Bush, Chair
 Michael Lopez, Vice Chair
 Brett Borden, Treasurer
 Paul Darr, Secretary
 Bill Redpath, At-Large
 Trevor Miles, At-Large
 Josh Marcinek, At-Large

Appendix 1: Exhibits



Poll 1 : 5 of 10

Libertarian Party donors, past and present:

How has firing, or refusing to renew contracts for, the LP National staff impacted your donation decisions?

More likely to donate	5.2%
Less likely to donate	59%
No change in donation	22%
Show results	13.9%

173 votes · Final results
6:27 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 617 Views

Poll 2 : 6 of 10

Libertarian Party donors, past and present:

How has your impression of the LNC's personal and professional conduct impacted your donation decisions?

More likely to donate	3.5%
Less likely to donate	77.8%
No change in donations	7.6%
Show results	11.1%

171 votes · Final results
6:27 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 636 Views

Poll 3 : 7 of 10

Libertarian Party donors, past and present:

How have economic factors unrelated to the Libertarian Party impacted your donation decisions?

More likely to donate	11.8%
Less likely to donate	23.1%
No change in donations	53.8%
Show results	11.2%

169 votes · Final results
6:27 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 612 Views

Poll 4 : 8 of 10

Libertarian Party donors, past and present:

How has affiliate and candidate support from National impacted your donation decisions?

More likely to donate	3.8%
Less likely to donate	63.5%
No change in donations	23.9%
Show results	8.8%

159 votes · Final results
6:27 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 624 Views

Poll 5 : 9 of 10

Past Libertarian donors who no longer donate:

Are there any changes in policy or presentation that this LNC could make to win back your support, and if so, are those changes listed above in this thread?

What changes would win back your support?

Yes/Yes	35.2%
Yes/No	9.4%
No	23.3%
Show results	32.1%

159 votes · Final results
6:27 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 1,034 Views

Poll 6 : 10 of 10

Past Libertarian donors who no longer donate:

Did anyone at LP National reach out to you when you stopped donating?

Did they ask why you stopped?

Yes/Yes	5.2%
Yes/No	5.2%
No	59.4%
Show results	30.3%

155 votes · Final results
6:28 AM · Mar 26, 2024 · 1,110 Views

Supplemental: An additional poll question was asked several months later, which received fewer responses but is included for information purposes.

