



To My Friends and Respected Colleagues of the LP Judicial Committee:

I would first like to thank you for the work that you do to provide as balanced an impartial of a view as possible on disputed matters within the Party. This work is often tedious, usually thankless, and almost always lead to decisions that, fair as they may be, leave many angry and disappointed.

Aware of this, you know how necessary it was for the party to have a wise group of arbiters, and so you answered the call. I am grateful to each of you for that.

I write you today in support of the appeal filed on December 20, 2020 by LP Delaware Chairman Bill Hinds.

Full disclosure: I am a member of nearly every Caucus in the LP, including the Mises Caucus, the Pragmatic Caucus (until it disbanded), the Radical Caucus, and many others.

I do not care which "faction" is in charge of the Party, at any level. Frankly, I think factionalism is a cancer that is tearing apart a movement whose members' time and energy is wasted in a perpetual struggle over who is "in charge", rather than fighting alongside with one another for a world set free.

For that and many other reasons, I try my best to stay out of internal LP squabbles, especially those that aren't in my home state of South Carolina. I trust that the members of those state affiliates, and LP national, can figure out the best way to resolve things, and frankly I have better uses for my time.

But the LP Delaware situation must be addressed, because it goes beyond factionalism, and speaks to an existential threat that a small and, in my opinion, unreasonable few pose to the very nature and spirit of our Party itself.

After communicating with people on both sides of the LP Delaware situation, and even some uninvolved observers, here is what I have determined:

- On October 1, 2021, Will McVay, Jimmy Brittingham, Joe DiPasquale, Brandi Kercheval and Mary Pat McVay convened an LPDE Board meeting without giving proper notice to anyone else. By their own admission, they did everything they could to make sure that no one else noticed.

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- In 5 minutes, these 5 people voted to change the threshold for removing LPDE leadership from 8 out of 10 Board members to 2 out of 3 county Chairs, and then proceeded to remove the duly-elected Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of New Castle County, and to appoint Will as Chair and Jimmy as Vice Chair.

- On October 31, these same people voted to disenfranchise the entire LPDE membership, more than 2000 registered Libertarians in the state, including County and State leadership, removing everyone as members of LPDE.

- On November 1, they voted to create a whitelist of 20 "permanent members", including some of their children. Anyone else who wishes to become a member must go through a "process" they've created to determine who can or cannot be a member. When asked, they have said that the purpose of their "process" is for Will to make sure that none of them is a "shit-stirrer", presumably as determined by him.

Let me say this as clearly as I can: through these actions, Will and his crew have sought to effectively eliminate LPDE as a political party and turn it into a private club, of which they are the gatekeepers. They have sought to disenfranchise LPDE delegates of their elected Board, LPDE candidates for office of their ballot access, and LPDE members of their time, efforts, donated funds and membership.

On November 21, I called on Will et al. to undo what they had done and step down. Absent that, I called on the LNC to officially recognize Bill Hinds, Amy LePore and Dave Casey in their duly-elected roles, and to censure Will, Jimmy, Joe, Brandi and Mary for their actions.

That night at the LNC's emergency meeting, they unfortunately failed to do so. In their inaction, they implicitly recognized Will as Chair, and the LPDE as not a political party with 2000 members, but rather as a group of 20 people, including some children, whose main purpose seemed to be keeping out libertarians they don't approve of (while keeping their previously donated assets and resources, of course).

In my mind, the LNC had a duty to recognize the duly-elected LPDE Board, Chaired by Bill Hinds.

Here's why their failure to do so threatens the very nature of our Party.

At the beginning of this letter, I gave you two of the reasons why I tend to stay out of internal squabbles and not get involved publicly.

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Here is my third reason: the vast majority of my fans and followers are new to libertarianism. They are just learning our ideas, and they're excited with the opportunity to fight for freedom.

The last thing I want to do is continuously expose them to examples of bad actors within our own Party (small in number as they may be) engaging in the same kind of deceptive, fraudulent actions to grow our retain their power that we rightfully condemn when the Republicans, the Democrats or the government do it.

If the kinds of actions that Will et al have done are allowed to stand, and someone asks why they should trust that the LP won't just become as tolerant of corruption within its own ranks as the Rs and Ds are if we ever come to power, the answer will be simple: they shouldn't trust us, nor do they have to wait for us to have power to know not to trust us.

I know that there has been talk about allowing "competing conventions" to determine who the "real" LPDE Board is. All this does is present a false equivalence between the actual Board that was elected by LPDE membership, and a group of people who had a secret meeting, voted to take over the party, and then kicked out everyone else.

I ask that the Judicial Committee require the LNC to do what is right, both procedurally and ethically, and recognize the duly-elected LPDE Board, which is Chaired by Bill Hinds.

This isn't about factions or disagreements, this is about respecting our members and everything they put into this Party. It's about abiding by our rules and ethics, not playing dirty like the RepubliCrats.

We are the Party of Principle. We must not allow these actions to stand.

If anyone wishes to discuss this further with me, individually or as a Committee, I would be happy to do so. My email is spike@spikecohen.com and my number is 843 410 9647.

Whatever you choose, I wish you nothing but the best, and I am honored to be your colleague.

Spike

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