

Libertarian National Judicial Committee

Petitioner: Ms. Caryn Harlos

Vs

Respondent: Libertarian National Committee

Re: LNC Suspension of Ms. Caryn Harlos

Amicus Curiae Bried in Support of Respondent

As a personal rule, I try to steer clear of these kinds of squabbles. However, I felt it necessary to at least convey my observations as a prior officer of the LNC and the contrast between this term and the previous. To put it bluntly the former Secretary's behavior over the past few months has been nothing short of atrocious. Having served as the Vice Chair during a portion of the 2022-2024 term I am intimately privy to the cordial working relationship that existed between the officers during that time. Ms. Harlos demonstrated the ability to address any questions or disagreements she may have had with the Chair privately and internally. Never once, to my recollection, did any conflict find its way to the public eye. Astonishingly her ability to professionally handle a controversial topic decayed rapidly based on an unfounded allegation made by a person with which Ms. Harlos (in her own words) did not normally get along.

The entire purpose of creating the Reconciliation Committee (RC), on which Ms. Harlos and I both served, was to mediate and mitigate potential issues that may arise within affiliates that were dissatisfied with the 2024 Presidential Nominees to the best of our ability. The mere creation of such a committee does not automatically guarantee a success in every instance, and the actions of Ms. Harlos made the situation in CO astronomically more difficult than necessary. In the wake of LPCO's decision to place RFK Jr. on their ballot line Ms. Harlos decided to take matters into her own hands to "remedy" this decision knowing full well that a less drastic approach was being pursued by the committee. She acted outside her authority as described by our Bylaws, and she chose NOT to communicate further with the Chair and the RC. She then requested permission from the Board on which she served to direct staff to perform similar actions in remaining affiliates and was clearly denied. I also disagreed with the decision made by LPCO. I did not launch a vendetta against them. It is clear that the former Secretary will choose to interpret rules and situations in a manner that suits her agenda and at her own convenience at the expense of the Party. Her actions in this instance demonstrate either a severe lack of judgement or some personal crusade of "moral" superiority. Whichever the case she has completely lost the trust of 2/3 of the LNC. If she is willing to act outside her duty and defy the explicit direction of her colleagues, especially when she has stated she would repeat the same actions knowing the outcome in hindsight, how can those colleagues continue to trust her judgement on other matters should she continue to serve on the same Board? If a member of a Board is not willing or able to move beyond decisions that have been made when in the minority (or deciding to join the minority on a whim) then the member in question has an obligation to resign. Ms. Harlos asserted this same sentiment toward a member of the previous LNC. She is obviously incapable of following her own advice, which is why we are now plagued by the current situation. If she truly is someone that claims to abide by the "will of the delegates" then she should abide by the will of the Board that has lost faith in her and thus rejected her actions.

Andrew L. Watkins

At-Large | LNC