**Dear State Central Committee Member,**

The revelation that a minimum of $870,000 of Ohio Republican Party funds were given to Mike DeWine’s gubernatorial committee should be the last straw for those that want an Ohio Republican Party (ORP) that acts in an above-board and ethical manner. Transferring in excess of three-quarters of a million dollars to an unendorsed candidate without clearly disclosing this transaction in advance to State Central Committee (SCC) members - was not just a mistake - it should be a lightning rod signal to clean house of everyone that knew of this but said nothing. It is a gross violation of trust and ethics.

It is clear that there are those serving on the SCC, by virtue of their silence, who are okay with this potential and illegal and unethical behavior. Are you enraged - or will you stay silent and let this behavior continue unabated?

As an SCC member, this behavior, if allowed to continue, is a direct reflection upon you. Now is the time for you to act and stand up for what is self-evident and be an outspoken proponent of doing the right thing.

The constant machinations of putting their fingers on the scales for one candidate, for the political elites - are as inventive as they are ludicrous - equally so, are the mental gymnastics that one has to traverse to attempt to explain this behavior away as legal, ethical, and normal. Cliff Rosenberger, Matt Borges, the defection of John Kasich to being a Democrat ally, Larry Householder, Jane Timken (saying that she would not support endorsements before the primary before doing an about-face) and now Bob Paduchik, and David Johnson (making the State Central Committee irrelevant by disbursing funds to a candidate that is not endorsed).

Ohio Republicans are not that demanding other than they enjoy and embrace honesty and ethical conduct. All of our questions as Republicans should be “When will the honesty begin? Is the only way for our party to win - is to lie, cheat, and steal? How are we better than the Democrats if we allow these practices to disenfranchise the natural outcome of debate and campaigns?”

We need a new tone, tenor, and environment with which to conduct business in an ethical fashion. We need ORP 2.0 in the worst possible way.

We do not disagree that donors that had already made a maximum donation to the DeWine campaign were directed to make a donation to the Ohio Republican Party State Candidate Fund. There is nothing illegal or unethical about that. **ORP fundraisers should have disclosed to donors that there is no guarantee that those additional donations made to the party will go to the DeWine campaign because he is not an endorsed candidate, nor has he won the primary yet.**

There is a maximum donation limit set **by law** for a candidate for a reason. This is so that a few rich special interests cannot put their thumb on the scale for their candidate and thereby disenfranchise the vast majority of Republicans. This is also the reason why there is a tradition among many Republican Central Committees to not make an endorsement or expend funds and resources on candidates until after the primary. **The practice of promising to earmark funds for donors to their candidates is a circumvention of the law and is called money-laundering**. Money-laundering is no laughing matter and severe penalties are attached to such efforts to undermine Ohio’s elections laws.

So, let’s say the funds put into the general State Candidate’s account were not promised and earmarked in a money-laundering scheme meant to circumvent campaign finance laws and enrich the coffers of Mike DeWine. Let’s say, for a moment, that Bob Paduchik and David Johnson unilaterally made that decision. That would be an effective endorsement. **At the point that two people can make such a unilateral endorsement - then what purpose does the State Central Committee serve?**

The ORP bylaws are an extension of Ohio State Law and do not empower the Treasurer or Chairman to make such unilateral decisions. Common sense and good business practices would have prevented such a transaction from occurring if there was a fear that such actions could possibly be considered deception.

Of course, the ORP bylaws are so poorly written that those that should be facing an investigation and possible jail time will likely be able to wiggle their way out of an investigation and avoid prosecution by claiming ignorance and tradition.

The SCC and the ORP need to just stop now and look at what they are doing. Now is the time to make the ORP great again.

We need a new set of bylaws and the SCC is incapable of coming up with them on their own. The SCC and the ORP need a code of ethical conduct that leadership cannot play a part in developing. The ORP desperately needs a state-based platform to define the party. The only way we can accomplish this is by having a State Convention for the Republican Party.

We have not had an Ohio Republican Convention in over 40 years. Whenever a party becomes so corrupt that it is deaf to the will of registered Republicans - it is time to have a convention to put it back on track.

We are asking you to work with County Republican leadership to call for a criminal investigation and call for a Republican State Convention in March of 2022 to make the ORP Great Again!

Will you help be part of the answer?

Sincerely,