

Dear Colorado Republicans:

The Republican National Committee (RNC) held our Winter Meeting in Dana Point, California from January 25 to January 27, 2023.

This meeting focused heavily on the leadership elections of the RNC officers for the next two years. I am pleased to state that I was re-elected to the Executive Committee of the RNC to represent the Western Region. My focus for this body will be on how to maximize the powerful opportunity we have with Hispanic voters, particularly with the upcoming 2024 Presidential election.

Here is my report of the **Winter Meeting**:

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- The 2024 Presidential National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. More to come as the date nears.
- The committee has started the process to find a site for the 2028 Presidential Republican National Convention.

STATE CHAIRMEN SESSION:

- This meeting was solely focused on the 2022 mid-term elections. Different state chairs expressed their views and experiences with early voting, mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, machines vs. paper, and candidate selection.
- States like Florida, New York, California, Texas, Ohio, and the territory of Guam had strong showings in 2022, but others, like Colorado, did poorly.
- More attention and analysis will be needed for early voting and ballot harvesting for the 2024 elections.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

- In 2022, the RNC raised \$52.6 million dollars more than we budgeted. This allowed us to spend more money on the state parties, Election Day Operations (EDO), and other legal battles to ensure the rule of law is enforced.
- While inflation is still affecting small donors, fortunately, they stepped up in 2022.
 - Despite the impact of inflation on our economy, over a million small donors, with 160,000 being new ones, have emerged, along with 11,000 major donors giving to the RNC.
- The 2023 budget was approved

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS:

9 Resolutions were presented to the committee and 9 resolutions were approved during the General Session.

1. Resolution to Hold President Biden Accountable for the Border Crisis.
2. Resolution to Officially Oppose Ranked Choice Voting Across the Country.
3. Resolution Honoring and Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Congressman Don Young.
4. Resolution to Oppose All Forms of Antisemitism.

5. Resolution in Support of the Protection of United States Agricultural Land & Food supply chain.
6. Resolution Honoring the Life of Dr. Ada Fisher.
7. Resolution Affirming the Republican National Committee's Commitment to Life.
8. Resolution Urging the United States to Shut Down Any Type of Chinese Police Station in the United States.
9. Resolution Encouraging the Ban of TIKTOK on Federal Devices and Discouraging the Use of TIKTOK on Private Devices.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES:

No rules were discussed or amended at this meeting.

DEBATES COMMITTEE MEETING:

The first presidential debate will take place in **July 2023**.

Yes... July 2023. The Primary Presidential Debate Season is rapidly approaching.

RNC REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel created a new committee to explore, analyze, and understand what happened in the 2022 mid-term elections and what we must do to win in 2024. There was such a tremendous amount of interest among the members that several sub-committees were created to be more effective. Those sub-committees are:

- Fundraising
- Messaging
- Candidates
- Campaign Mechanics
- Election Integrity
- Expanding the GOP.
 - This is the subcommittee where I sit.
- Third Party Groups
- Data and Digital
- Case Studies

Here are some, yet certainly not all, examples of issues this new committee will explore: (i) candidate messaging, (ii) the influence of abortion, (iii) inflation's impact on the general mood of the country (thanks Biden!), (iv) mail-in ballots, (v) ballot harvesting, (vi) early voting vs. day-of, and more.

GUESTS WHO SPOKE AT THE MEETING:

- Tony Perkins
- Kellyanne Conway

GENERAL SESSION:

The main purpose of this meeting was to elect our officers for the next two years. The officer positions and their respective candidates were:

- Chair: Ronna McDaniel, Harmeet Dhillon, Mike Lindell
- Co-Chair: Kyle Hupfer, Drew McKissick, Michael Whatley
- Treasurer: K.C. Crosbie, Joe Gruters
- Secretary: Vicki Drummond, Kelli Ward

By RNC rules, the vote was conducted by private ballot with each officer position handled separately (*i.e.*, no joint tickets).

- The Chair race was decided after one round of voting.
 - Ronna McDaniel was re-elected with 111 votes. Harmeet received 51 votes and Mike received 4 votes.
- The Co-Chair was decided after three rounds of voting.
 - Drew McKissick from South Carolina is our new Co-Chair.
 - The members also gave a heartfelt goodbye to our previous Co-Chair Tommy Hicks. Tommy is truly beloved by everybody at the RNC. He is a kindhearted and trusted resource in the world of finances. After 4 years of genuine commitment to the RNC, he wants to spend more time with his wife and girls. You will be missed, dear friend!
- The Treasurer was decided after one round of voting.
 - K.C. Crosbie from Kentucky was elected.
- The Secretary was decided after one round of voting.
 - Vickie Drummond from Alabama was re-elected.

Here are my take-home messages:

As we begin to look forward to 2024, we have serious disagreement(s) within our party. We disagree on why the 2022 election was lost. We disagree on how to proceed. We will disagree on who we believe should lead our party—be it at the national level as our next presidential nominee, or at the RNC, or at the state level as our next state chair, or even at the local and precinct levels. There will be disagreement. This is just a fact.

There were two things I found quite insightful and impactful from Kellyanne’s talk to the RNC regarding this very topic. First, competition is good. Desirable even. She reminded us that “we are the party of competition.” Steel sharpens steel, and we need the competition to make sure we are all ready for 2024. So, we need to welcome disagreement particularly within our own party.

Second, let’s disagree, but we need to be civil with each other. Fight the idea, not the person. This past election cycle got ugly, and even included death threats- to me and others. Passion is good. Violence, anger, and the threats of use are not. How can we be the party of family values, loving our neighbors, and praying to whatever God you so choose, when some of our members’ actions are hypocritical to those very beliefs?

Moving forward, we need to concentrate on winning back the White House in 2024. I will work hard to make sure this involves a well-executed strategy focused on outreach to the minority communities of our country.

Firing Nancy Pelosi was only the first step. Let’s welcome disagreement, remain civil, and figure out a path to victory in 2024. Together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vera Ortegon

Republican National Committeewoman-CO

P.S. To review past reports and for more information, please visit www.VeraRNC.com