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National Committeewoman Vera Ortegon

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<<First Name>>,

What an incredible and magnificent week! Not just for those in attendance, but for our country at-large. From 1/17/17 to 1/19/17, the Republican National Committee (RNC) held their Winter Meeting, and on 1/20/17, the nation celebrated the peaceful transfer of power from one party to another—one of the most spectacular components of our democracy and the envy of much of the world—with the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Michael R. Pence; both in Washington, D.C.

Here is my report from both the Winter Meeting and the events surrounding the Inauguration.

WINTER MEETING (1/17/17 to 1/19/17)

CONSERVATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Ed Meese (Former Attorney General for President Ronald Reagan), Leonard Leo (from the Federalist Society), and John Ryder (RNC Attorney) spoke to us about the upcoming Supreme Court nomination and how the next Justice will be chosen from the “List of 21.”
- The panel felt the next Justice should have certain qualities:
 - Federal and state experience;
 - Dealt with tough and thorny issues; and
 - Worked with and defended the Constitution.
- In the words of late Justice Scalia, “if you think that the Bill of Rights is what sets America apart, you are crazy. It is the Constitution.” As such, his replacement should be a Justice who is a great conservative and makes decision based on the Constitution, and not what is politically correct or politically easy.

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BUDGET COMMITTEE:

- The key message from this committee was the transformation witnessed under Chairman Reince Priebus.
- When Mr. Priebus became Chairman, the RNC carried a debt of approx. \$25 million. Today, the RNC maintains a surplus of \$25 million. In the 6 years under his leadership, the RNC had a positive swing of over \$50 million in the budget. The RNC is **solvent and debt free**.
- This gives us twice as much cash on hand as the Democratic National Committee currently has.
- The initial budget for fundraising and expenditure activities for fiscal year 2016 was set at \$151 million; which was easily surpassed to \$225 million.
- The budget for 2017 was set at \$113.7 million.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Seven Resolutions were approved during this session:

1. Resolution Commending Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.
2. Resolution Commending Republican National Committee Co-Chairman Sharon Day.
3. Resolution Thanking Republican Presidential Electors.
4. Resolution Commending The Historic Presidential Election Of Donald J. Trump And Supporting Him To Make America Great Again.
5. Resolution Commending The 2016 Republican Party Platform.
6. Resolution of Recognition For The First Black Congressmen.
7. Resolution In Support Of Israel And Opposition To UN Resolution 2334 And The Paris Peace Conference.

GENERAL SESSION:

- In their final meeting as Chairman and Co-Chairwoman, Reince Priebus and Sharon Day gave heartfelt goodbyes and thanked the RNC staff for their tireless efforts during the election season. They are the true heroes of our party and deserve more credit than they get.
- The RNC committee members voted Ronna Romney-McDaniel as our next Chairwoman and Bob Paduchik as our next Co-Chairman.

THE INUGURATION AND OTHER EVENTS (1/19/17 to 1/20/17)

- “Victory Reception” Honoring Reince Priebus and Sharon Day. Mr. Priebus emphasized some interesting numbers.
 - Republican hold 69 of 99 legislative chamber majorities.
 - Republicans have gained nearly 1000 legislative chamber seats since 2009.

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- 7,600 paid staff with 13 battleground states during this election cycle.
- 24 million doors knocked and 26 million calls made during this election cycle
- 50.9 million targeted Get Out The Vote (GOTV) emails during this election cycle
- President Trump won over 2,600 counties nationwide— the most since President Reagan in 1984.
- President Trump won over 62 million votes in the popular vote, the highest of all-time for a Republican nominee.
- I attended the following events as the Colorado National Committeewoman:
 - The Welcome Concert at the Lincoln Memorial.
 - A Dentons event featuring former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich.
 - The 2017 Latino Inaugural Ball.
 - 58th Presidential Inauguration Swearing-In Ceremony.
 - The Presidential Inaugural Parade.
 - The Freedom Inauguration Ball.

Here are my take-home messages:

1. Priebus was one of the best Chairman the Republican National Committee ever had. Without exaggeration. See the chart below to see the progress we made under his leadership. And we know Mr. Priebus will perform admirably as Chief of Staff to the White House.
2. We wish our new Chairwoman, Ronna Romney-McDaniel, and her new Co-Chairman, Bob Paduchik, the best of luck. They have big shoes to fill, but we have faith they will perform admirably for our party and nation.
3. The men and women of law enforcement and our military kept us safe and secure. We—as a society—owe them our respect and a debt of gratitude; which was made more apparent to those who attended a high-visibility event such as the Inauguration of the President, and particularly during the unfortunate incidents surrounding the protests.

	2009	2016
White House	Democrat	Republican (+1)
State Governorships	22 Republicans 28 Democrats	33 Republicans (+5) 16 Democrats (-6) 1 Independent (+1)
State Legislatures	Republican controlled both chambers in 14 states. Democrats controlled both chambers in	Republicans control both chambers in 32 states (+18), including 17 with veto-proof majorities.

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			chambers have veto-proof majorities.
		Republican held 889 of 1,971 total.	Republicans hold 1,089 of a total of 1,972 total (+200 seats)
		Democrats held 1,024 of the 1,971 total.	Democrats hold 823 of a total of 1,972 total (-201 seats)
		Republicans held 2,334 of the total 5,411 total.	Republicans hold 3,029 of the total 5,411 total (+695 seats).
		Democrats held 3,058 of the total 5,411 total.	Democrats hold 2,340 of the total 5,411 total (-718 seats)

Once again, I want to thank each of you for allowing me to represent you at the RNC. This past week reminded me how special America truly is. To witness the peaceful transfer of power made me proud to be an American, and should make every American proud. It is time for us to come together as a country and support our President. His success is our success and we all need to put American First.

Respectfully submitted,



Vera Ortegón
 Colorado RNC National Committeewoman

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