



Monday, January 2, 2017

Dear State Central Committee Member:

Unity. It's the word that many Republicans are talking about now that our elections are over.

Over the past four years Ohio Republicans have won elections at the state, federal, and local level at historic rates. Ohio has fully recovered from the disastrous Strickland years. We've been able to focus on job creation, tax relief, protecting life and our constitutional rights, expanding school choice, and so many other critical issues by first electing the conservative leaders to office willing to fight for these principles. Our entire statewide ticket was elected by double digit victories in 2014, we have built our legislative majorities to the largest they've ever been, and we've maintained a 6-1 majority on Ohio's Supreme Court.

Ohio also delivered for Donald Trump and Mike Pence, and returned Rob Portman and all 12 of our GOP members of Congress to Republican majorities in the US Capitol to turn the tide on 8 years of Obama-era policies that weakened our economy and made us less safe at home and on the world stage. Indeed, it is an exciting time to be a Republican in Ohio.

Now it's time to decide who is in the best position to lead our party as we head into the next election cycle.

In 2013 I inherited a State Party that was deeply in debt. We had just come off an election cycle where we failed to deliver Ohio for our nominee for President, lost our US Senate race, and lost a Supreme Court race for the first time in a dozen years. Statewide elected Republicans were openly fighting with one another. In short, I had my hands full.

I took on the honor and responsibility of serving as Ohio's Republican Party Chairman and got to work. I did not accept the trappings of the job that other Chairmen had — a car, a driver, living expense, expense accounts, etc., instead directing additional resources to helping our candidates. Further, we worked hard to reestablish the trust of our statewide elected officials and provide them each with the support they needed. We worked closely with our Congressional delegation. We forged strong relationships with our House and Senate caucuses, and got directly engaged in Supreme Court races. I hit the road and spent countless days and nights traveling the state, meeting with local party organizations, speaking at Lincoln Day dinners, Fall festivals, Century Club events, and helping local candidates raise money. It's meant being on the road 4 or 5 nights a week for the past 3 ½ years, but it's been well worth it.

We brought the first debate to Cleveland in 2015. We also played host to the Convention, and welcomed our largest-ever group for our delegation events throughout the week.

When John Kasich dropped out of the race for President, I was among the first to announce my support for Donald Trump. I received my first phone call from Mr. Trump in early May, and we spoke for nearly

40 minutes discussing how to set up an organization for him to win here. I continued to speak with Mr. Trump, Corey Lewandowski, and Paul Manafort for several weeks as we discussed staffing, campaign visits, arranging endorsements, and other matters. I gave my unequivocal support to Bob Paduchik to be Trump's Ohio Campaign Director.

I assisted the campaign in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the days following the commotion, I stated in an email that I was still casting my vote for Donald J. Trump. While many were pulling their endorsements, the Trump campaign touted my support of him on the front page of their website. <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/media/ohio-gop-chair-im-voting-for-trump>

We continued to provide all necessary resources to the Trump campaign, including having their entire staff on our payroll, housing and executing the election day operation in our building, winning a court challenge when the Democrats tried to block our ability to observe voting at early vote centers and on Election Day, and countless other efforts to support the campaign.

Meanwhile, I've been called a liar, and have been subjected to completely untrue rumors being spread about the state party, our finances, and even me personally. This hardly sounds like unity to me.

I've called for an end to the vindictiveness. I sent Bob Paduchik a message on election night congratulating him, and another when he was announced as Deputy Co-Chair of the RNC. I called Donald Trump and congratulated him on Election night, and urged our Governor to do the same, which he did a few days later. Further, when Mr. Trump came to Columbus a few weeks later to meet with victims and first responders of the Ohio State terrorist attack, I urged the Governor to call Mr. Trump again – and he did. Governor Kasich offered to be a resource for the Trump team, and sent along his good wishes. Incoming White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus has subsequently reached out to the Governor's Chief of Staff and expressed his desire to "get this fixed." I wholeheartedly agree with him. Not because of my race for Chairman, or because of anyone's political future – but because that's what's best for our Country.

I'll continue to work to bring us together and unite as we head into the next round of elections. I understand my hands are full again, but my faith teaches me not to hold on to anger and personal grudges, but to forgive whatever grievances we may have toward each other. I know and like Jane Timken, appreciate the Timken family's efforts on the Party's behalf over many years, and would love to work with her in a meaningful way to continue to strengthen the Party moving forward. I'll put the same effort into unifying that I did when I was elected chair in 2013. Since then, we've enjoyed the best run of success the Ohio Republican Party has ever seen. I'll continue that hard work and help us keep the many successes of the past few years going.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and serve the Party in this capacity. It has been the honor of my professional life to do so. I humbly ask for your vote on Friday.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Borges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew J. Borges