

February 2, 2011

My fellow Republicans,

I would like to take this opportunity to formally announce my candidacy for Chair of the Rhode Island Republican Party and to respectfully ask for your support. In addition to this letter, I hope to talk with as many of you as possible about my thoughts for running and to hear your ideas on building our party into a competitive force.

Our Party is in a unique position right now. A majority of Rhode Islanders agree with us that smaller, more effective Government and bold, conservative solutions are necessary for our future success. Ultimately, we all share the same vision. We want more Republican victories. With humility, I believe that I can offer something of value toward obtaining that goal.

When I served as Chief of Staff to Governor Carcieri I saw firsthand how a terribly imbalanced legislature can deny our progress with ease. Now, along with General Assembly imbalance, we have a Governor that wants to raise the sales tax to solve our habitual budget problems. Additionally, he wants to ease the pressure on those who are here illegally, and enact Gay Marriage all in the name of economic development. Good grief! Now more than ever, we need to organize the like-minded majority and provide the support necessary to get that vote out for our candidates.

Over the last few years I have been lucky enough to serve on some winning campaign teams. I was fortunate to serve on Governor Carcieri's two winning campaigns and on his staff during his first administration. Also, I learned a great deal serving our party as the Chief of Staff to the Republican National Committee. Most recently, I was blessed to serve on the winning campaign of Governor Rick Scott of Florida, beating another Obama liberal for the Governor's mansion. I have seen winning campaigns and organizations up close.

While at the RNC I saw firsthand how focus and determination to stand on our principles can turn our fortunes around. We went from the Presidential Electoral loss of 2008 to substantial victories. We fought the liberal health care reform proposed by President Obama and Nancy Pelosi. We called out the most liberal ideas like single-payer and the Government Option. As America coalesced, we supported the efforts and campaigns of Chris Christie in New Jersey for Governor, and Bob McDonnell for Governor in Virginia, eventually, helping the campaign of Scott Brown right here in New England fill "the People's Seat," formerly let to Ted Kennedy, with a Republican.

No one person is responsible for any of those victories or for any of the victories that spread from them. Instead it is about candidates, and their supporters, and the voters ultimately deciding who will represent them. The Party does play an important, supporting role in the process though.

Together we can build a party that will play an effective role in winning elections here in Rhode Island. We can win seats in the General Assembly, in the cities and towns and beyond. Job one is to identify and organize like-minded Rhode Islanders. We can use different tools from the National Party and elsewhere when appropriate to do that. Then through consistent research and communication we will clearly lay out our case every day and build our base. We will use the expertise available at the National Party to assist us in establishing a first class get-out-the-vote effort. Meanwhile, we will build the coalitions necessary to fulfill our voter turnout program helping Republicans win.

Obviously, all of this takes money. The key is to show potential donors our progress toward victory, giving them comfort that they are investing in a winning effort. To do this we will establish contact with potential major donors and with those donors best approached with direct marketing techniques like mail and the internet. We will communicate with them on the issues, on our plans, and importantly, on why we so desperately depend on their help.

But money alone, without the courage to stand up for conservative principles, will not get us anywhere. We are on the front lines of a national war over the future of our country. If America wants to see how bad long-term Democrat party rule can be, they need only to look at Rhode Island. Even a conservative Republican Governor will not help us change the fundamental problems here. We simply must gain seats in our state legislature. Without that, our ideas will never be put into practice. We are ignored by the majority party. Our taxes increase as economic opportunities decrease. This is the Rhode Island we are confronted with, the house that Democrats built. It is past time for another direction and we can show the way.

Please know that I do not see myself as someone with all the answers. But I do work hard. I believe in our party's future. I would be honored to have your support, and I look forward to visiting with as many of you as I can.

Very truly yours,

Ken McKay