

Opinion / editorial

Part Three

**February 2024** On February 27th, a district court in “Hoekstra Country” (Kent County), a court venue apparently chosen by the plaintiffs, rules against Karamo, effectively removing her from office, pending a trial, which is later cancelled by the judge. It is a crushing blow to the grassroots and some key volunteers resign in disgust, seriously eroding the Karamo majority on the State Committee.

Pete Hoekstra kicks off his tenure by removing the Chairman and key election integrity activists from the Election Integrity Subcommittee. He changes its name to simply “Elections”. The displaced EI activists are then moved to subcommittees in which they have no expertise or interest, thereby gutting MIGOP’s Election integrity plans for 2024. His legal team subpoenas the sitting Secretary of MIGOP, who had served with impeccable honor and dignity. Having done nothing wrong, but in fear of expensive legal harassment, she complies with the subpoena and ultimately resigns.

In addition, the MIGOP Treasurer is removed, without her knowledge, from access to *Aristotle*, the critical FEC filing software she needs to do her job. On February 27th a software sales rep finally admits to her that her loss of access for several weeks is not a glitch, but the work of someone from MIGOP named “Paul”. To this day, she bravely refuses to resign and continues to be the official MIGOP Treasurer, yet she is blocked from accessing the files and accounts to do her job. This outrageous attack on the office of a sitting, elected MIGOP Treasurer and blatant denial of basic transparency also serves a more sinister purpose. Being locked out of the books prevents her from countering damaging false allegations of financial mismanagement under Karamo’s tenure.

The Presidential Primary is set for February 27th in Detroit with an historic new GOP Presidential District Caucus -- created and shepherded through the RNC process by Chair Karamo as an effective counter to Dem attempts to disenfranchise Republican voters. But Pete Hoekstra has been maneuvering to move the Presidential District Caucus from Detroit, where all the County Calls to Convention had declared it was being held, to his own turf in Grand Rapids. Leaving the Detroit event as it stands will allow pro-Karamo elements to call a vote to end the chair dispute once and for all -- the American way -- by a

VOTE of 2000 plus delegates, the same ones who elected her, not the ruling of one Kent County judge. The latter development is viewed as reprehensible to many Michigan Republicans as it means we are now, effectively, allowing a branch of government to pick our party leaders.

The wrenching venue change to Grand Rapids is essential for Pete as it allows him, not Karamo, to control the event, and as we later see, illegally and callously jettison a large chunk of the pro-Karamo delegates. The cancellation of the Detroit caucus is another body blow to the many volunteers who have worked for weeks in preparation for this historic event. As before, RINO Establishment MIGOP uses and abuses Republican volunteers, resulting in massive turnover.

### **March 2024.**

Hoekstra sets about disenfranchising 23 counties (all pro-Karamo) by refusing to accept their 100% pro-Trump delegates to the District Caucus in Grand Rapids, based on the contrived technicality that they submitted their lists of delegates to the Pro-Karamo, *official MIGOP Secretary*, (as called for explicitly in the RNC Rules), instead of to his designated flunky. Keeping out the 23 counties' delegates, known to overwhelmingly support Bernadette Smith for National Committeewoman, effectively rigs the election against her and keeps another amazing black conservative woman from representing Michigan. Candidate for National Committeeman, Pastor Ralph Rebandt, is also heavily favored by the disenfranchised delegates and suffers the same injustice.

At the State Committee meeting immediately following the caucus, Hoekstra's Vice Chair, in violation of Bylaws requiring the Chair to preside over each meeting, is appointed Chair of the meeting and proceeds to gavel through any and all attempts by Karamo supporters to address the disenfranchisement of delegates. In blatant violation of Roberts Rules, which grant delegates the right to appeal the decision of the Chair and bring the question to a vote, the acting Chair gaslights the several protesting members' motions and appeals and proceeds to other business. Protestations against the earlier illegal removal of individual pro-Karamo members from the State Committee are similarly ignored and gaveled through Soviet-style, without the possibility of discussion.

**April 2024.** In power since last February, Hoekstra fails epically to bring the weight of the party to bear on the critical April 16th Special Elections for State Representative in Warren (Macomb) and Westland (Wayne). If the GOP wins either of these races, the balance of power in the State House will shift strategically, denying the Democrats their current ability to ram virtually any horrendous, liberty-destroying legislation down GOP throats.

Alas, Hoekstra's MIGOP does no polling and fails to pick up signals that the Dems are vulnerable (they go on to muster a meager 13.6 percent turnout). But Team Hoekstra is AWOL and only 10.4% of Republicans show up in Westland. An even more pathetic 8.9% of registered GOP voters casts a ballot for the Republican in Warren and the chance to flip the House is lost.

**May 2024.** Fast becoming a pariah among the grassroots, "Patriot Act Pete" Hoekstra, the deep state-connected former Chairman of the U.S. House Select Intelligence Committee, casts the tie-breaking vote to disqualify the SC member Lori Skibo's election by an overwhelming majority to be a 9th District Delegate to the RNC Convention in Milwaukee. Like others before her, she had been removed by Pete's MIGOP based on "Pete's Rules", in direct violation of the official RNC rules, by which Skibo had abided. When, Chair Hoekstra has a chance to extend an olive branch of desperately needed unity by doing the right thing and voting for Lori to keep her seat, he chooses instead continued division. But the RNC Committee on Contests ultimately overturns his petty power move and finds for Mrs. Skibo on appeal. [Note: she attended the RNC Convention last month as the voters of the 9th District had originally intended].

**June 2024.** Pete's newly constituted Policy and Rules Subcommittee passes by an overwhelming majority a motion to require a \$20,000 filing fee to be paid by all future candidates for MIGOP Chair. Critics instantly dub it "the billionaire paywall" owing to the likelihood that it will raise a prohibitive bar to all but the wealthiest candidates – or those beholden to them -- and effectively block otherwise wonderful grassroots candidates, possessing exceptional leadership skills but lacking the financial connections needed to raise \$20,000 in a matter of months. (So much for getting money out of politics).

**July 2024** The Hoekstra Administration's proposed rules for the 2025 MIGOP State Convention are released and it's learned that (surprise!) the votes are to be counted by MACHINE. It's a complete slap in the face to all those who have been fighting to remove opaque "black box" voting machines. Of course, this is to be expected from the people who

change Election Integrity committees to “Elections,” who focus exclusively on getting out the vote and who acquiesce to the same absentee ballots and the same dirty voter rolls that led, more than anything else, to our current plight.

Stay tuned for more opinion and delegate-directed commentary from MI Constitutionalists. We strive to bring back adherence to the US Constitution as the internal measure of accountability for the GOP in Michigan.

MI Constitutionalists

August 2024

But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

-- James 1:22