

Motion to Remove Wendy Phillips

*from the position of CD 1 State Executive Committee Representative
effective immediately upon passage at the 5/13/24 CD 1 Central Committee Meeting*

Motion - CD 1 Elections Vice Chairman Lukas Severson
Second - CD 1 Deputy Chairman Nathan Peterson

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Important CD 1 & State Constitution/Bylaw Provisions

*Article IV, Section 5 of the CD 1 MNGOP Constitution - “Any elected Officer of the First District may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Central Committee at any duly called meeting when a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates in the opinion of said Committee that said Officer has had **serious malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of the duties** of said Office or said Committee believes that said Officer is no longer physically or mentally capable of performing the duties of said Office, and, in either case, said **Committee believes it is in the best interest of the First District that said Officer be removed from office.**”*

***Article III, Section 1 of the MNGOP Bylaws** - “The State Executive Committee shall have charge of the administration of Party affairs”*

*Article IV, Section 3 of the MNGOP Constitution - “The management of the affairs of the Party within each basic political organizational unit shall be **vested in the BPOU committee, subject to the direction of state** and Congressional District authorities as to matters within the scope of their respective functions.”*

*Article VIII, Section 2 of the MNGOP Constitution - “BPOU conventions shall be held annually within a range of dates established by the State Central Committee and **at the call of the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, the Congressional District committee or the BPOU committee.** The conventions shall precede Congressional District and State conventions. Special BPOU conventions may be held **at the call of the State Executive Committee, the State Central Committee, the Congressional District committee, or the BPOU committee** at such time and for such purpose as the committee calling the same may determine. BPOU conventions shall be held at a place determined by the respective committee issuing the call.*

Timeline

1. On Caucus night (2/27/24), the Otter Tail County (CD 7) Caucuses were improperly conducted and did not meet legal requirements. This was the County's second consecutive Caucus that was conducted improperly, creating a situation that has caused a number of issues for the County, CD 7, and the State. This is a situation that the CD 1 Republican Party doesn't want/need to be involved in.
 - The BPOU administration manipulated Caucus registration forms to include a requirement that Delegates/Alternates must support the endorsed candidate or risk losing their position
 - A large number of people attended the Caucus, voted out the BPOU-trained conveners, then failed to accomplish/meet legal requirements for a legitimately conducted Caucus
 - Neither side in the matter is right, both are wrong. Forms shouldn't have been manipulated by the BPOU administration, and the newly-elected conveners should have conducted the proper procedures to have a legitimately conducted Caucus
2. On 3/12/24, the State Executive Committee **voted** to establish a special committee to evaluate the Otter Tail County (OTC) situation and decide how to handle said situation.
3. On 3/21/24, Mrs. Phillips seconded two motions to "nullify" the special committee. **Both motions were ruled out of order, and the decision of the special committee stands to this day.**
4. On 4/5/24, the joint decision from the special committee was released. Part of that decision included:
 - "that no BPOU convention be held in OTC in 2024."
 - "that the CD 7 and state delegates elected in 2022 continue to serve at the 2024 CD 7 and state conventions."
 - "that if the Otter Tail County BPOU wants to be **recertified** in 2025, they must present to the state executive board by December of 2024 a consensus plan to work together with all Republicans in Otter Tail County. **The plan is already in the preliminary stages.**"
5. This decision was **agreed upon by all parties actually involved** in the OTC situation, and was voted on and **approved by the OTC board with a supermajority.**
6. On 4/13/24, an illegal/illegitimate, unsanctioned OTC Convention was held in New York Mills, MN, **chaired by Mrs. Phillips, a member of the very board that said such a Convention would not be recognized by any official party unit.**
7. On 4/14/24, an email was sent by one of the organizers of the illegitimate Convention that read "We were honored to have Wendy Phillips, an MNGOP Executive Board Member, chair our convention...John Palmer from CD6 served as the parliamentarian and, **together with Wendy, acknowledged the convention's legitimacy**"
8. At the 4/18/24 State Exec. meeting, Mrs. Phillips, even after being informed her actions were unconstitutional, stated she "would do it all over again".

Why Mrs. Phillips Should be Removed

1. Nonfeasance - Mrs. Phillips' actions were a direct act to undermine the board she was elected by CD 1 Republicans to sit upon. The responsibility of the CD 1 State Exec. Rep. is to represent the views of the CD 1 Central Committee on the State Exec. Committee, not to undermine the majority decisions of said Committee. It also begs the question, what will Mrs. Phillips do if she disagrees with a CD 1 decision such as an endorsement, a course of action, or an intra-party dispute resolution?
2. Unethical Behavior - In regards to *Article III, Section 1 of the MNGOP Bylaws (above)*, Mrs. Phillips' actions have demonstrated a clear lack of ethics as it pertains to respecting the will of the board she was elected to sit upon. The State Exec. Committee voted to form a special committee, and it was made clear that disrupting the agreed upon process would be indisputably out of order. Mrs. Phillips was, and continues to be, aware that her actions were in blatant conflict with the majority decision of the State Exec. Committee as well as the supermajority decision of the OTC board, and knew full well that her actions would be construed as a statement of legitimacy from the State Exec. Committee (see Timeline #7) and support from CD 1 as our representative.
3. Unconstitutional Actions - In regards to *Article IV, Section 3 of the MNGOP Constitution (above)*, Mrs. Phillips, as a BPOU Chair and member of the State Exec. Committee is aware that management of BPOU affairs are "vested in the BPOU Committee, **subject to the direction of the state and Congressional District authorities** as to matters within the scope of their respective functions." Both the State and CD 7 Republican Parties made determinations on the OTC situation in partnership with the BPOU administration. Mrs. Phillips is not the CD 7 State Exec. Rep., that is former State Representative Tim Miller, who was involved in the OTC process and is more than competent enough to handle matters within his own CD. Mrs. Phillips had no place injecting herself into another CD's affairs to take unconstitutional actions.
4. Misrepresenting the Views of CD 1 Republicans - Per the minutes of the 3/11/24 CD 1 Central Committee meeting under "Other Business", "Discussion was had on the caucus situation in Otter Tail County (CD7). Chairman Farris & Representative Phillips answered questions and gave updates on the situation. **The group consensus seemed to be that there were issues on both sides of the dispute and nobody was in the right.** The group expressed **gratitude that there are no similar situations in CD 1.**" That was the consensus after lengthy discussion. The consensus was not that Mrs. Phillips should take it upon herself to drive nearly 500 miles, pick a side in a toxic situation that she should have had nothing to do with aside from voting on State Exec., blatantly undermine the board she was elected to sit on, chair an illegitimate Convention, then tell dozens of innocent Party activists to go to the CD 7 Convention while she knew they legally could not be seated. This misrepresentation has frustrated CD 1 Republicans, confused our partners around the state, and has caused issues that have required CD 1 officers to intervene and correct the record, rather than spend that

time planning for our own CD Convention or working to elect Republicans in November.

5. **Chairing an Illegitimate/Illegal Convention** – This action speaks for itself. Mrs. Phillips knew entirely well that the 4/13/24 Convention she agreed to chair was not sanctioned by the Party and was not organized by the OTC board. Mrs. Phillips knew that the BPOU was directed not to have a Convention in 2024, and that if they did, that Convention and its results would not be recognized. Mrs. Phillips knew that this illegitimate Convention had no right to elect Delegates/Alternates to the CD 7 and State Conventions, yet she went ahead and did it regardless, which caused a multi-hour delay at the CD 7 Convention, which contributed to the outcome of their Congressional endorsement. Mrs. Phillips claims she supports Party unity and opposes infighting, then proceeds to immerse herself in one of the most polarizing situations in the Party. Her involvement was **not necessary**, it was **not helpful**, and it **continues to be damaging** to the CD 1 Republican Party both internally and with our partners across the state.

Respectfully Requested Action

We respectfully request that *Aaron Farris, Chairman of the Minnesota First Congressional District Republican Party*, add to the agenda of the 5/13/24 CD 1 Central Committee meeting under “New Business”, “Consideration of Removal of the CD 1 State Exec. Rep for Nonfeasance, Unethical Behavior, Unconstitutional Actions, Misrepresentation, and Chairing an Illegitimate/Illegal Convention”.

If Chairman Farris declines the request to add this item to the agenda, we would ask that he recognize someone to make an amendment to the meeting agenda on 5/13/24.

Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A of the CD 1 Constitution states “**The Chair shall have the authority to investigate the malfeasance or nonfeasance of any First District Officer and shall take such actions as are necessary to see that the important, essential and legally required duties of any Officer are faithfully discharged until a properly convened Executive Committee or Central Committee meeting considers the situation and potential removal of said Officer.**”

Due to the aforementioned concerns of misrepresentation, we would also request that, if possible, Chairman Farris attend and observe any State Exec. meetings held before the 5/13/24 CD 1 Central Committee meeting to ensure CD 1’s views are being accurately communicated and represented.

Pursuant to *Article XVI, Section 2 of the MNGOP Constitution*, we have sent this report to Mrs. Phillips with **more than the ten (10) days required notice** for such a removal.

Conclusion

Everyone on CD 1's Central Committee has served on numerous boards both in and out of politics. If someone disagrees with the decision of a board they sit on or loses a vote, they can complain, scream, throw a fit, etc. But the second that person begins to undermine the board they sit on and its majority decisions, that is when the situation becomes both **unethical and unprofessional**.

[Picture shows Mrs. Phillips undermining the State Exec. Committee by chairing the 4/13/24 illegitimate Convention]

At CD 1's Central Committee in March, the conclusion that the group came to was that we didn't want anything to do with OTC, both sides were wrong, and that was the end of it. At no point was there any support voiced for Mrs. Phillips to insert herself into another CD, in a situation that she had nothing to do with, and begin playing around in a very toxic situation that, due in part to her involvement, escalated to the point that it delayed a CD Convention by hours. How would we feel if another CD Rep. came into CD 1 and did the exact same thing?



The question at hand is if we care about ethics, professionalism, our CD 1 and State Constitutions, and our cooperation with partners across the state that multiple CD 1 leaders have spent over a decade building. Mrs. Phillips' actions are unethical, unprofessional, and unbecoming of the office we elected her to hold. She has shown no remorse for her actions (she actually doubled down) and has consistently misrepresented the voice of the CD 1 Central Committee.

This is a problem waiting to become a bigger problem, and it's escalating at an alarming rate. We believe that Mrs. Phillips has used her position as more of a launching pad for her own ambitions rather than a position to represent the CD 1 Central Committee, and we believe that she doesn't possess the proper skills for a position where she is supposed to be voicing other people's positions rather than her own. The decision to form a special committee was voted on by the State Exec. Committee. That decision was reinforced when the motions to void the committee were ruled out of order. If she can't respect the decisions of her peers, how can we expect her to respect the decisions and messages we want communicated to the State Exec. Committee?

Quite frankly, we believe that enough is enough. We ask that the CD 1 Central Committee take appropriate action, do what's best is in the best interest of CD 1, and remove Mrs. Phillips from the position of CD 1 State Exec. Rep. Too much is at stake this year to let these actions and behaviors continue.