

May 2, 2024

Dear State Committee,

Thomas Jefferson's said "*We do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.*" *This has never been more true as we reflect on the 2024 NDGOP State Convention on April 5 & 6 in Fargo, ND.*

The statewide delegation came to engage in the convention processes. These individuals care about our country, state, and future. The Convention Committee, under the direction of Carrie McLeod, planned, coordinated, and executed the event. We're grateful for the NDSU facility for hosting a delegation of over 1,600 North Dakota Republicans under one roof. To ensure good work was done it was imperative to have great sound, lighting, and video capability for the delegation to see and partake.

Personally, my mission was to allow all voices to be heard and ensure that all who want to participate have the opportunity. I trusted if I built the framework for all voices to be heard that the delegates, in turn, would honor the convention's parliamentary rules. But in the race for our endorsement to the U.S. House, a tactic was used to strain the process and ultimately make a point. The methods used by competing factions don't always sit well with us.

Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak and newcomer Alex Balaz were the two candidates seeking NDGOP endorsement. Both candidates displayed grace, steadiness, and wisdom during the chain of events. Alex Balaz walked away as the NDGOP endorsed candidate and we have been pleased and impressed with his friendly demeanor, decorated career, and institutional knowledge. Balaz is a strong candidate. He has the courage and guts to take on Washington, DC.

Adjourning April 6, the Delegates would return to their home districts to debate about who the 'real winners' were. As for the NDGOP, we were ready to start our work on behalf of candidate campaigns if it hadn't been for a clerical error identified when the results of resolutions votes were released on April 8. That little mistake provided an opportunity to identify improvements to balloting and tallying in ways we never would have discovered without it. While the mistake did not change any results, the recount that followed uncovered errors in the tally that showed one adopted resolution in fact failed—hard lessons learned, but worth the trouble.

The convention is history and as we reflect we're keenly aware there is much to do. Our hope at NDGOP is to focus on campaign season as the endorsed candidates require our service and assistance. Our Campaign Committee is mobilizing to work their tails off for Governor candidate Congressman Kelly Armstrong, Congressional candidate Alex Balaz, and all the Republican Statewide candidates.

June 11, 2024. Get that on your calendar and make it count.

On to victory,



Sandra Sanford
Chairwoman
North Dakota Republican Party