

Evidence of malfeasance within the Park County Republican Central Committee (PCRCC)

The following will provide evidence that members of the PCRCC leadership publicly and actively campaigned for the Democrat Candidate Ashley Girodo instead of the Republican Candidate Dave Wissel, for Park County Commissioner District 3. As you will see below, it went well beyond just campaigning for the Democrat Candidate, the following individuals publicly ridiculed and lied about the Republican Candidate, Dave Wissel. Although Dave Wissel won the Commissioner seat for District 3, their actions during the campaign cycle constitute a breach of etiquette, a blatant disregard for the will of the People and a betrayal of the Republican Party. We believe that the individuals below have caused significant harm to the function and reputation of the Park County GOP and the Colorado GOP as a whole.

Dick Elsner, Commissioner District 1, Deb Elsner, PCRCC Chair, and Monica Jones, PCRCC 1st Vice Chair, used their positions to influence many Republican and Unaffiliated voters to support the Democrat Candidate.

Please review the evidence of malfeasance by Dick and Deb Elsner and Monica Jones included below.

A) Deb Elsner, PCRCC Chairperson:

- 1) Democrat campaign literature was sent by Deb Elsner via Facebook on 7/23/22 to a Park County citizen.



- 2) John Woodward's statement confirming Deb Elsner's campaign efforts for the Democrat Candidate.

John Woodward's account of Deb and Dick Elsner campaigning for Democrat Candidate, Ashley Girodo, running for County Commissioner in District 3, at the Park County Livestock Committee meeting on August 15, 2022:

From: woodwardcattle@wispertel.net <woodwardcattle@wispertel.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Amy Mitchell <amy@glenellenranch.us>
Subject: livestock committee meeting

Below is my recollection of what transpired at the Aug 15, 2022 meeting of the Park County Livestock committee meeting held at the Shawnee community center.

When the committee chair adjourned the meeting, I got up to leave and noticed that there were fliers for Ashley Girodo, running for Park County Commissioner. The fliers were on a table in front of Dick and Deb Elsner. When I walked by they asked me to take a flier, and I said no. Dick said we need to do what's best for Park County. I left after that.

John Woodward

3) Steve Benninghoven's statement confirming Deb Elsner's campaign efforts for the Democrat Candidate.

Steve Benninghoven's account of Deb and Dick Elsner campaigning for Democrat Candidate, Ashley Girodo, running for County Commissioner in District 3, at the Park County Livestock Committee meeting on August 15, 2022:

----- Original Message -----

On Tuesday, September 6th, 2022 at 9:24 PM, steven benninghoven <stetsonrf608@hughes.net> wrote:

I was at the Park County Livestock Committee in Aug. like every month. Richard and Deb Elsner showed up there and they have not been to a meeting in over a year. I thought this was a little odd. When I went to the restroom during the meeting, I walk past the two of them and saw flyers for Ashley on the table in front of both of them. After the meeting I saw both of them talking to committee members and handing them the flyers. They did not ask me or try to hand me a flyer.

Steve Benninghoven

4) Republican Chairperson Deb Elsner wrote an article titled the Republican Perspective in the Park County Flume newspaper on November 17, 2022. Park County Republican/Unaffiliated voters had just elected a clean sweep of Republican's on November 4, 2022. Here is the Republican Chair's "Victory" article in the Flume Newspaper:

Flume article by Deb Elsner on November 17, 2022: *The Republican Perspective*

Sad thing Number one:

.....Let's look at what happened this time in Park County and Colorado.

The 2022 elections are on track to cost \$16.7 billion at the state and federal level, making them the most expensive midterms ever, according to the nonpartisan OpenSecrets.

Park County Commissioner-elect Dave Wissel also had the most expensive election in the history of the county. His campaign spent close to \$20,000. Park County recorded 10,167 votes cast in 2022. In 2018 there were 12,435 votes cast. Fewer voters voting.

Number two sad thing:

For Park County is that the South Park Outsiders dba Ratified1788 wrote the "vote against" statements in the white book which goes to every voter in the county and filled those statements with lies and mis-information. Gary Fisk was the author, and there currently is not law or rule which governs fact checking the county ballot books like there is in the blue book for state issues. That means that the people pushing "against" an issue got a free mailing to all voters.

(Note: Deb Elsner is referencing Ballot Issue 1A, a 1% sales tax increase. This was opposed by Republican Candidate Dave Wissel and supported by the Democrat Candidate, Ashley Girodo, Dick and Deb Elsner and Monica Jones. The Ballot Issue 1A failed. Gary Fisk, is a highly regarded and respected Park County resident.)

Number three sad thing:

For Colorado is that Republicans lost 7 seats.

"Honestly I think Colorado Republicans need to take this and learn the lesson that the party is dead. This was an extinction-level event," said Republican state Rep. Colin Larson. "This was the asteroid that ended the reign of the dinosaur, and in this case, the dinosaur was the Republican Party."

He was already the last Republican representing the suburban county just west of Denver. That's a huge shift from just a decade ago when Jeffco was considered one of the swing regions of the country. He thinks it's going to take a seismic shift to turn things around and said both the local and national party must fully repudiate former President Donald Trump, the January 6th insurrection, and election denialism. He believes only then would enough voters in the state even consider Republicans as a "serious viable option".....

Link to Flume article: [Republican Perspective | Opinion | theflume.com](https://www.theflume.com/Republican-Perspective-Opinion)

B) Dick Elsner, Park County Commissioner, former State GOP Treasurer.

1) Transcript of Dick Elsner's automated phone message to Park County Republican's and Unaffiliated voters. This recording was received by a Park County Republican (who wishes to remain anonymous) on their voice mail Oct. 27, 2022.

From: 719.445.6740 11:47 a.m.

"This is Park County Commissioner Richard Elsner urging you to vote for Ashley Girodo for Park County Commissioner. The County needs someone who is young, intelligent, and willing to work for the betterment of Park County. Her opponent is a bitter old man who only can only tear the

County down and has no plans on how to improve our affordable housing problem, provide safety for our citizens and move the county forward. Again, please join me in voting for Ashley Girodo for Park County Commissioner. Paid for by Park County Democrats."

2) The signed letter Dick Elsner sent to Park County Republicans and Unaffiliated voters supporting the Democrat Candidate and maligning the Republican Candidate (see below).



For Park County this election is a crossroad. The choice is, do you want to go back to the good old days of special privileges that were common in the Assessor's office under Mr. Wissel, or do you want to keep Park County moving forward. Do you want someone who will give himself and his friend's tax breaks, or do you want someone who will treat everyone fairly. Do you want a bitter old man who says basically Park County Sucks, or do you want a young, bright, energetic young woman who will use her energy to promote and improve Park County.

Mr. Wissel says that Park County lacks leadership and yet offers no solutions. His response to the crisis we have with staffing in the Sheriff's office is that he will find the money in the budget, but in reality he doesn't have any idea about budgets and the budget process. He wants to defund the Sheriff's office when we need it the most. He says that he doesn't think a sales tax to fund one department is proper, but Fremont, El Paso, and Teller counties did just that because they felt it was the best route to obtain the funding they need. He claims he wants transparency in the budget, yet for 38 years as head of the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District there has been no transparency on how they are spending your tax money.

When he was voted out of the Assessor's office he told staff he wanted to leave the office with "four flat tires". He paid over \$3,000.00 for his lavish going away party with county funds. He paid for classes and certification for one of his employees even though she was quitting her job. He continued the full time salary for another employee after they moved from the county and took a full time position with CDOT in southern Colorado. In his last 10 years in office he exceeded his budget 7 of them.

We need to keep Park County moving forward and Ashley Girodo will help with continuing to make it a better place to live. In the last few years Park county government has worked to help keep the Clinic in Fairplay open. We are working to provide workforce housing in Fairplay and Bailey by partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. We helped start bus service by working with Summit Stage, Breckenridge, Summit County, Fairplay and Alma. We worked with CDOT to get grants so Fairplay can complete the River Walk from the Beach to US285. We worked with Alma to help in the construction of their river walk. We worked with Harris Park to add a new playground. Through the South Park Heritage area we were able to secure funding to complete the restoration of the Paris Mill. Because of our work with CDOT we were able to get them to complete the passing lanes south of Fairplay, repair a couple of bridges in the county, and hopefully complete the HWY9/US285 project and complete the work needed to keep downtown Bailey safe.

Please look at the two candidates. Ashley Girodo talks about what we can do to make the county better. She understands the problems facing our county in housing, the lack of health facilities that include mental health, economic opportunity, care for our seniors, better internet access and maintenance of our infrastructure. Her opponent only tears down the county and says that he will tear apart the budget, which his record shows he really doesn't understand. He has repeatedly stated that "it is a cushy job and he is in it for the money".

Please join me in voting for Ashley Girodo, someone who sees all the potential of Park County and will work to make it even better.


Richard Elsner

Paid for by Concerned Citizens for Park County

3) Dick Elsner's removal from State GOP Treasurer position.

On Oct. 24, 2022, Dick Elsner was removed as the State GOP Treasurer for campaigning for the Democrat Candidate, Ashley Girodo. In an interview with the Editor of the Flume Newspaper, Dick Elsner boasts about his removal, which shows no remorse for his actions.

Flume article: *Elsner resigns post as Treasurer for Colorado Republican Party*

Elsner: "I have absolutely no regrets."

By Kelly R. Kirkpatrick Editor

Oct 27, 2022

Park County District 2 Commissioner Richard Elsner resigned his post as Treasurer for the Colorado Republican Party Oct. 24.

Elsner says he was asked to provide his resignation by Kristi Burton Brown, Chairwoman for that organization, and that he did so shortly after the request was made.

Brown's request came as a result of Elsner's public endorsement of Ashley Girodo, a Democratic candidate for the District 3 Commissioner's post in Park County. Elsner has been vocal in his support for Girodo in recent weeks, and submitted a letter to the editor in last week's edition of The Flume which outlined his reasons for favoring Girodo over Republican candidate Dave Wissel.

That public support was a violation of GOP bylaws, which prohibit party officers from publically supporting non-Republican candidates.

Elsner was asked how he felt following the submission of his resignation, and whether he regretted his public support for Girodo.

"I feel great, and I have absolutely no regrets," Elsner said in an Oct. 24 interview. "I believe Ashley represents the best option in the District 3 Commissioners race. Looking out for Park County comes first, and this case the quality of candidates trumps political party affiliations. So, politics be damned."

Elsner also said he anticipated blowback for openly supporting a Democratic candidate, and that he was fully aware of GOP bylaws forbidding him from doing so.

"I expected to hear from the state, and was not suprised when asked to resign," Elsner added.

Elsner also provided his resignation letter to The Flume for publication, which is printed below in its entirety.....

Link to Flume article: [Elsner resigns post as Treasurer for Colorado Raepublican Party | News | theflume.com](https://www.theflume.com/news/elsner-resigns-post-as-treasurer-for-colorado-republican-party)

C) Monica Jones, former PCRCC 1st Chair and current Park County Assessor.

- 1) **Monica Jones "temporarily" resigned on September 15, 2022, as PCRCC 1st Chair to publicly campaign for the Democrat Candidate.**

Monica Jones started the Committee, **“Concerned Citizens for Park County”** on 9/26/2022, the purpose listed on Tracer is: **TO SUPPORT AND CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE, ASHLEY GIRODO, FOR PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3.** See Tracer file below.

Purpose: TO SUPPORT AND CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE, ASHLEY GIRODO, FOR PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3.



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[Campaign Finance Manual \(PDF\)](#)

Committee Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name: | CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR PARK COUNTY | Committee ID: | 20225042697 |
| Physical Address: | 79 FOSSIL LANE | Committee Type: | Independent Expenditure Committee |
| Mailing Address: | HARTSEL CO 80449 PO BOX 908 FAIRPLAY CO 80640 | Status: | Active |
| Phone: | 303-867-2017 Fax: | Date Registered: | 09/26/2022 |
| Web: | | Date Terminated: | |
| Purpose: | TO SUPPORT AND CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE, ASHLEY GIRODO, FOR PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3. | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Registered Agent: | TIM JONES | Phone: | 303-867-2017 | Email: | TIMJ110822@GMAIL.COM |
| Designated Filing Agent: | MONICA JONES | Phone: | 303-867-2017 | Email: | MJONES110822@GMAIL.COM |

Organization Type: Other

Percent of ownership interest by foreign persons: 0.00%

Parent, Subsidiary, DBA Names, and Other Affiliated Organizations

No Associated Entries found

Financial Summary Finance History

This data is current as of: OCTOBER 31, 2022 - REPORT OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Period end date: 10/31/2022 Filed on: 10/31/2022

Election Cycle: 2022 2 YEAR CYCLE (12/4/2020 - 12/8/2022)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$0.00 | Less Total Expenditures: | \$1,863.58 |
| Plus Total Donations: | \$2,738.09 | Less Total Loans Repaid: | \$0.00 |
| Plus Total Loans Received: | \$0.00 | Ending Balance: | \$894.71 |

Filing History Filter By: All Report Types

| Description | Period Begin | Period End | Run Date | Filed Date | Amended | Status |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|---------------------|---------|--------|
| OCTOBER 31, 2022 - REPORT OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES | 10/13/2022 | 10/28/2022 | 10/31/2022 | 10/31/2022 08:47 AM | No | Filed |
| OCTOBER 17, 2022 - REPORT OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES | 09/28/2022 | 10/12/2022 | 10/17/2022 | 10/17/2022 01:54 PM | No | Filed |
| OCTOBER 4, 2022 - REPORT OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES | 09/15/2022 | 09/28/2022 | 10/04/2022 | 10/03/2022 03:09 PM | No | Filed |
| Independent Expenditure Committee Registration | | | | 09/26/2022 12:24 PM | Yes | Filed |

Filings Due

| Description | Period Begin | Period End | Due Date |
|--|--------------|------------|------------|
| DECEMBER 13, 2022 - REPORT OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES | 10/27/2022 | 12/06/2022 | 12/13/2022 |

Penalties

Information regarding late filings or penalties imposed prior to January 1, 2010 can be found by searching the relevant Document Images associated with a candidate or a committee, by looking in the candidate or committee's Filing History for discrepancies between report due dates and the date reports were filed, or by contacting the Secretary of State's Office.

No penalties found

Complaints

No complaints found

- 2) The campaign banner Monica Jones' Committee created for the Democrat Candidate, was posted at various locations in Park County, often on Highway 285 during busy traffic periods in Bailey and on the fence of Deb and Dick Elsner's home. Below is a picture of Dick and Deb Elsner's home fence prior to the 2022 General Election.

