

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Alex Floyd, DNC Rapid Response Director

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2024

RE: Donald Trump's MI GOP Enters 2024 Weaker Than Ever

Michigan Republicans Enter 2024 With a Weak Operation and a Losing Agenda

As eyes turn to Michigan ahead of their presidential nominating contests, a Republican operative involved in Michigan's 2024 races [said](#) they were "basically just acting as if there's no state party," leaving many to brace for impact in the battleground state.

After years of pledging fealty to Trump and running to the extreme far-right, the Michigan GOP is faced with virtually no real leadership or structure and a negative bank account.

As Trump heads back to Michigan this weekend to try to juice his support ahead of the primary, the Michigan GOP is in worse shape than ever and poised to again embrace an agenda that has cost them election after election.

Ever Since Trump Was Elected, the Michigan Republican Party Has Veered to the Extreme Right and Devolved Into Chaos – and It Continues to Cost Them Financially and at the Ballot Box.

The Michigan GOP Is In Complete Structural Chaos and Disarray: Under the leadership of MAGA extremist Kristina Karamo, the Michigan GOP has struggled financially while key members of the party have faced charges over their fake electors scheme. Michigan Republicans have tried to put out the dumpster fire of Karamo's leadership, but she refuses to leave quietly, escalating a full-on revolt in the party.

- According to their bank, the Michigan GOP defaulted on a \$500,000 loan and hadn't made payments in months.
- Karamo's team reportedly kept the Michigan GOP budget committee in the dark about their crazy spending, scaring away major donors who were urged to donate elsewhere.
- MI GOP's problems don't end with their finances: In July 2023, Michigan's attorney general filed felony charges against 16 Republicans who [acted as fake electors](#) for Donald Trump in 2020 – including several [Michigan Republican Party officials or lawmakers](#).
- Finally fed up with her ["tyrannical incompetent dumpster fire,"](#) a group of Michigan GOP officials [voted](#) to remove Karamo in a disputed proceeding that will likely end up in court and has already gone all the way to the RNC.

- Karamo [refused](#) to accept the results of that election, too, resulting in a [lawsuit](#) from state Republicans.
- Michigan Republicans' infighting has gotten so bad they have begun to literally, [physically](#), fight each other – and [could disrupt](#) their March 2 presidential caucuses as they head into the contest in the midst of an ongoing leadership fight.

MI GOP Losing Knows No Limit Thanks to Its Growing Extremism: Ever since Trump was elected and the Michigan GOP embraced his extreme MAGA agenda of election denialism, creating incentives to send manufacturing jobs overseas, and banning abortion, Republicans in the state have lost race after race, with no sign of that changing any time soon.

- Republicans in Michigan had their [worst performance](#) in decades – with candidates like DePerno, Dixon, and Karamo losing by massive margins, Republicans lost control of the state House and Senate as well as congressional seats.
 - The Michigan GOP establishment [pointed](#) most of the blame at Trump and his widespread influence on their candidates.
- Former Michigan GOP executive director Jason Roe said many Republicans [called](#) 2022 “rock bottom” – yet they’re running the exact same playbook for 2024.

New GOP Chair Shows MI GOP Still Hasn't Learned Their Lesson: After all of the chaos surrounding Karamo's ousting, the state party decided to double down on their extremism headed into 2024, electing Pete Hoekstra, another Trump-aligned MAGA extremist, as the new Michigan GOP chair.

- Even Trump recognized the MI GOP had gone off the rails, and [recognized](#) Hoekstra, a former Trump administration official, as Michigan GOP chair amid the ongoing leadership dispute.
- Hoekstra is a MAGA disciple who has already committed to helping Trump win Michigan and has his own extreme record to boot.
 - He's an [anti-abortion extremist](#).
 - He's an [anti-LGBTQ+ bigot](#).
 - He wants to [rip away access](#) to affordable health care from hundreds of thousands of Michiganders.
 - He's also [railed against](#) the Inflation Reduction Act, despite Michigan leading an EV manufacturing boom with help from President Biden's leadership.
 - And he was a [huge proponent](#) of Trump's extreme and cruel Muslim travel ban.

As Donald Trump prepares to return to Michigan this weekend, the Michigan Republican Party could not be in a worse position for the 2024 general election, facing bankruptcy, brawls at committee meetings, and fierce leadership infighting. The common denominator in their descent into chaos and disarray is the party's embrace of Donald Trump's extreme (and losing) MAGA agenda, setting them up for yet another loss this November.