

Darrell Issa <[darrell@issaforcongress.org](mailto:darrell@issaforcongress.org)>:

Dear 2024-2028 Central Committee Members,

A hallmark of the American way of life is fairness. When accusations are made, it is the responsibility of the accuser to provide evidence to substantiate their claims. Otherwise, such accusations devolve into ad hominem attacks that border on slander rather than constructive argument.

Assemblyman DeMaio has accused Chairman Corey Gustafson of misappropriating funds. In response, I requested evidence to support this serious allegation in two separate emails on November 30. Even when presented with RPSDC's financial disclosures, Mr. DeMaio failed to provide any evidence to back up his claim. Instead, he pivoted to a different accusation of "misrepresenting stats"—again, without any evidence.

Additionally, Mr. DeMaio alleged that "Lincoln Club leadership" had caught Chairman Gustafson lying. However, on November 28th, Lincoln Club Chairman Dan Hom and Chairman-elect Scott Bedingfield released a statement (attached) clarifying that the Lincoln Club "did not authorize the use of its name in connection with these disputes, nor have we made any official decisions in or statements regarding the leadership or internal dynamics of the San Diego Republican Party or other entities."

As a former Chairman of the Lincoln Club, I can personally attest that individual members of the organization do not speak for the Club as a whole. Only the Chairman and the Executive Committee, through official channels, represent the Club's positions—such as the attached statement.

Regarding Mr. DeMaio's claim that Chairman Gustafson lacks donor support, the facts tell a different story. Under Chairman Gustafson's leadership, the Republican Party of San Diego County raised \$1.5 million—a testament to his ability to unite and inspire trust among donors and elected officials. Highly respected Republican fundraiser Karolyn Dorsee echoed this sentiment in her endorsement letter (attached), noting that these fundraising results "prove Corey has the trust of donors and elected officials."

Chairman Gustafson has also built a strong coalition of support that includes elected officials, grassroots organizations like Republican Women groups, volunteers, and donors. Central Committee members have been provided copies of these endorsements.

Facts matter. Chairman Gustafson has consistently emphasized his commitment to growing the Party's coalition in his next term. This includes his willingness to collaborate with Assemblyman DeMaio and Reform California on issues and candidates where there is mutual agreement.

On Monday, you face a clear choice: Who should lead our party into the future—Corey Gustafson or Paula Whitsell? I've endorsed Corey because of the progress the Party has made under his leadership, his forward-looking vision (outlined in Corey's Commitments), financial stability and his dedication to expanding our Party through addition, not division.

As the senior Republican elected official in San Diego County, I strongly urge you to vote for Corey Gustafson and the entire #TeamFreedom leadership slate. Together, we can continue President Trump's momentum and work to elect more Republicans across San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Congressman Darrell Issa