

Response to April 10 Email Sent to Montgomery County Republicans by Chairman Bryan Christ



The Montgomery County Republican Party (MCRP) Steering Committee became aware of an [email that was sent by Chairman Bryan Christ](#) to county Republicans on April 10, 2023. Click [here](#) for a pdf version of the email.

We're providing the information in this document to allow you to critically evaluate each of the statements made in Chairman Christ's email. We ask you to consider the context and documentation of claims being presented.

We hope this will be helpful in providing the missing details that make up the complete story of Chairman Christ's closure of the Headquarters.

Rent Payments

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"I began paying the rent in January thanks to donations from the North Shore Republican Women and Judge Wayne Mack. I allowed the Party to continue to use the space and operate as usual." [View email »](#)

[Payment documentation](#)

MCRP Response:

Chairman Christ claims he began paying the rent on the Headquarters facility in January 2023. The County Executive Committee (CEC) majority had paid the monthly rent through April 30, 2023 (see [documentation and receipts](#) for these payments). We are investigating why Chairman Christ would have received "donations from the North Shore Republican Women and Judge Wayne Mack" for rent that had already been paid, and where these donations/payments were applied.

"Office of the Chairman"

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"On December 28th, a termination letter was issued by Mr. People's [sic] attorney. Notwithstanding, Mr. Poole [sic] stated that he would start a new lease with the Office of the Chairman, on a month to month basis." [View email »](#)

[MCRP Bylaws](#)

MCRP Response:

The "Office of the Chairman" is not a recognized office in the Montgomery County Republican Party. The chairman works for the County Executive Committee (CEC). His role is to preside over meetings for the body of properly elected and appointed Precinct Chairs. His name was on the Headquarters lease as an agent of the CEC.

Termination Letter

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"On December 28th, a termination letter was issued by Mr. Poole's [sic] attorney. Notwithstanding, Mr. Poole [sic] stated that he would start a new lease with the Office of the Chairman, on a month to month basis." [View email »](#)

[CEC Minutes](#)
[SC Minutes](#)
[Mr. Beck Letter](#)

MCRP Response:

The CEC majority was never notified of this termination letter by Chairman Christ or the decision to start a new lease with the nonexistent "Office of the Chairman." If that letter exists, it shows a dereliction of duties on the part of Chairman Christ in withholding it from CEC majority and not notifying the CEC majority of the new lease.

Chairman Christ also never presented any option to pay higher rent or vacate. Chairman Christ's withholding of this information from the CEC majority is evidenced in our [CEC meeting minutes](#) and [Steering Committee meeting minutes](#). If what Chairman Christ says is true, why was the CEC majority never notified?

MCRP Treasurer Charles Shirley received a [letter from Mr. Pool's attorney](#) dated Jan. 31, 2023, but the letter dealt with Headquarters access, not termination of the lease.

Renovation

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"My wife, Linda Stuckey, and Susan Johnson raised over \$22k in donations for HQ renovations." [View email »](#)

MCRP Response:

The Party received approximately \$9,000 through in-kind donations for Headquarters renovations. The remaining \$8,700 was paid out of funds that had been raised by the Party, significantly reducing the amount we were able to spend on Get-Out-the-Vote efforts for the 2022 election. Many conservatives on the County Executive Committee (CEC) did not want to risk renovating a facility subject to a month-to-month lease with no guarantee of how many years or even months the lease would continue.

MCRP Treasurer

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"Mr. Shirley is not a member of the CEC, and is not the Party Treasurer..." [View email »](#)

[TEC Filing](#)
[Petition for Writ](#)

MCRP Response:

Charles Shirley was properly elected by the CEC majority on July 23, 2022, and [is recognized by the Texas Ethics Commission \(TEC\)](#) as the Treasurer, despite Chairman Christ's attempts via email to remove him, referenced in the [Petition for Writ of Mandamus](#), pages 10 and 20.

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"Mr. Shirley is not a member of the CEC, and is not the Party Treasurer because he was purportedly [appointed by a rogue group of Party members at a meeting where they unlawfully excluded fellow CEC members, including myself, from participating](#), in violation of the Texas Election Code." [View email »](#)

MCRP Response:

Chairman Christ links to a video titled "Overthrowing the Chair." What he doesn't explain is that he is attempting to circumvent procedures mandated in the [Party Bylaws](#) and Robert's Rules of Order by holding a vote prior to calling the meeting to order. Details about the July 23, 2022, meeting shown in the video and a listing of Chairman Christ's multiple violations of Texas Election Code are available in the [Petition for Writ of Mandamus](#), beginning on page 10.

Had we allowed electronic voting and non-members to participate as Chairman Christ was insisting, it would have invalidated the entire meeting. Since Chairman Christ did not and does not have the majority, he can't win the vote; therefore, his strategy is to try to invalidate our meetings. Please see our CEC meeting minutes for [July 23, 2022](#) and [Dec. 6, 2022](#), this [Dec. 13, 2022 article](#), and the [Petition for Writ of Mandamus](#) for examples of Chairman Christ's attempts to invalidate meetings.

[Party Bylaws](#)
[Petition for Writ](#)
[July 23 Minutes](#)
[Dec. 6 Minutes](#)
[Dec. 13 Article](#)

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"The Freedom Caucus leadership team persisted in demanding access to the building. This continued despite our Technology Chair having explained the building's normal hours of operation and that it could be used to conduct Party business when it was open. It was also explained that if they had legitimate Party business after hours, they just needed to reserve the space with the HQ Chairman Dorothy Woodall and she would provide access." [View email »](#)

MCRP Response:

The CEC majority never received any communication from the properly elected Technology Chair, Torrey Bingham, or from any other person claiming to be the Technology Chair. We followed the procedure of requesting to reserve Headquarters via the online form. After many unsuccessful attempts following this procedure, we then began contacting Dorothy Woodall, [Chairman Christ](#), and others, or visiting Headquarters during regular operating hours and just camping out until our meetings started. When we needed after-hours access, we often would not receive a response. When we were given the access code and arrived for our scheduled after-hours meetings, the code had been changed. This violates Article XIII, Section 3 of the [Party Bylaws](#). Please see the [Petition for Writ of Mandamus](#), and [CEC Minutes](#) for additional details.

[Emails to Chair](#)
[Party Bylaws](#)
[Petition for Writ](#)
[CEC Minutes](#)

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"...Mr. Poole [sic] said he was visited by Charles Shirley, who claimed to be the Party Treasurer. He told Mr. Poole that I was no longer the Chairman, that I had no intention of paying future rent, and that I had planned to relocate HQ. He demanded that Mr. Poole give him the keys to the facility or else the Party would no longer pay Mr. Poole." [View email »](#)

[Mr. Beck Letter](#)
[Mediation Rpt.](#)
[Dec. 13 Article](#)
[Party Rules](#)
[Party Bylaws](#)

MCRP Response:

Statement from MCRP Treasurer Charles Shirley:

"This characterization of my discussion with Mr. Pool is simply untrue. I never stated that Bryan Christ wasn't the Chairman. I did point out that the County Executive Committee (CEC) majority had been paying the rent for months and that we wanted to access the office, as we were entitled. I also pointed out the lease was between the CEC and Mr. Pool's company, J&R Assets, and that Bryan Christ was not a party to the lease, but merely the representative of the whole CEC. The [landlord's attorney replied](#) by asking me to contact Chairman Christ directly for access.

"Prior to this discussion, I reached out to Mr. Pool several times via text and phone calls throughout August 2022 to discuss renewing the lease, since the lease ended on August 31. I later talked to him briefly in October 2022 via telephone to make sure he was happy with the month-to-month arrangement that kicked in after the lease expired at the end of August. Those conversations were short and cordial. We had similar conversations in November and at the beginning of December."

No member of the CEC majority or Steering Committee has claimed that Bryan Christ is not the chairman, as evidenced in the Republican Party of Texas [Mediation Report](#). In fact, we've [invited him repeatedly](#) to chair our properly called meetings according to the [Party Rules](#) and [Bylaws](#). He has refused to attend any of the CEC majority's meetings in 2023 and was disruptive at those he attended last year.

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"...several options were proposed, including an offer to take the smaller space...Duke Coon and Judge Wayne Mack also met with Mr. Poole [sic] to help broker an agreeable arrangement." [View email »](#)

MCRP Response:

This was the first the CEC majority had heard of this renegotiation attempt. We reached out to Mr. Coon on April 11, 2023. Mr. Coon stated that Mr. Pool told him his reason for wanting to terminate the lease was simply to convert the Headquarters facility into retail space so he could increase his rental income. He said that Mr. Pool didn't mention anything about mounting legal fees, harassment, or being upset with MCRP Treasurer Charles Shirley.

Demand Letter

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"...they continued their harassment of Mr. Poole [sic], continuing to send threatening demand letters to him." [View email »](#)

[Demand Letter](#)

MCRP Response:

Statement from MCRP Treasurer Charles Shirley:

"Reminding a landlord of his legal responsibilities is not harassment. I did not send the letter demanding entry to the facility until after we had been locked out of the Headquarters for months. We only sent one [demand letter](#) to Mr. Pool, not multiple letters as stated in Chairman Christ's email."

Circumventing the Majority

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"Having already conveyed the circumstances to the Steering Committee, on March 7th, at a county executive committee meeting for the Party, I explained everything to the members." [View email »](#)

[Mediation Rpt.](#)
[Petition for Writ](#)

MCRP Response:

Chairman Christ never communicated the circumstances to the County Executive Committee (CEC) majority or to the properly elected Steering Committee.

Please see the Republican Party of Texas [Mediation Report](#) and the [Petition for Writ of Mandamus](#) for documentation on who constitutes the Precinct Chair majority and how the minority is attempting to circumvent the majority's decisions.

Contents Removal

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"...the Party voted to allow me to donate, sell, or store the assets. Most of the items were returned to their original donors while others went to our Republican Party neighbors in Waller County." [View email »](#)

[Party Bylaws](#)

MCRP Response:

The CEC majority never received notification of this decision. Every duly elected and appointed Precinct Chair should have been given advance notice and allowed to vote on how to use the contents of Headquarters to further the mission of the Party. These assets belong to the CEC. While we are happy to help Republicans in other counties, giving the contents of Headquarters away will require us to fundraise and repurchase many of the items. When asked to provide the location of certain items, Chairman Christ refused to share the information in violation of the [Party Bylaws](#) (see Duties of the County Chairman on page 3).

Chairman Christ's Claim:

"I am happy to announce that Republicans will still have a place to call home. I serve with others on the Montgomery County Republican Club. We collaborated with elected officials and many Republican Women officers and subsequently agreed on a rental space in Conroe. This will be a facility that all Republicans can use, and won't be leased by the Party. Moreover, it will be an anchor against the current infighting. We're going to work on a fundraiser for this Summer, but in the meantime we collectively raised enough money for the deposits, a few months of rent, and some renovations. It will be called the Montgomery County Republican Clubhouse." [View email »](#)

MCRP Response:

While collaboration can be a wonderful thing, in this case, Chairman Christ has closed the local Republican Party Headquarters in downtown Conroe and is replacing it with a facility not affiliated with the Montgomery County Republican Party or "leased by the Party."

Instead, the facility is affiliated with the Montgomery County Republican Club, a Political Action Committee (PAC) founded by Chairman Christ and his wife. Chairman Christ is the treasurer of this PAC (search the [TEC website](#) by treasurer name).

He states that enough money has been raised "for the deposits, a few months of rent, and some renovations." He chose to do this for his Republican Club PAC rather than securing a new Headquarters facility for the Montgomery County Republican Party, which he was elected to represent by Montgomery County voters. He is planning a fundraiser for his "Republican Clubhouse" in the summer. All without collaborating or even communicating with the CEC majority.

More Information:

- Read the official [Mediation Report](#) from the Republican Party of Texas for an impartial assessment of the causes of division in the Party.
- View all MCRP [news releases](#).
- View [supporting documents](#) on Attorney Warren Norred's website.
- Email the Steering Committee with questions at info@mctxgop.org

