

April 13, 1996

Matthew Thurmaier
3518 Wyota Ave
Madison, WI 53711

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999 E. Street NW
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To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter of resignation as Treasurer of the Democratic Party of the State of Wisconsin. I understand that you must be notified within 10 days of a treasurer change. You are hereby so notified. Please remove my name as treasurer of record from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin effective 4/9/96.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my home: (608) 233-7426, or at my office: (608) 273-6010.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Thurmaier

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY

of Wisconsin

April 9, 1996

Dear Administrative Committee Member:

I have greatly enjoyed the almost three years of challenges I have faced since I was first elected Treasurer of our party. By June of last year, I was well on my way to accomplishing the goals I had started out to accomplish including:

- Instituting an accounting system with audit trails and accounting procedures that followed the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) rules.
- Implementing a modern computer system that would allow for fully integrated membership, accounting, and state and federal campaign finance reporting.
- A budget process that would allow the successive year's budgets to be based on the previous years performance.

Unfortunately, events in the last several months, and particularly in the last several weeks have undone much of the progress made during that time.

Shortly after the last convention, the decision was made to convert the accounting system to a different package based on a different operating system. I advised, in the strongest possible terms, that the old and new systems be run together until the new system was proven. This advice went unheeded leading to many problems. Further, the treatment of the staff, certainly not what I would have ever expected from a Democratic party organization, caused many on staff to quit. Those that remained had very low morale, leading to further problems with the party's operations.

The Treasurer of the party is actually the only officer that has legal responsibilities to the State and Federal governments for reporting of campaign finances. In the budget discussion at the last administrative committee meeting, as you can read in the minutes, I went on record expressing my concern that Mark did not have in place a full-time employee to do book-keeping. When the Chair's and Executive Director's treatment of the part-time book keeper caused her, too, to quit, I was left in a very awkward position, having to perform a book-keeping function on top of running my company. I was willing to do this until a book-keeper was found and trained, until the Executive Director and Chair changed the locks on the doors and refused to issue me new keys so that I could perform my legal and ethical obligation in the off-hours I had available to me.

One or two loyal Democrats have offered to try to mediate this deteriorating state of affairs between the Chair and myself, and I am very grateful to them for their kind offers and efforts. However, after careful consideration and reflecting on the events of the past 10 months, I have decided that no matter what resolution was arrived at between myself and the Chair, given his recent penchant for slanting the truth, I simply do not have enough trust left in either him or the Executive Director to believe that they would uphold their end of any agreement. Further, my only recourse to protect myself, given my legal responsibility, would not have been helpful to the party and its necessary victory for the President in our state this year.

Therefore, after considerable thought, and on the advice of legal counsel, as of end-of-business today, I officially resign as Treasurer of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

I must point out to you, as an administrative committee member, that the State Statutes are very clear: no funds may be received or expended while there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer. Therefore, I hope that the Chair quickly nominates a new treasurer, probably one like he told several people he wanted when running for chair, i.e. one who would "sign the checks and not ask questions", and that the committee ratify this appointment at the meeting this weekend.

Now that I won't have to spend a significant amount of my Party-oriented time protecting my back, I will be working with county parties throughout the state to develop fund-raising plans to help them in this critical year. I look forward to working with each of you at the local level, in whatever ways we can, to make this a most successful year.

Democratically yours,

Matthew J. Thurnhaier



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