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Party secretary resigns as turmoil again engulfs Broward Republicans



By ANTHONY MAN
SUN SENTINEL | APR 21, 2017

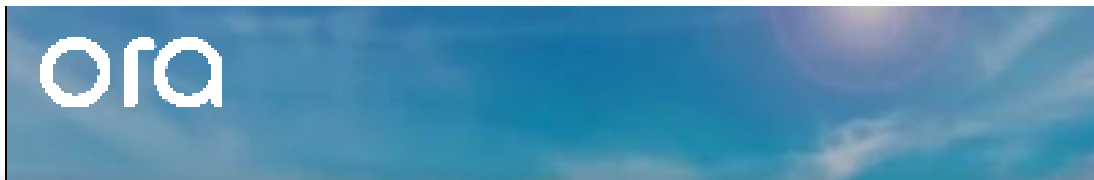


Highlighting recurring divisions within the Broward Republican Party, secretary Dolly Rump announced her resignation on Friday, after a little more than four months on the job.

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"We do not operate as a cohesive board; there is major dysfunction, division, and disorder between officers," Rump wrote in an email to party members announcing her resignation.

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Rather than tending to basic tasks, such as maintaining membership rolls, making sure the party website is functioning, and raising money, Rump said the organization is rife with petty, personal disagreements.

"My dad always told me, don't go anywhere you're not wanted," she said in a telephone interview. "I'm leaving the toxic environment where I'm not being productive."

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Rump is widely admired by many in the party for the organizational skills she displayed during President Donald Trump's campaign. An early supporter, she eventually became his Broward chairwoman. She was a prime organizer behind a Trump rally last year at the BB&T Center and led bands of volunteers who helped support Trump rallies throughout South Florida.

Bob Sutton, chairman of the party, sought to downplay Rump's departure.

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"I think it's in the best interest of the Broward Republican Executive Committee that Dolly has resigned. I look forward to supporting her efforts as I have in the past. And I wish her the best, and I look forward to the Broward Republican Executive Committee board getting back to work," Sutton said in a brief telephone interview.

As to Rump's allegation the organization's leaders are deeply dysfunctional, Sutton said "there's always disagreements like there are in any large family."

Rival camps are endemic within the Broward Republican Party. For years the divisions have been lamented by leaders and papered over but never healed.



Christine Butler, then county Republican chairwoman, resigned in 2015. So did Ryan Anderson, the state Republican committeeman. Cara Pavalock, the party secretary, resigned in 2014.

The party is governed by hundreds of precinct committeemen and committeewomen who represent small districts throughout the county who come together as the Broward Republican Executive Committee. Rump and her husband Mike, also a longtime party activist,

are resigning from the executive committee, she said.

In December 2016, when the group gathered to elect a slate of officers for two years, two slates of candidates ran.

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Dolly Rump, Broward Trump campaign chairwoman at left, and Sue Snowden, Palm Beach County Trump campaign chairwoman, before a rally for presidential candidate Donald Trump west of West Palm Beach on Oct. 13, 2016. (Anthony Man)

Rump, of Coral Springs, was elected secretary by a vote of 92-72.

The overall results left the leadership evenly divided. The slate that included Rump lost the elections for chairman and vice chairwoman and won the treasurer's job.

It didn't work out well, according to an email Rump sent Friday to the executive committee.

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Celeste Ellich, the party vice chairwoman, couldn't be reached for comment on Friday.

Rump's full email:

To my friends and colleagues in the Broward Republican Executive Committee,

Despite my best efforts to move BREC forward and to make good on the platform I was elected on, I have found it impossible to make progress in the current leadership environment. We do not operate as a cohesive board; there is major dysfunction, division, and disorder between officers. In addition, our chairman has cancelled Board meetings, silencing the opinions of other elected board members.

I have not been able to adequately address structural problems and issues in an effective way due to roadblocks from our own leadership. I, along with other board members, have made sincere attempts to address major issues, namely with the botched membership list and the website confusion. Any and all attempts I have made to better BREC are met with hostility or go completely ignored.

And as most of you know, my specialty and expertise is in event coordinating. However, to date, I have not been consulted on any

Lincoln Day activities whatsoever.

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The BREC Treasury is at an all-time low, and instead of focusing on important things like raising money and Lincoln Day, time is spent on filing false police reports and making false and disgusting accusations against myself, my family and fellow BREC Board members. I will not continue to subject myself and my family to these continued vile attacks and slanderous accusations.

I have a deep unbending loyalty to Conservative and Republican Causes; however, it has become completely clear to me that I am surrounded by people who do not share my same goals and values.

Since I am unable to be effective on this board, I have decided to work elsewhere on the causes that I hold dear. I am going to move to other venues where I can be appreciated and respected for what I can bring to the table.

To those of you who voted for me as BREC Secretary, I will always be grateful. However, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of my resignation as BREC Secretary effective immediately.

All the best and I remain as always, your friend.

Dolly T. Rump

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Anthony Man
South Florida Sun Sentinel



Anthony Man is the Sun Sentinel's political writer. Concentrating on local political people, parties and trends, he also covers state and national politics from a South Florida perspective. He previously covered Palm Beach County government and made repeated reporting trips to Tallahassee. He has also covered state and local politics in Illinois.

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