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CONTACT:
Scott Pullins
614-749-5780

Melanie Leneghan Releases Statement

Mount Vernon, Ohio – I have been voting and paying taxes in Ohio since I was 18 years old. I have served my state and my county as a precinct leader, a township trustee, and as the State Central Committeewoman for the 19th district.

This entire episode has been extremely painful, hurtful and expensive for me and my family. I have been forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees throughout this process to defend myself against these absurd and false allegations.

At every step of the way I have diligently followed the law completely. At the same time, I had a year of extreme and some unexpected transition. I spent time traveling for work, helping take care of my elderly mother after she had a severe heart attack, moving to a new residence, helping my full-time out of state student daughter, all while managing my responsibilities as an elected State Central Committee Member and an appointed member of the Delaware County Board of Elections.

I have been a vocal and visible advocate throughout the State of Ohio for voter participation encouraging all citizens to exercise their precious right to vote and be heard. That is why it has been so painful to have a right that I value so deeply to be stripped from me all while being accused falsely of crimes I have never committed.

In an effort to resolve these matters completely, I, along with two of my attorneys, sat for hours with investigators from the Secretary of State's office. Although the burden of proof is not mine, we turned over a literal mountain of evidence to them proving beyond any shadow of a doubt that I did nothing wrong.

My family and I were stripped of our right to vote and to participate in the political process by two Board of Election Members that fully admitted that they could not judge my case fairly. I was removed from the Delaware County Elections Board and from the ballot for re-election to the State Central Committee.

My family and I have suffered tremendously and been bullied by powerful elected officials that abused their power. My husband is retired and has extensive health issues while my daughter is a full-time out of state college student. I am the sole breadwinner now and I have recently relocated to become my mother's primary caregiver. We look forward to having this painful financial and emotional nightmare end fairly and quickly.

Thank you.

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