

Board members of the Libertarian Party of Colorado,

It has been a great joy and honor to run my campaign for Colorado's Secretary of State in the 2026 election cycle. Meeting folks at the state convention and other events since then has been a highlight of my spring and summer, and I have done my best to advocate for freedom with responsibility since feeling called to my candidacy on April 18th. In the time since then I have made friends and learned a lot about the election processes.

Unfortunately, it is apparent to me now that I need to suspend my campaign and drop out of the race for Secretary of State. This is a decision that I make after a great deal of thought, and it does not come lightly. Some of the factors that brought me into the race are now in opposition to my continuation:

- I did not like seeing politicians treating their responsibilities to the public so casually as a secondary focus to their power and political aspirations.
 - While I think my circumstances are different in that I never sought to use this campaign to enrich myself, it has become apparent that the electric cooperative I already serve needs more of my time than I've recently spent on campaign tasks.
 - It is fair to neither my electric cooperative members nor the electorate for me to continue to split my focus, and I must choose only one of them.
- I have not been able to reach the level of support and enthusiasm that I sought to achieve.
 - Though I was able to more than double the number of registered Libertarians in Phillips County through my campaign efforts, that did not translate to statewide success.
 - In our statewide primary election, less than 3,600 libertarians chose to vote out of the more than 40,000 we have registered in the state. With less than 10% of statewide libertarians even choosing to cast a ballot in June, I do not know how I could increase turnout to a level which can overcome the political inertia of the major parties who received more than 1.4 million votes in the primary.
- I did not run to simply get my name out there, I ran to further the cause of liberty.
 - At this stage, I do not believe having my name on a piece of paper in November will further anything but my own pride. Instead I will try to spend the time between now and election day in humility.

True to my word, I am Never Gonna Give You Up. The time I spend in politics over the next few months will be dedicated to supporting others in the public domain who I believe can further advance freedom with responsibility. This includes Ross Mettler who is running a campaign with only one opposing candidate.

Thank you for your support in this experience of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Alex Astley 8/26/2026

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