

A statement from Alex Astley, former Libertarian Party nominee for Colorado Secretary of State

I chose independently to suspend my campaign on August 26, 2026. This is a decision I made alone, for reasons which I outlined in my letter to the LPCO board. After my motives were publicly questioned by other Libertarian candidates and personalities, I made that letter public and offered additional details to every reporter who chose to contact me. Since that time, increased attention and further developments warrant my response.

To the leadership of the Libertarian Party of Colorado: I am neither a duck nor a pigeon. If you wanted to know what's in my head or heart, you should have asked me.

I am a man who was chosen by 61.89% of voting Libertarians in our state. When seeking to appoint a replacement, I wish you had been able to find a candidate who had not already been found deficient by Libertarian voters in Colorado. I hope the cause of liberty is not harmed by your actions. Only you know your motivations for your decisions; I implore you all to ensure they come from a genuine pursuit of freedom with responsibility for all, and not a vain or prideful desire to grow a social club.

To “Big L” Libertarians everywhere: Don't hold grudges, and don't be afraid to partner with people outside of your political party – if you reject outsiders, you may find yourself to be in little more than a club. “Owning the libs/MAGAs” may get you social media validation, but it does little to preserve and restore the freedom we are granted by God. If we choose to spend more time infighting and worrying about team jersey colors than we spend on taming the growing beast of government, we will continue to see our rights eroded by a machine that only has to reach 51% of those who bother voting.

To “small l” libertarians in Colorado: I implore you to vote for your values. Please educate yourselves on all candidates and issues on your ballot in November – a vote should be earned and not assumed.

It is my own opinion that cross-party gridlock is a powerful tool to restrict government growth, but you alone can determine how your ballot is most impactful. Perhaps you'll choose a party line vote, a vote for your favorite person, a vote for your preferred candidate without statistical consideration for how others will vote, or a vote against a party with

control over a majority of state offices. Government overreach can come from anywhere, and non-participation in elections is closer to apathy than it is to protest.

To those who have questioned my motives: My goal has been clear from the beginning – to further freedom with responsibility, by any means possible. I ran with a heart seeking to benefit all of Colorado, not just those with a preferred party label. When you doubted me, you were welcome to email or call me, as my contact info has been publicly available for all to see. Few of you have called, none since my withdrawal. Many of you have instead chosen to publicly assume or misconstrue circumstances in order to attack your political adversaries.

To Sean Vadney: I do truly believe you wish to advocate for liberty, but I have concerns with your candidacy. I specifically recall not seeing you at our April convention during the morning, despite serving as the Party's Communications Director and having been appointed to serve in a business role for the convention. We had a candidate campaign session from party leadership in May, for which I drove a combined 7 hours to participate. You chose not to attend. I hope you will treat the remainder of this election cycle with greater dedication than I have perceived from you thus far. More importantly, I hope that by the grace of God you have truly left violence and alcohol abuse in your past.

I admire your tenacity in seeking nomination, but I do not believe that you can best advance the cause of freedom with responsibility in our 2026 Secretary of State race.

To James Wiley, Republican Party candidate for Secretary of State: Your tenure in the Libertarian Party leadership predates my affiliation, but by what I have read and heard from you, it appears to me that you still advocate wholly for libertarian values for both your allies and your adversaries. I believe that partnerships and collaboration between those with common values are reasonable in private life, business, and politics.

I believe you are better equipped than I was to bring an election victory for libertarian values in November. Since suspending my campaign, I have been grateful for the opportunity to work with you on crafting a libertarian pledge between you and all citizens of Colorado. Regardless of party affiliations, I believe you have earned my endorsement if you would like it.