

Open Letter to Geauga County Republicans & Those Interested In Good Government



President Truman was once asked, why he gave people hell. He said, *"I don't give people hell, I tell them the truth and they feel like hell."* I have been politically engaged for about 12 years. I am outspoken and I question government irresponsibility. I work hard to ensure good government practices. I have earned some enemies in the process. To make a point: "Gauga County has **one of the highest median property taxes** in the United States." (www.tax-rates.org) Why is that? I believe it is because we have government that is more focused on self interest than doing what is right. I can tell you from experience there is pressure from within the political establishment to conform. If you question things then you are attacked. To be clear there are good and bad elected officials. Gauga has both. How do you know which is which? By their actions and their outcomes. It is easy to see if you look.

I am authoring this letter to provide Gauga citizens a peek behind the curtain and to get you to think. I trust Gauga Citizens, when you have good information. My objective is to try and share some information for you to think about.

I recently ran for county commissioner in the **republican** primary. I lost; [c'est la vie](#). It was a huge investment of money, time, and emotional energy. It is disappointing, but not the end of the world. To all my supporters and those who voted for me — **thank you!** I am sincerely humbled by your passion and support. I ran to be able to defend conservative values: lower taxes, limited government, etc., but I failed. During my campaign, I tried to point out the differences between me and Jim Dvorak. To be clear I don't dislike Jim we simply disagree on ideology. I can hold my head up knowing I ran a strong and honest campaign. I find it funny because in a recent public meeting Mr. Dvorak called me a liar and scumbag. Wow..one thing people know about me is I don't lie. Politics is a dirty business and I am often slandered and attacked in the paper, which draws a straightforward and honest responses from me. Let me put a fine point on it. Everything I said about Mr. Dvorak was public so he could respond. This is in contrast to the slander/libel he was spreading behind my back. In my literature I said, Jim was a life long democrat who ran for commissioner in 2012 and lost. He was a registered D in 2008 and 2012 when Obama/Biden ran and he supported them. **FACT**. He took thousands of campaign dollars from **Cleveland based** outsiders. **FACT** What influence are they buying? NOACA takes about 10 million of Gauga County federal gas tax dollars and spends them in Cleveland. Jim has said nothing and done nothing to defend Gauga County tax payers. **FACT** I could go on, but my point is made. I can defend every statement that I have made in campaign literature. Another important point to be made is this— not to speak is to speak. For example, not speaking out against government mandates, as I did in health board meetings, is tacit approval. Elected persons often avoid standing up to defend their constituents because they lack a spine and fear a political consequence.

To Gauga County republicans and those who care about election integrity. There is a corrupt element in the republican party. I bring this up, because you can't fix a problem you don't know about. Nancy McArthur the chair of the republican party, who is suppose to remain neutral officially and promote republican values, took out a full page ad attacking a Gauga Republican citizen and created a number of social media posts encouraging democrats and independents to pull a republican ballots. Moreover she told people who to vote for. In essence implying a party endorsement, which did not exist. Her actions violate the central committee bylaws and her duty as the Chair of the Republican Party. These actions fit with a pattern of behavior. Her personnel file, in the board of election, contains a number of complaints mentioning violations of ethical standards. Moreover, Chris Hitchcock, Gauga County Treasurer, a republican and now a central committee member, purchased a full page ad saying it was OK for non-republicans to vote in the **REPUBLICAN** primary. I ask you, how do you trust a person who manages the county's money who has such a low unethical standard? The actions of Nancy and Chris impacted multiple elections including mine. More than half of the voters in the Republican primary were NOT registered republicans. If you care about election integrity you should be very concerned not only for this primary, but for the precedent that was created. What is more concerning is that some members of the republican central committee accepted this behavior and did not speak up. As a central committee member, I am embarrassed by this low standard. Further, why are we not enforcing Ohio Revised Code 3513.19 and challenge those pulling an opposite party ballot. Cross over voting violates the very premise of party politics. Unfortunately it appears the laws we follow are subject to those in charge. A statement on where we are as a nation.

Why is this important and why am I paying to publish this letter? For one reason. I ran for commissioner to be an advocate for citizens. I wanted to challenge the thinking that has led to waste and inefficient government. Many elected officials (not all) have proven to be part of a system that continues to make poor decisions, that will not question programs and bad government. We are seeing the result nationally in high gas prices, high inflation, growing government, and on and on. Oh you say our county doesn't impact these things. Nonsense. A vote for ARP (American Rescue Plan) is a vote for inflation and waste. The ARP increases the national debt and provides monies we don't need creating an opportunity for waste. There is a direct relationship between a persons principles/convictions and good government. In the county, we are making decisions on aging buildings, spending opioid dollars, funding housing initiatives, etc. All requiring people of good judgement and character. It is time for folks to realize that elections have consequences and those you elect will make decisions that impact you and our future. I failed in the election and I am moving on. But given my knowledge of the system and emotional investment I feel compelled to plead this case. The only way things will change is for citizens like you to take ownership and start getting involved and informed. A government of the people by the people requires public participation. Attend some meetings, ask some questions, become informed. I can tell you that Gauga has a growing left leaning establishment thread that is undermining good government. Thank God for Ralph, Tim, and those real conservatives who work against the corruption in the county.

All of this may sound corny, but I got involved years ago to defend the future for our kids. I am not planning on running for office again, but I will stay engaged because "the only thing for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing"—Edmund Burke. There are influences trying to change our county and we need people who have a spine and the values to defend us.

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