



Ryan Miner <ryan@aminerdetail.com>

An Open Letter to Maryland Republican Executive and Central Committee Members

herbmcmillan@verizon.net <herbmcmillan@verizon.net>

Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 6:34 PM

Reply-To: herbmcmillan@verizon.net

To: herbmcmillan@verizon.net

Dear Maryland Executive and Central Committee Members,

I'm a Republican who's held elective office as a State Delegate for twelve years, and as an Annapolis City Councilmember for four. I'm currently a filed candidate in the Republican primary for Anne Arundel County Executive. I'm also a Naval Academy graduate with over 20 years of service as a Navy pilot. I highly value honor, integrity, honesty, and fairness. I live in accordance with these values. I don't make exceptions to them for political purposes. I hope you don't either.

The purpose of this email is to inform you of unethical and inappropriate activities involving the expenditure of state party funds, and the use of state party resources, on behalf of candidates in Republican primaries. I respectfully request you to end this practice immediately. Failure to do so will make our party more of a machine designed to benefit the few, then a party with fair and open primaries for all. As President Reagan said, "when you're up to your armpits in alligators, it's hard to drain the swamp." We can't have it both ways. We can't drain the swamp if our party is part of it; and on this issue, you can't split Haires.

This is how money donated by Republicans across Maryland to defeat Democrats in general elections, is being spent:

- 1) The state party is using a consultant to conduct primary polls who's been involved in unethical activities. <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/blog/consulting-firm-tied-to-proud-boys-is-sole-beneficiary-of-pac/>
- 2) Using state party funds, this same consultant was paid to conduct a poll for the Anne Arundel County Executive race, that benefited Councilwoman Jessica Haire, the wife of State GOP Chairman Dirk Haire. Only Jessica Haire was provided with an analysis and strategy regarding the poll results. (**MD GOP HAIRE**) Her husband defined the polls parameters before it went to field, without input from any other Republican included in the poll. Jessica Haire's hired fundraiser, who is also the Republican party's state fundraiser, then distributed the analysis to donors and potential donors, claiming it showed she was the only Republican who could win the county executive race. (**Ossola**) The poll actually showed that I could win the race as well. Is this an ethical and appropriate use of state party funds?
- 3) The state party's hired fundraiser, Nicole Ossola, is also Jessica Haire's hired fundraiser. She has access to all state party fundraising lists, emails, and cell phone numbers. Both Dirk Haire and Ossola are using state party emails and cell phone numbers to solicit contributions to Jessica Haire's county executive primary campaign, while denying the same access to other filed county executive candidates. Is this ethical or fair?
- 4) The state party should be focused on defeating Democrats in general elections; but the state party chair is using party resources and funds to raise money for his wife, and to pay for her campaign activities. (Polling, and paying for mail that increases her name recognition. (**Jessica letter**) This is ironic; Councilwoman Haire voted with her Democratic colleagues to censure President Trump, and bar him from ever holding office again. (**res-5-21 highlighted in yellow**) If Republican Central Committee members aren't going to focus on defeating Democrats in general elections, couldn't you at least support Republican primary candidates who don't vote like liberal Democrats?

5) The GOP Datacenter was purchased by the Maryland GOP to provide information on voters and walk lists to all GOP candidates. However, anything downloaded by candidates is seen by the state party. Dirk Haire, can see any information I obtain, such as where I plan to door knock. Why is Dirk Haire permitted to know my campaign strategy, and share it with his wife? Is this fair?

6) The unethical and inappropriate use of state party money in Republican primaries has become a practice under Chairman Haire. State party money was spent on mail, with the GOP imprimatur, for Wes Adams, who was running against three of Governor Hogan's judicial appointees in the 2020 primary. (**MD GOP Mailer 2020**) Why did the party fund mailings to oppose three judges appointed by a Republican in a primary?

7) State party mailings have a subsidized non-profit status. Helping one primary candidate over another is unethical and violates party rules. Why should the wife and friends of Dirk Haire receive the benefit of funded party mailings as primary candidates?

8) Chairman Haire is publicly working hand-in hand with James Appel, the Anne Arundel County Central Committee Chairman, and treasurer for the GOP Senate and House Caucus, to advance Jessica Haire's campaign for county executive. Appel publicly endorsed Jessica Haire at a County Central Committee event, in violation of Anne Arundel Central Committee bylaws. Neither the state nor central committee has condemned or censured his conduct. Why not? How long are you going to permit this?

Chairman Haire is using Republican party funds and resources to advance the personal political agendas of his wife and friends. Primary elections should be free, open, and fair contests. Republican voters deserve no less. They're tired of swamp politics, and of party bosses who use statewide donations for their own personal political benefit. **The Republican party will justifiably lose credibility with donors if this continues. Additionally, Republicans will have little credibility in fighting legislation that promotes election fraud, if we fail to guarantee our own primary elections are conducted fairly.**

The outcome of this primary is not the issue. I am confident that I will win it, and the general election, regardless of what action you decide to take. The issue is whether our party will be a personal political machine, or a Republican Party that is free, fair, and open to all.

You are responsible for the conduct of the state party, its officers, and how its money is spent. You have a duty to ensure that the party follows its rules, that its ethics are above reproach, and that when they are not, corrective action is taken. Perhaps, up to this point, you have been unaware of Chairman Haire's unethical and inappropriate activities. That is no longer the case. Respectfully, the time to address and correct them is now.

The honorable course of action would be for State Chairman Haire to resign, and for Jessica Haire to reimburse the Maryland Republican Party for the mailings and poll used to advance her primary campaign for county executive. Clearly, Chairman Haire has failed to separate his duties as state chairman from his support of his wife's primary campaign. He has failed to be impartial in other primary races as well.

Filed candidates for Anne Arundel County Executive should have the same access to state GOP email addresses and cell phone numbers as Jessica Haire received. We should be able to use the GOP Datacenter without being tracked.

It's time to drain the swamp. Thank you for your consideration and action.

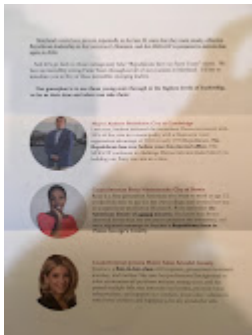
Warm Regards,

Herb McMillan

6 attachments



MD GOP Mailer in 2020 for Wes Adams (3).png
392K



IMG_6334 Jessica letter.jpg
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IMG_6335 Jessica ltr.JPG
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MD GOP Haire 3 (4).jpg
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