

Fw: Ballot Blunder

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FROM: Sharon Roberts

Monday, March 26, 2012 10:08 PM

TO: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

----- Original Message -----

From: Sharon

From: bruce-fleming@comcast.net

Date: March 19, 2012 3:07:55 PM GMT

To: Sharon <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Ballot Blunder

Sharon,

Let me be frank with you. I do not "feel slighted" which is a predominately female reaction.

Do not assume you know my reactions or assign me a female response to events.

Whereas women get hurt (slighted), men get angry. I am pissed that the ballot drawing for the commissioner race got screwed up by **you**.

It is more than unfair, it's badly flawed. My feelings are secondary to the facts which I and many others know.

Do not hide behind the Secretary of State. Did you tell them that you knew that Baldwin used a false address and you sat on your

ass for over 2 months? You did nothing from his filing to the ballot draw to remove him from the process. At the very least, you should have called him prior to the drawing to determine his status. By your own admission, you sent him a withdrawl form. You failed to do anything! Your negligence is profound and has damaged me.

I disagree with your statement that "I do not need to speak with others about their opinions." Is that why you refused a Commissioner's input?

Andy Meyers asked you on the afternoon of March 9 if you had received Baldwin's withdrawl. Since you answered "no" that should

have been your clue to follow up with Baldwin that evening or Saturday morning before the ballot drawing.

You are free to mistakes that affect you only, but I will not allow you to make mistakes that adversely affect me, without you suffering consequences.

Proverbs 11:14 says "Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory."

Self-righteousness as a new and inexperienced County Chair is damning. Furthermore, a leader who is unable to admit mistakes,

is not entitled nor permitted to retain leadership.

Those are the facts. Spare me any spin (bull-shit) that you might offer up. You are defenseless!

Bruce Fleming

From: "Sharon" <[REDACTED]>

To: bruce-fleming@comcast.net

Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 4:39:44 PM

Subject: Re: Checking back on your phone call

Bruce,

I get rulings from the Secretary of state's office. Mike Gibson called and spoke with me about it, expressing your views. Steve Munisteri and I spoke at length about this and other situations.

The mention of Mr. Meyers and others who have advised you, does not have bearing on the election requirements in the state.

There are laws and standards followed by the county chairs and election commissioners in Texas. It is not a matter of being unfair, but rather a matter of you feeling slighted. It could be said that it would not be equitable to Tom Aitchison (another candidate in your race) who does not want the redraw. The moving up of candidates is how this has been handled in Texas.

As for the actual withdrawal, your facts and opinions are a bit skewed. I spoke at great length about the potential withdrawal with Mr. Baldwin. I never received the withdrawal prior to the ballot drawing. This is why he was included on the ballot. It was later shown he had scanned and tried to send it. I never received it. However, the notarized image showed it was done.

The remarks on the senatorial mistakes reflect incomplete information. An executive committee person should have been named at the last organizational meeting and that person can appoint the temporary chairs. Fort Bend county has never done this as per the election law from several years ago. The state party advised us thinking I was the executive committee person.

I do not need to speak with others regarding their opinions. My boss is the secretary of state. Her legal team and the rest of her staff advise the county chairs and commissioners on their responsibilities and on various issues with the elections.

Hopefully this will clarify the various items of concern in your letter.

Kind regards,
Sharon Roberts
Republican Party of Fort Bend Chair

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 17, 2012, at 1:59 PM, bruce-fleming@comcast.net wrote:

Sharon,

The reason for my call is my continued concern over what happened last Saturday at the ballot drawing. I know you spoke with the Sec. of State for guidance and then Mike Gibson.

Here is my issue:

During the drawing process Mike Baldwin picked an ace. He picked before either Manny Reyes or I could pick a card. That meant that neither of us could have ever been first on the ballot since that card was gone.

Baldwin's draw was invalid since he had withdrawn from the race. That makes the entire drawing invalid because it is UNFAIR.

Notwithstanding the Sec. of State's input, you have other options.
YOU can require a new drawing-----even TODAY.

I want the chance of being first on the ballot. It is worth alot to have that position.
A new ballot draw gives me that opportunity but does not guarantee it.

Andy Meyers has called me repeatedly telling me to pursue a re-draw. I have talked with Steve Munistieri who told me election law is silent and you can proceed with a new drawing. Mike Gibson agrees that a new drawing is best and Rick Forlano sees my argument. Your counterpart in Harris County, Jared Woodfill recommends a new drawing. I also conferred with Dean Hrbacek who advised me to implore you to correct the problem. Even John Oldham told me we have time before printing to correct the ballot.

After speaking with the Sec. of State, their main concern is printing the ballots in time to be mailed to troops overseas. Just moving everyone up on the ballot does not address the problem of ballot order. You have already met the Sec. of State's requirement and gotten them the list of candidates. You are not obligated to just move people up the ballot. YOU MUST DO MORE.

Sharon, you have a chance to "right a wrong." This is an important part of **your legacy** by doing what is right. I know you are correcting another mistake that occurred at last week's EC meeting about appointing representatives rather than electing them. You could have called Baldwin before the ballot drawing to inquire about his withdrawal and prevented this situation. Since you didn't, you can now correct this problem. Please do so. Your stature and credibility will be greatly enhanced as Party Chair.

The process of a re-draw can be very simple and take just a matter of minutes. If nothing changes and we keep the same ballot positions, I will have no further complaint. You can make things happen today. You can simply give John Oldham ballot positions on Monday.

I am looking to you for your help. Forcing the issue in court and getting bad publicity for the party can be avoided. Please feel free to call Commission Meyers. He has a vested interest in seeing that any race affecting Commissioners is fair. He can be reached via cell at 832-338-1199 and looks forward to speaking with you.

Thank you.

Bruce

From: "Sharon Roberts" <[REDACTED]>
To: bruce-fleming@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:13:06 AM
Subject: Checking back on your phone call

Bruce,

This is a very busy season for me with the elections, and over the next few days with family commitments.

Please let me know how I can help. If I can't get to it over the next few days, I'll get Jane to help us out. She is the assistant who is my right hand.

Thanks!

Kind regards,
Sharon Roberts
Fort Bend County Republican Chairman

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