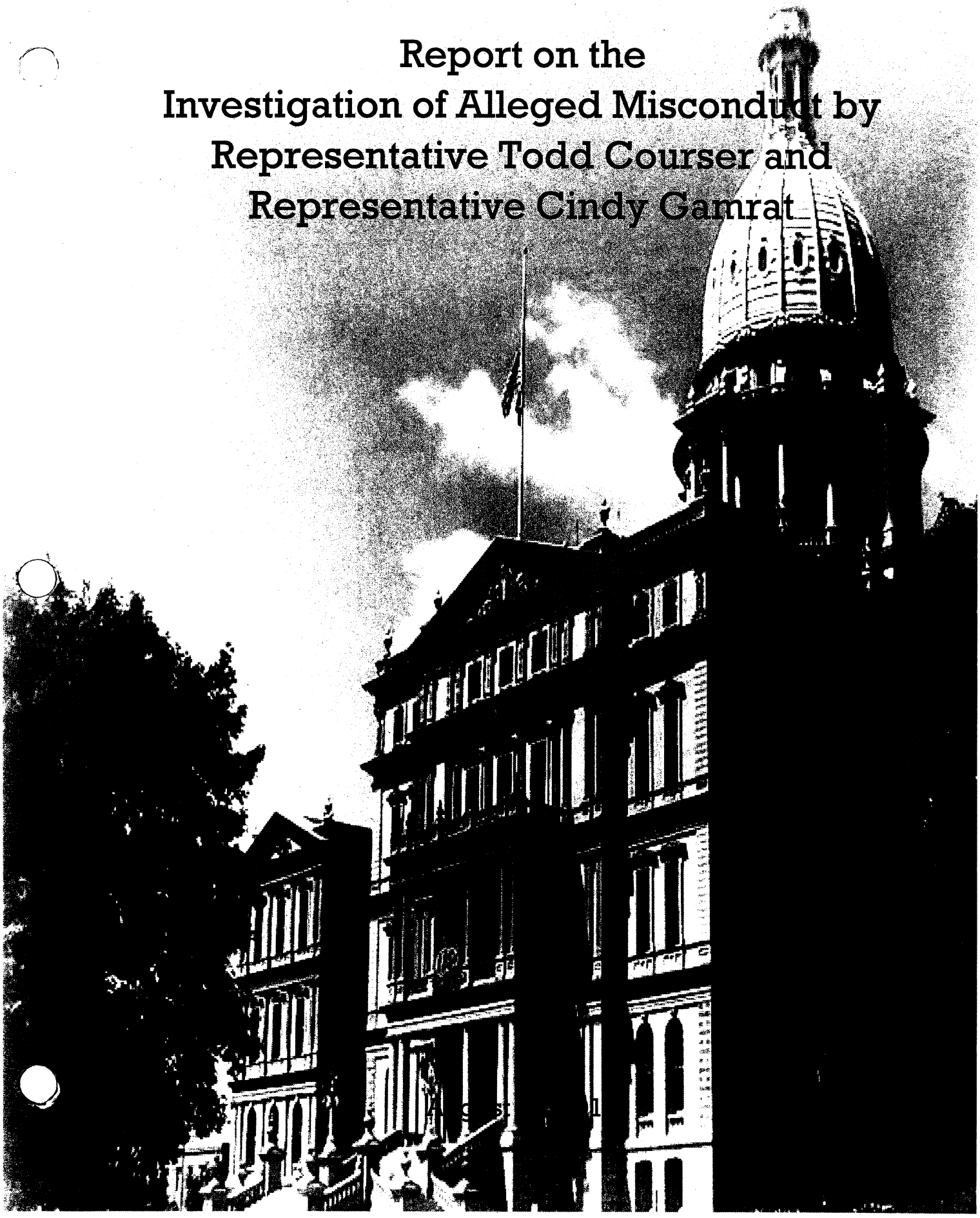
Report on the Investigation of Alleged Misconduct by Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BUSINESS OFFICE
P.O. Box 30014 / Lansing, MI 48909-7514 / 517-373-6339

August 31, 2015

Speaker Kevin Cotter
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Speaker Cotter:

It is with the upmost humility and deepest respect for the Michigan House of Representatives that I present this report as requested in your directive to my office on Friday, August 7, 2015. Per that directive, my office was charged to conduct an independent and thorough examination of allegations made against Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat relative to alleged misconduct in office and abuse of that office while serving as State Representative.

Over the past three and one/half weeks, with the assistance of various individuals from within the Michigan House of Representatives, I have come to ascertain that enough material information is present to warrant further investigation by the Michigan House of Representatives. This report includes summary and detailed information supporting that finding.

If you, other Members of the House or other persons so engaged by the Michigan House of Representatives have any questions regarding this report or its findings, I am available at your request.

Respectfully,

Tim L. Bowlin
Chief Financial Officer and Business Director
Michigan House of Representatives

Investigation Directive and Scope

Hours after the Detroit News released a story about alleged misconduct by Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat, the House Business Office was directed by the Speaker of the House, Kevin Cotter, to conduct an unbiased, thorough, and independent investigation into the allegations. The allegations and related story outlined that Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat inappropriately used their staff and state resources to conceal various personal and political improprieties.

The Business Office defined the scope of the investigation to examine three primary areas:

1. Whether any misconduct in office occurred by Representative Todd Courser and/or Representative Cindy Gamrat,

2. Whether any misuse of state resources occurred in the offices of Representative Todd Courser and/or Representative Gamrat,

3. Whether Mr. Ben Graham or Mr. Keith Allard were wrongfully discharged from the offices of Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat respectively.

Report Findings

Immediately upon being tasked with the investigation, House Business Office personnel began to secure physical and electronic property which may have evidentiary relevance to the allegations. The Business Office defined the scope of the investigation, specified the persons to be interviewed, compiled the documents to be reviewed and framed the methodology to be used throughout. After two and one/half weeks of review, dialog, examination and re-examination, the investigation focus became better defined and clarified; allowing this report to be drafted.

In a very confusing and convoluted issue before the Michigan House of Representatives, a few items became clear and easy to report. First and foremost, all parties relevant to this investigation reported that they were properly and adequately orientated to House policies and procedures. Further, all parties were/are well aware of State law, House rules and House policies as they relate to the use of State resources.

Second, the Business Office provided deliberate and clear information relative to the use of state resources during orientation programs for both House Members and House staff and provided additional training to staff relative to House policies and procedure. Further, it is clear that the House Business Office followed all necessary and appropriate protocols in handling the terminations of both Ben Graham and Keith Allard. The Business Office had no knowledge of work-related issues concerning the employees prior to their termination; a fact acknowledged by both employees after their termination and during their investigation testimonies. Additionally, the Business Office had no knowledge of misuse of state resources by anyone in Representative Courser's office or Representative Gamrat's office prior to the Detroit News article of August 7, 2015.

Third, Speaker Kevin Cotter had no knowledge of work-related issues concerning Ben Graham or Keith Allard prior to their termination. Further, Speaker Cotter had no knowledge of misuse of state resources by anyone in Representative Courser's office or Representative Gamrat's office prior to the Detroit News article of August 7, 2015.

Fourth, both Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat misrepresented themselves on several occasions during their testimony to the Business Office. This misrepresentation is made clear in the testimony of both Keith Allard and Ben Graham, as well as the audio recordings substantiating that testimony. Both Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat misused their office, their office staff, and other state resources to cover-up an affair between the two legislators. Both Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat misused their offices, their office staff, and other state resources for their own political advantage. Testimony of Keith Allard, Ben Graham and Joshua Cline document the misuse as defined in MCLA 169.257,

House Rule 74 and various House policies and procedures (see Appendix: Items 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Fifth, both Keith Allard and Ben Graham worked under very difficult and contrary conditions, often being directed to perform legislative, political and personal tasks for both Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat during their employment with the House. On several occasions the employees reached out to the Speaker's Chief of Staff, Norm Saari, to discuss issues related to various problems within the Representative Courser/Representative Gamrat combined office operation. In one or more of those meetings, the employees requested that the Chief of Staff not speak about these issues with either Representative Courser or Representative Gamrat. While the Chief of Staff may not have been given specific information or evidence (e.g., the audio recordings were not made available until the current investigation began), to substantiate the employees' concerns, there was reason in hindsight for the House to further inquire into the validity or depth of their claims.

Sixth, there is insufficient evidence to support a claim of wrongful termination of either Keith Allard or Ben Graham. The employees' at-will terminations were handled by the Business Office through procedures consistent with other terminations within the Michigan House. Claims of a hostile work environment or violation of Michigan's doctrine of at-will employment were not demonstrated by evidence provided during this investigation.

The confusing and unresolved issue remaining in this investigation is the relevance of the "burner phone: 313.421.5345", the "blackmail texts" and the person(s) sending them. It is the feeling of this Office that this issue has very little relevance to this investigation and the issue of abuse of office by House Members, abuse of state resources by House Members and/or the termination of Ben Graham and Keith Allard. It appears as if the texts did not come from within the Michigan House of Representatives or come from an employee of the Michigan House of Representatives. It also appears that the texts were a diversion from the issues outlined herein. The texts and the idea of what the sender may know about the Members occupied many discussions of Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat, both in the audio tapes heard in this investigation and in direct discussion the Members had with the Business Office during the investigation. Throughout this investigation, Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat both failed to appreciate that the "blackmail" allegations have no bearing on whether they engaged in misconduct or misused state resources.

Recommendations

In **red type** are the findings and recommendations made by the House Business Office as they pertain to the scope of its investigation:

1. **Representative Todd Courser and Representative Cindy Gamrat are not credible witnesses. The statements of both Representatives differ in material respect to those of other persons interviewed, including Ben Graham, Keith Allard, and Josh Cline.**

   The audio and documentary evidence were the most reliable evidence reviewed as part of the investigation and that evidence largely corroborates the versions of events told by the former employees.

2. **Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat committed misconduct in office that warrants further investigation and review by the Select Committee formed in H.R. 129.**

   a. The evidence demonstrates numerous instances of <u>deceptive, deceitful, and outright dishonest conduct</u> by both Representatives. For example:

      i. Representatives Courser and Gamrat engaged in a long-standing extra-marital affair with each other. There is no indication that either of their spouses acquiesced to this affair.

         - While the affair itself was primarily a personal, not official, matter, the Representatives abused their offices in attempting to cover it up.

      ii. Representative Courser purposefully caused, and asked Mr. Graham to send, an outlandish email full of lies against him from an anonymous source to various individuals in an attempt to cover up, conceal, or diminish the impact of the affair that he was having with Representative Gamrat. Though Representative Courser requested that the email be sent from a non-state account, and off state time, the subject matter of the email was patently false. There is audio and testimonial evidence indicating Representative Gamrat's knowing involvement in the plan to send the email.

         - While likely not illegal in-and-of itself, the very sending of the email showed a callous lack of respect and candor to his fellow Representatives, constituents, and the public at-large.
         - Notwithstanding the longstanding personal relationship between Representative Courser and Mr. Graham, and notwithstanding that the false allegations were to be made against Representative Courser himself, Representative Courser's request of a State employee to send a false communication from an unidentified source in order to provide cover for personal misconduct is unethical and an abuse of

the office of State Representative. Moreover, it was only Mr. Graham's refusal that prevented a state-funded resource from being employed in this part of the Representatives' attempted cover up.

iii. Representative Gamrat unconditionally stated in her interview that she did not know about the false email before it had been sent. She also stated at her August 14th press conference that she "did not author nor assist in sending the email in question" and was "unaware that this email was sent and also the content until a reporter pointed it out to me." However, this statement is refuted by both audio recordings and staff testimony.

- Such dishonesty, particularly in statements made to the public and as part of an official investigation, constitutes conduct that is unbecoming of a state legislator.

iv. There is testimonial and physical evidence that Representatives Courser and Gamrat forced their staff to forge their signatures on three bill "bluebacks" for introduction, namely House Bills 4174, 4317, and 4318. According to their staff, this was done in an attempt to quickly subvert the efforts of other Representatives to introduce similar legislation.

- Such deceptive conduct is in direct violation of House Rule 41 and threatens the public trust in government and elected officials. Moreover, such disregard for even the most basic of House Rules, in light of the totality of evidence gathered in this report, is indicative of a larger pattern of disrespect for the rule of law and this institution.

b. The evidence demonstrates a <u>lack of respect for constituents</u> on the part of both Representatives, which undermines the legitimacy of their status as Representatives and calls into question their ability to effectively represent their districts. For example:

i. An audio recording of a meeting on the evening of May 19th provides that Representative Courser referred to his constituents as a "herd" that needed to be "inoculated" through deceit. These terms were used several times. The false public statements made by Representative Gamrat at her August 14th press conference suggest a similar lack of respect for her primary audience: her constituency.

- While their affair itself may have been a personal matter, the decisions of both members to subsequently deceive their constituencies in an effort to "inoculate the herd" and remain in their positions of power may have caused irreparable harm to their ability to serve their electorates. Effective representation requires trust, and trust requires truth.

ii. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that both Representatives had an office policy of entering constituent contact information that they obtained in their official capacities into privately

funded "NationBuilder" software, which appears to have been used for political purposes.

- If used for political purposes, then this conduct would be in violation of House Rule 74(4), as well as a breach of the trust placed in them by their constituents, who presumably did not provide the information for non-official (e.g., political) use.

iii. An audio recording from May 21st covers a conversation between both Representatives and Ben Graham on state property during office hours. During this conversation, which lasted over one hour, both Representatives required Ben Graham to discuss their attempt to deceitfully hide their affair from the public. Despite several attempts by Mr. Graham to transition the conversation into official business, such as analyzing legislation, the Representatives refused to move off topic. In doing so, and despite Mr. Graham's urging, Representative Courser missed an official meeting of the Military & Veterans Affairs Committee. Moreover, as the period covered in the recording preceded a legislative session, this is time that should have been spent preparing for session, as Mr. Graham pointed out.

- Such misuse of public resources for personal purposes, especially that resulting in the dereliction of legislative duties, demonstrates a lack of respect by both Representatives for taxpayers and, by extension, their constituencies. Moreover, such misuse violates House Rule 74.

c. The evidence demonstrates that both members, in combining office staff and operations, improperly and inextricably entwined political, personal, business, and official state matters. The use of state resources for non-official matters is an abuse of the office of State Representative. For example:

i. Testimonial evidence indicates that staff were required to help facilitate Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat's affair, including by lying about the members' whereabouts when together.

ii. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that both Representatives made clear to their employees that their job descriptions included tasks that were exclusively political in nature (e.g., inputting information into "NationBuilder" software) and that their employment was contingent on furthering the Representatives' political endeavors.

iii. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that staff members were instructed on several occasions to assist in the development and/or placement of internet-based advertisements for Representative Courser's law firm.

3. Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat **misused state resources** to an extent that warrants further investigation and review by the Select Committee formed in H.R. 129.

   a. Section 57 of the Campaign Finance Act (MCLA 169.257) prohibits a public official or employee from using or authorizing the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationary, postage, equipment, supplies or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure.

   b. The Campaign Finance Act's restrictions are also reflected in the Principles and Guidelines for House staff, which provide that: 1) House resources (time on the job, office space, office property) must be used only for official House business; 2) Examples of official House business include working on and communicating about bills, analyses, and other legislative-related matters, views on public policy, production or dissemination of factual information concerning legislative matters, and responding to constituent concerns; and 3) The use of House resources for non-official House business –e.g., campaign, fundraising, commercial, charitable, or personal activities –is strictly prohibited.

   c. House Rule 74(4) provides that a Member shall not convert for personal, business and/or campaign use, unrelated to House business, any supplies, services, facilities, or staff provided by the State of Michigan.

   d. The evidence demonstrates that both Representatives <u>improperly used state resources for political purposes</u>. For example:
      i. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that staff were required to use the software, NationBuilder, to enter constituent information and build a political database for both Representative Courser's potential candidacy for the 10th Congressional District as well as Representative Gamrat's campaign for Republican National Committeewoman.
      ii. There are several instances supported by documentary evidence where Representative Courser instructs his staff to prioritize political tasks over legislative issues during normal operating business hours of the House.
      iii. There is documentary evidence that staff conducted political business on state time. Staff edited political press releases and facilitated the purchase of database information for Representatives Courser and Gamrat during House business hours without taking any leave time off their timecards.

   e. The evidence demonstrates that both Representatives <u>improperly used state resources for personal purposes</u>. For example:

i. There is testimonial and audio evidence that Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat required their staff to meet during normal working hours to discuss their affair in spite of numerous requests by the staff to end the meeting and return to work.

ii. There is testimonial evidence that Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat requested and required House staff to aid in the cover-up of their affair. Although staff did not ultimately take part in sending the "false email," they were required to lie about the Representatives' whereabouts, including to family, to facilitate the secrecy of their romantic meetings.

f. The evidence demonstrates that Representative Courser improperly used state resources for business purposes. For example:

i. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that staff members were instructed on several occasions to assist in the development and/or placement of internet-based advertisements for Representative Courser's law firm during normal operating hours of the House. It is only staff refusal that prevented some of this work from taking place at the expense of the House.

ii. There is testimonial and documentary evidence that suggests Representative Courser had staff that worked part-time at his law firm conduct tasks for the firm while being paid by the House and without taking any leave time off their timecards.

4. **The evidence is insufficient to conclude that Ben Graham or Keith Allard were wrongfully terminated from the offices of Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat or that they were subjected to a hostile work environment.**

a. The evidence demonstrates that Representatives Courser and Gamrat ran a highly dysfunctional combined office. They provided inconsistent and contradictory instruction to their staff, and Representative Courser repeatedly berated their staff in an unprofessional manner. The Representatives demanded that their staff know all of the intricacies of legislative work while refusing to learn themselves even the most basic of legislative tasks. In one instance, Representative Courser even stated to his staff, "I DO NOT KNOW THE AMENDMENT PROCESS NOR SHOULD I HAVE TO."

b. Under Michigan law, an at-will employee can be terminated for any or no reason, with few exceptions. For example, an at-will employee cannot be discharged based on his or her membership in a protected class (e.g., race, sex, or religion) or if he or she can satisfy the elements of a whistleblower's claim. Moreover, the at-will employment doctrine does not apply if an employee is terminated for a reason that is contrary to State public policy.

c. The evidence does not demonstrate that the terminations of Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard meet the exceptionally high bar of violating state public policy or that they fall under the protections of whistleblower laws. There is, however, documentary evidence that Representatives Courser and Gamrat were unsatisfied with the work performance of Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard as far back as January 2015, which corroborates the reasons offered for terminating Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard.

d. To be actionable, a hostile work environment claim must consist of harassment based on the employee's membership in a protected class (e.g., race, sex, or religion). Nothing in the evidence suggests that Mr. Graham or Mr. Allard's membership in a protected class was a negative factor in their professional relationship with Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Moreover, it does not appear that the Representatives' misconduct was directed at any protected class.

Material submitted by Anne Hill

LIGHTS TURNED OFF
DURING WORKING HOURS
(KEITH THE LIGHTS HURT
HIS EYES- FLOURESCENT- BUT
HE HAD BEEN THERE
6 MONTHS.
SIGNS FREQUENTLY POSTED
ON BOTH DOORS THAT SAID
THEY WERE IN THE
OTHER OFFICE
EVEN THOUGH CINDY SAID
IN FRONT OF ALL OF US
FOR BEN TO SHOW US
HOW TO DO THE CALENDAR
IT TOOK CONTINUED
REQUESTING OVER SEVERAL
WEEKS BEFORE IT HAPPENED.
WE WERE TOLD TO
FORWARD ALL CALENDAR ITEMS
HAVING TO DO WITH CINDY
TO HE AND KEITH. THEY

1

WOULD DECIDE WHAT SHE WOULD GO TO. CINDY FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED THAT SHE WAS MISSING MEETINGS AND FINDING OUT AFTERWARDS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAD ATTENDED AND WONDERED WHY SHE WAS NOT THERE. THEY CLEARLY FELT THEY SHOULD TELL HER WHAT SHE SHOULD GO TO, NOT THAT SHE SHOULD DECIDE. BEN SAID THAT THEY WERE BEING TOLD THAT "THEY SHOULD MANAGE TODD & CINDY." (NOT THAT TODD & CINDY SHOULD MANAGE THEM). CINDY ASKED FOR COPIES OF "ALL" MEETING

(2)

NOTICES, SO SHE COULD DECIDE. STILL, BEN DID NOT PRINT THEM OFF AND REVIEW THEM WITH HER. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THEY LEFT AND I GOT CONTROL OF HER CALENDAR THAT SHE STARTED RECEIVING THEM.

- FOR THE SAUGATUCK LOCAL OFFICE HOURS. BEN DID NOT NOTIFY ~~THE~~ OR ASK THE OWNER IN ADVANCE IF THEY MINDED IF SHE HAD LOCAL HRS THERE (THE BUTLER). THEY FOUND OUT FROM ONE OF THEIR

(3)

CUSTOMERS, WHO HAD THEM GO TO THE HOUSE WEBSITE TO SEE IT. HE WAS VERY UPSET WHEN HE CALLED, BECAUSE NO ONE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH HIM BEFORE PUBLISHING IT.

- THERE WERE NO WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO DO THE DAY TO DAY TASKS. AS BEN TRIED TO TEACH THE THREE OF US WHAT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DO, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. THESE WERE NOT HARD

4

TASKS BUT HE ~~KEPT~~ KEPT BOUNCING AROUND FROM TOPIC TO TOPIC, OR NOT COMPLETING A TASK BEFORE STARTING THE NEXT. IT FINALLY GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I WENT TO THE WHITE BOARD AND STARTED MAPPING OUT WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO TELL US, WHILE KAREN & STEVE OBSERVED AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS. I BECAME THE FACILITATOR OF THE TRAINING.

- BEN STATED THAT HE WAS THE

5

SUPERVISOR ON
STEVE AND ME.
TODD HAD TOLD
KAREN SHE WAS
TO REPORT DIRECTLY
TO HIM. BEN AT
FIRST TRIED TO
TELL KAREN SHE
WAS TO REPORT TO
HIM, BUT SHE WAS
HAVING NONE OF IT,
AND WENT TO
TODD DIRECTLY.
KEITH NEVER
TRIED TO TAKE
A SUPERVISORY
ROLE. HE NEVER
GAVE ME DIRECTION,
AND I DON'T
REMEMBER HIM
GIVING STEVE OR

6

KAREN DIRECTION.
AFTER THE FIRST
2-3 DAYS, HE
WENT UP TO TODD'S
OFFICE, AND THAT'S
WHERE HE STAYED.
SHORTLY AFTER
THAT, BEN BEGAN
STAYING UP IN
TODD'S OFFICE AS
WELL. WE VERY
RARELY SAW EITHER
OF THEM. THEY
TOLD ME THE
HOURS OF OPERATION
WERE 9-5. HOWEVER
AT ABOUT THE END
OF THE FIRST OR
SECOND WEEK
STEVE AND I WERE
WORKING ON HAPPY

7

NOTES. IT WAS AROUND 3:30, AND WE WERE WORKING TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. BEN AND KEITH CAME DOWN TO CINDY'S OFFICE AND JUST SAT IN THE FIRST CUBICLE. IT FELT RATHER AWKWARD, BECAUSE THEY WERE JUST WATCHING WHAT WE WERE DOING. THEY SEEMED RATHER ANXIOUS AND FIDGETY. AFTER 10-15 MINUTES OF THIS, KEITH TOLD US WE DIDN'T NEED TO STAY.

(8)

STEVE AND I HAD NOT FINISHED THE TASK AND HAD PLANNED ON STAYING UNTIL 5 TO TRY TO COMPLETE IT. KEITH THEN TOLD US THAT "WE DIDN'T NEED TO STAY TO TRY TO IMPRESS ANYONE, SO WE SHOULD GO HOME." NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO AS CINDY WAS NOT IN THE OFFICE AT THAT TIME, WE LEFT.

- WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED THERE WERE PILES OF

(9)

NEWS/
PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS
THAT HAD BEEN
SITTING THERE FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS.
IT WAS AS IF
NOTHING HAD BEEN
TOUCHED FOR WEEKS,
WE WERE TOLD
THAT 'OLD STEVE'
USED TO DO THAT,
AND THEY HADN'T
HAD TIME SINCE HE
HAD LEFT.
BEN TOLD STEVE
AND ME EARLY ON
THAT WE WERE
TO ANSWER THE
PHONES. THE PHONES
WOULD RING IN
BOTH OFFICES
WHEN A CALL

(10)

CAME IN, IF IT
WAS FOR HIM, WE
WERE TO ASK WHO
IT WAS, TELL THEM
WE THOUGHT HE
WAS IN A MEETING,
BUT WOULD CHECK,
PUT THE PERSON ON
HOLD, CALL BEN.
IF HE WANTED TO
TAKE THE CALL,
WE WERE TO GET
BACK ON THE LINE,
SAY HE WAS
AVAILABLE, AND
TRANSFER IT.
OTHERWISE, IF HE
DIDN'T WANT TO
TAKE THE CALL,
WE WERE TO
TAKE A MESSAGE.

(11)

• BY THE SECOND OR THIRD DAY OF BEING THERE, CINDY ASKED FOR A CALL LOG. SHE WANTED US TO DOCUMENT EVERY CALL THAT CAME IN: THE DATE, TIME, WHO, WHAT THEY WERE CALLING FOR. STEVE QUICKLY MADE AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET AND SHOWED IT TO KAREN AND MYSELF. WE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD AND IF WE NEEDED TO MODIFY IT GOING FORWARD, WE COULD. AT FIRST,

12

THIS SEEMED REDUNDANT TO ME, AS MANY ~~THINGS~~ CALLS WERE ALREADY BEING LOGGED INTO NB. I AGREED TO TRY IT, ALTHOUGH I WAS RELUCTANT. IT WAS NOT UNTIL LATER THAT I REALIZED THE REAL REASON CINDY WANTED IT. BEN AND KEITH HAD BEEN TELLING THEM HOW BUSY THEY WERE, AND HOW OVERWORKED. BUT THEY COULD NOT GIVE ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT IT.

13

FROM WHAT I COULD SEE, AND COMPARING THE WORKLOAD TO THAT WHICH I HAD SEEN IN OVER 25+ YEARS IN MANAGEMENT IN BUSINESS, THEY WERE NOT ONLY NOT BEING OVER-WORKED, THEY WERE UNDER-UTILIZED. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY HAD EXCESS TIME ON THIER HANDS.

- AFTER ABOUT 2-3 WEEKS I BEGAN TO WONDER WHAT BEN AND

(14)

KEITH WERE WORKING ON, BECAUSE WE RARELY HEARD FROM THEM. IF I WENT TO TODD'S OFFICE, IT WAS ALWAYS DARK (LIGHTS OUT), AND THE DOOR WAS LOCKED. REGARDLESS OF TIME OF DAY, I BEGAN LOOKING AT THE PHONES AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE PHONES WORKED (THE FEATURES). I WAS FAMILIAR WITH PHONES WITH LOGS AND VOICEMAIL, BUT WE HAD VERY LITTLE TRAINING ON IT;

(15)

ONLY TO LEARN HOW TO FORWARD IT TO BEN IF HE WANTED TO TAKE A CALL. I WAS ABLE TO TAKE TIME TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF AND SEE HOW WE COULD TRACK AUTOMATICALLY THE CALLS THAT WERE COMING IN. I THEN SHOWED KAREN AND STEVE. (THE THREE OF US WERE VERY GOOD ABOUT SHARING WHATEVER WE HAD LEARNED WITH EACH OTHER.) KAREN AND I THEN WENT TO TODD'S OFFICE

16

AND CLEARED OUT THE LOGS ON THOSE PHONES SO WE COULD MONITOR THEM. BEN CAME IN WHILE WE WERE FINISHING UP AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WE WERE DOING. HE SEEMED PERTURBED TO FIND US IN THE OFFICE.

- BOTH REPS ~~HADS~~ HAD GIVEN APPROVAL FOR KAREN AND I TO HAVE ACCESS TO BOTH OFFICES ON OUR BADGES. THEY HAD ASKED BEN TO PULL TOGETHER THE PAPERWORK

17

TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, IT STILL WAS NOT COMPLETED BY THE TIME BEN LEFT. (FIRED)

- WE FOUND SEVERAL TRIBUTES THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED AND SIGNED, BUT NOT ISSUED / PRESENTED. THEY WERE NOW OVER-DUE BY MORE THAN 2 ~~MONTH~~ MONTHS.
- THERE WAS NO ORGANIZATION TO THE REP OFFICES. NO FILES WERE KEPT IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. THEY

WERE JUST THROWN INTO DRAWERS. THIS INCLUDED CONSTITUENT ISSUES, LEGISLATION, MATERIALS (BOOKLETS) TO HAND OUT TO CONSTITUENTS. THE BOOKLETS THAT WERE THERE IN THE BOXES STILL HAD REP GENETSKI'S LABEL ON THEM. WHEN ASKED ABOUT IT, BEN SAID THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME.

- BEN BEGAN SHOWING UP AT STRANGE TIMES. HE DID NOT LET US KNOW WHEN HE ARRIVED IN THE MORNING. HE MIGHT

COME IN AROUND
11:00 AND SAY HE
WAS GOING DOWN
FOR A COFFEE.
THEN NOT SEE HIM
AT ALL FOR THE
REST OF THE DAY.
ON TWO OCCASIONS
KAREN AND/OR I
HAD GONE UP TO
REP COURSER'S
OFFICE AND FOUND
NO ONE THERE.
WE NEEDED HELP
TO ACCOMPLISH THE
TASK WE WERE
WORKING ON, AND
IT WAS GETTING
FRUSTRATING THAT
WE COULD NOT
FIND HIM. WE

BEGAN TO OPENLY
TALK ABOUT ~~WHER~~
WHETHER HE WAS
ACTUALLY THERE
OR NOT. ON THOSE
TWO OCCASIONS,
AFTER OUR COMMENTS,
BEN CAME THRU
REP GAMRAT'S OFFICE
DOOR, SAYING "DID
YOU NEED ME FOR
SOMETHING?" JUST
THE WAY HE SAID
IT WAS ODD. BOTH
KAREN AND I
NOTICED IT, AND
MADE EYE CONTACT.
WE BOTH THOUGHT
IT STRANGE, AND
OPENLY QUESTIONED
WHETHER THE

OFFICE WAS BUGGED.

- ON JULY 3RD, Both BEN & Keith were in the OFFICE, THIS WAS ODD, AS THEY HAD BEEN SETTING IT UP SO ONLY ONE OF THEM WAS THERE, VERY RARELY DID I SEE KEITH. HE HAD TOLD ME ON ONE OCCASSION WHEN I HAD BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT HE AND BEN BY PHONE TO GET DIRECTION ON WHAT TO DO FOR SOME MEDIA THAT WANTED TO TALK W/ REP GAMRAT & COURSER.

(22)

ON 7/2, BOTH OF THEM CAME INTO THE OFFICE, WENT TO THE COFFEEPOT, AND JUST STOOD THERE. I HAD SAID "Hi" BUT WENT BACK TO WORKING ON THE TASK AT HAND. BEN THEN SAID THAT THEY WANTED ME TO GO WITH THEM TO RUN AN ERRAND. (TO TAKE SOMETHING TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR SIGNATURE). THAT WAS ODD, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T TAKE THREE PEOPLE TO GET A SIGNATURE

(23)

I DECLINED AND SAID I WAS BUSY AND I THOUGHT THEY COULD HANDLE IT. KEITH THEN SAID THEY REALLY NEEDED ME TO GO WITH THEM. I GOT UP FROM MY CHAIR AND FOLLOWED THEM, TURNING TO GO BACK TO TELL STEVE I WOULD BE GONE FOR AWHILE. ON THE WAY DOWN KEITH SAID THEY "REALLY DIDN'T NEED ME TO HELP THEM." THEY NEEDED TO TALK WITH ME IN PRIVATE. I FELT

(24)

THIS WAS A VERY DECEPTIVE AND DISHONEST APPROACH, AND FELT AS IF THEY WERE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME. ONE WAS ON EACH SIDE (KEITH TO THE RIGHT, AND BEN TO THE LEFT.) AND WHEN THE ELEVATOR REACHED THE MAIN FLOOR, THEY TOLD ME TO GO FIRST. ONCE OUTSIDE, WE WALKED SOUTH ALONG CAPITAL AVENUE, AND THEY STARTED TO TURN INTO THE COMMON AREA THAT WAS

(25)

FILLED WITH PEOPLE. FOR A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, THIS DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS TO BE SHARED, SO I DECLINED GOING INTO THAT AREA TO TALK. I SUGGESTED GOING ACROSS THE STREET TO THE CAPITOL PROPERTY ON A BENCH IN THE NORTH EAST SECTION. THEY AGREED. THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVERSATION WAS VERY AWKWARD, AND THEY STUMBLED STARTING THE

(26)

CONVERSATION, SAYING THEY DIDN'T EXACTLY KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR GUIDANCE FROM ME ON HOW I WOULD DEAL WITH A SITUATION. THAT I HAD MORE EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS AND PERHAPS COULD HELP GUIDE THEM. BY THEIR DEMEANOR, I KNEW THAT THEY WERE TELLING ME A LIE. I FELT I HAD INTENTIONALLY BEEN LED TO AN AREA WHERE NOTHING GOOD COULD COME OF THE CONVERSATION. KEITH LED MOST OF

(27)

THE DISCUSSION, BUT AS THE ENTIRETY OF IT PLAYED OUT, THEY WOULD TAKE TURNS ELEVATING THE CONVERSATION. THEY SAID THAT THE TWO REPS WERE HAVING AN AFFAIR. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD TALKED WITH THEM ABOUT IT. THEY SAID THAT THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE WAS AWARE. THEY TOLD ME THE SAME INFORMATION THAT WAS SHARED WITH THE DETROIT NEWS. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. "WAS I GOING TO QUIT?"

(28)

THEY TOLD ME THE PERSON THAT HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE ME (STEVE) QUIT BECAUSE OF IT, AND JOSH CLINE QUIT BECAUSE OF IT. IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT WOULD BE THIER PREFERENCE. THEY KEPT ASKING ME WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE TELLING ME. BEN KEPT WANTING TO SHOW ME THE E-MAIL. I WAS NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING IT, BECAUSE HE HAD TOLD ME THAT REP COURSER HAD CALLED HIM TO DO IT (SEND OUT THE EMAIL)

(28)

BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT BEN KNEW HOW TO SEND OUT AN EMAIL AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT CAME FROM SOMEONE ELSE. HE SAID TODD DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT. I ASKED MYSELF WHY ON EARTH BEN EVER HAD A NEED OR REASON TO SEND OUT AN EMAIL AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT CAME FROM SOMEONE ELSE. IT WAS TOO SHADY FOR ME. I HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH THAT THE RUSSIANS USE TO

(29)

SPREAD DISINFORMATION, AND THIS SOUNDED LIKE A PERFECT EXAMPLE. ONE OF THE THINGS KEITH HAD SAID WAS THAT IF THERE WAS TAPING (WIRETAPPING) GOING ON, AND ONE OF THE PARTIES BEING TAPED WAS AWARE OF IT AND THE OTHERS WEREN'T IT WAS NOT ILLEGAL. THERE WAS THE ONE PARTY THAT KNEW EVEN IF THAT WAS THE PARTY THAT WAS DOING THE TAPING. THAT JUST SEEMED SO WRONG TO ME. THAT BASICALLY

(30)

SAYS THAT ANYONE CAN TAPE ANY~~BODY~~ ONE ELSE WITHOUT THIER KNOWLEDGE AND USE IT AGAINST THEM. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY KNEW REP GAMRAT'S OFFICE WAS TAPED, AND I SHOULD SPEAK/BEHAVE AS THOUGH IT WERE. THIS DIDN'T SURPRISE ME BECAUSE OF HOW BEN HAD ENTERED THE OFFICE ON THOSE FEW OCCASIONS WHEN WE HAD JUST BEEN ASKING ABOUT WHERE HE WAS, AND HE

32

IMMEDIATELY BEGAN DISCUSSING THE EXACT ISSUE WE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM SO WE COULD DISCUSS.

ON MONDAY, July 6TH, I ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE ABOUT 8:15 a.m. NORMAL HOURS ARE A 9AM START TIME, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS LIKED TO COME IN ABOUT AN HOUR EARLY TO GET MYSELF ORGANIZED AND PREPPED FOR THE DAY BEFORE EVEYONE ELSE ARRIVED. ~~E~~ WHEN I ARRIVED, I WAS VERY SURPRISED TO SEE BEN AND

33

KEITH ALREADY THERE. THE LIGHTS WERE ON, AND BEN WAS REACHING INTO THE OVERHEAD CABINET. AT THAT MOMENT I DID NOT KNOW THAT KEITH WAS ALSO IN THE ROOM, BECAUSE I COULD NOT SEE HIM. BEN WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW ME, AND STARTED TO EXPLAIN WHY HE WAS THERE. THIS SEEMED UNUSUAL, AS IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE FOR HIM TO FEEL THE NEED TO EXPLAIN TO ME HIS ACTIONS. KEITH CAME TO THE FRONT AREA AT THAT MOMENT. BOTH SEEMED

34

VERY ANXIOUS AND EAGER TO GET OUT OF THE OFFICE QUICKLY, AS IF THEY HAD JUST BEEN CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING. THE FACT THAT THEY WERE THERE SO EARLY WHEN WE TYPICALLY NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE MID-MORNING AT BEST SEEMED VERY STRANGE TO ME. THE TWO OF THEM LEFT AND DID NOT APPEAR TO TAKE ANYTHING OUT WITH THEM. THIS WAS ALSO ODD, BECAUSE WHEN I CAME IN, BEN HAD SAID THEY WERE THERE TO GET SOME THINGS.

35

I WONDERED IF THEY HAD EITHER BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF PLANTING OR REMOVING ADDITIONAL SURVILLENCE ITEMS. I REPORTED THIS TO REP GAMRAT AND SHE CHECKED WITH SOMEONE (I SUSPECT IT OK HK), SHE LATER TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD COME IN ABOUT 30 SECONDS PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL.

36

Tim Bowlin

From: Anne Hill <[redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Tim Bowlin; andrew@aboodlaw.com
Subject: FW: Most recent Blackmail texts

Hi Tim,

Per Representative Gamrat's request, I am forwarding the following information.

Thank you.
Anne Hill
Legislative Aide
Representative Gamrat

Subject: Fwd: Most recent Blackmail texts
From: cindygamrat80@gmail.com
Date: Wed, 19 Aug 2015 12:48:48 -0400
CC: andrew@aboodlaw.com
To: [redacted]@hotmail.com; [redacted]@hotmail.com

Subject: Most recent Blackmail texts

●●○○○ Verizon 3G 12:01 AM 22%

< Messages (1) **(313) 421-5345** Details

Amazing what would have happened had you simply listened. Too late. KABOOM!

Fri, Aug 7, 12:00 PM

e surface....Ben has lots of audio...intriguing, damning. I have steamy audio, pics, video from DC. Resign, or Chad gets it all.

It went global fast

●●○○○ Verizon 3G 12:01 AM 22%

< Messages (1) **(313) 421-5345** Details

Wed, Jul 22, 7:07 AM

I came across this number in this file: ~~260-504-6649~~. Its not Dans or Tims or either of yours? Whos is it?

Nevermind, I'll text it myself...

Fri, Aug 7, 9:51 AM

●●○○○ Verizon 3G 12:01 AM 22%

< Messages (1) (313) 421-5345 Details

and police involvement notwithstanding.

Tue, Jul 21, 11:06 AM

I've been digging. How was camping Cin? Todd, your wife had an affair before, but then again, so have you...before Cindy. I may need some funding? Offers

to help?

●●○○○ Verizon 3G 12:01 AM 22%

< Messages (1) **(313) 421-5345** Details

Text Message
Fri, Jul 17, 9:09 AM

I was off the last few days and was offered the opportunity to do some surveillance....little did I know you'd drag me all the way to Flint....I used to

work out of that Target strip mall and often frequented Barnes/ Noble Keith and Ben

Ben Graham as State Representative Todd Courser emailed [redacted] for constituent service: Re: book mark competition
2 months ago

to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted]

Unfortunately I don't believe your students were among the winners. We have run into some issues that delayed the production of the bookmarks so I'm not sure we will be able to finish them before the end of the school year. We are still considering how to deal with that. Perhaps distributing them for the next school year.

I was never did contact

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep Todd Courser

On 2015-06-08T10:24:47-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Good Morning,
> Several of my students entered the book mark competition in March. We have not heard anything back. I am assuming none of them won. Can you verify that? Also, it stated that the winners would have their book mark printed and the Lapeer County schools would receive them. Are you going to still do that? Please let me know so that I can relay the information to the students.
>
> Thanks,
>
>
> [redacted]
>
>
>
>

when we did it someone won from this school

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- Reply
- Reply to all
- Forward

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: book mark competition
2 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Good Morning,
Several of my students entered the book mark competition in March. We have not heard anything back. I am assuming none of them won. Can you verify that? Also, it stated that the winners would have their book mark printed and the Lapeer County schools would receive them. Are you going to still do that? Please let me know so that I can relay the information to the students.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Hide email

Upset constituent / No Response

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Re: Otisville pornography
3 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Thank you anyhow. I have Pam Faris working with me. Seems she is trying to do something, even tho she acknowledges that it is not a state issue. I retired from state gov. in 2013. I realize many things were not on my job description but because I was dedicated & wanted to help...I went out of my way often. I see you do not do this. Mr. Courser, stay within your job description & we shall see where it lands you next election. You could have given me something as far as direction. Obviously, if you read my first note, you would have seen that the village has exhausted its funds on this. That is why I was speaking help from higher levels. Reps like you need to be called out. I am sharing all the responses I get with the village & on social media. Get back to your power nap & thank you for your response. Sincerely, [redacted]

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 2, 2015, at 11:11, toddcourser@house.mi.gov wrote:
>
> Greetings [redacted]
>
> This looks to be a legal issue which is something we aren't able to get involved in at the state level as the courts are a separate branch of government. I would recommend that you work with the village or the local police on this issue to see if there is anything more they can do locally to resolve this problem.
>
> Regards,
>
> Ben Graham
> Legislative Aide
> Rep Todd Courser
>
>> On 2015-06-01T08:23:41-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>>
>> Dear Mr. Courser, I have lived in Otisville all my 58 years. A 'business man' in town got angry over something & he decided to make the village pay. He parks this semi box on M15 & it's the first thing you see as you enter our peaceful little town. I have went to city council meetings to see what can be done about this. The village won a lawsuit to have him move the truck, he complied....for a short time & moved it back. The village does not have the funds to take this nasty man back to court. I am going to make noise because this is disgusting. The sign has reached social media & is on a site called Guff, making fun of our city. Please direct me as to what can be done.
>>
>> Sent from my iPad

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- Report spam

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Ben Graham as State Representative Todd Courser emailed [redacted] for inbox: Re: Otisville pornography
3 months ago

to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted]

This looks to be a legal issue which is something we aren't able to get involved in at the state level as the courts are a separate branch of government. I would recommend that you work with the village or the local police on this issue to see if there is anything more they can do locally to resolve this problem.

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep Todd Courser

On 2015-06-01T08:23:41-04:00, [redacted]
>
> Dear Mr. Courser, I have lived in Otisville all my 58 years. A 'business man' in town got angry over something & he decided to make the village pay. He parks this semi box on M15 & it's the first thing you see as you enter our peaceful little town. I have went to city council meetings to see what can be done about this. The village won a lawsuit to have him move the truck, he complied....for a short time & moved it back. The village does not have the funds to take this nasty man back to court. I am going to make noise because this is disgusting. The sign has reached social media & is on a site called Guff, making fun of our city. Please direct me as to what can be done.
>
> Sent from my iPad

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[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Otisville pornography
3 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>

Dear Mr. Courser, I have lived in Otisville all my 58 years. A 'business man' in town got angry over something & he decided to make the village pay. He parks this semi box on M15 & it's the first thing you see as you enter our peaceful little town. I have went to city council meetings to see what can be done about this. The village won a lawsuit to have him move the truck, he complied....for a short time & moved it back. The village does not have the funds to take this nasty man back to court. I am going to make noise because this is disgusting. The sign has reached social media & is on a site called Guff, making fun of our city. Please direct me as to what can be done.

Sent from my iPad

- ATT00001.txt - 26 B bytes
- image.jpeg - 280 kB bytes

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Ben Graham posted a private note abou[redacted]

Email back to Keith: If I send you something I need a response. I don't care what your answer is either way but leaving me hanging makes me look bad if it blows up in my face.

So I should ignore this guy?

Thanks!

Ben

5 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
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Ben Graham posted a private note abou[redacted]

Response from Keith: If Todd has talked to him in person, and he agrees with our stance on the issue, why do they need to meet AGAIN?

5 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Forwarded to Keith again

5 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Forwarded to keith again.

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham

- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note abou[redacted]

Forwarded to Keith for advice

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Matched [redacted] to Facebook
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: The Michigan State Fairgrounds - Picking Winners and Losers is Wrong - Ending the MEDC
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Hello Todd,

It was a pleasure meeting you last Wednesday up in Lansing. We spoke briefly in the Capitol Building about the State's proposed (it ain't a done deal yet) transfer of the publically owned 163 acre Michigan State Fairgrounds site to Lansing developer Joel Ferguson, 'Magic' Johnson, and Greektown Casino owner Marvin Beatty.

You asked if I had read your recent email regarding your first piece of legislation - ending the MEDC. I had not, as it landed in my Spam folder, but I since have. Thank you. If ever there was a project that illustrates what the MEDC should not do - it's the transfer of the Michigan State Fairgrounds to private interests. It's Crony-Capitalism at it's worse. It can only end up one way - a waste of taxpayer's money by Joel Ferguson - just like the soon to be vacated Michigan State Police Headquarters. Everyone knew that that was a political payback at the time - but they went along and let it happen. By the way, your office is in a Joel Ferguson building.

http://www.wxyz.com/news/local-news/investigations/michigan-state-police-to-move-out-of-71-million-headquarters-only-5-years-after-construction

But you don't have to take my word for it; here is what former State Rep. Tom McMillin had to say about the legislation to transfer the Fairgrounds (Public Acts 74 & 75 -2012) as his 'NO' vote explanation in the House Journal:

Rep. McMillin, having reserved the right to explain his protest against the passage of the bill, made the following statement: "Mr. Speaker and members of the House: If the desire is to sell the land, then put it up for sale. I oppose sending the land to the MEDC via Land Bank in order to likely cut

deals with select well-connected people. Picking winners and losers is wrong."

'Picking winners and loser is wrong'. Gov. Snyder said it, Tom McMillin said it, and now you are saying it. We all know it's wrong - so why are we doing it - again - with the same person?

P.A. 74 - 2012 actually transferred the Fairgrounds to the Department of Technology Management & Budget (DTMB). There were several options that the DTMB could have pursued to 'get the best value for the state'. They did not pursue any of them but instead, immediately sent this land to the land bank - and the MEDC - just like Rep McMillin said would happen. The transfer of the publicly owned (since 1905) Michigan State Fairgrounds will be a decision that 5 years from now (if not sooner) we will be saying; Why did we do that?

I will be back in Lansing on Tuesday (Feb 10th) to attend the House Transportation Committee meeting. The Fairgrounds is the perfect location for a REGIONAL Transportation Hub (that's what I do for a living). And I want to know why the MDOT is not leading the way on this issue.

I appreciate your efforts to resist the influence of Lansing insiders and instead to; be on God's side. Not only can it be done, but with His help, it must be and will be done. Can we meet to discuss this issue in more detail?

Pressing on, with unwavering faith,

[redacted] tel[redacted]

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[redacted] is a prospect
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
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Ben Graham as State Representative Todd Courser emailed [redacted] for legislation response:
Re: your recent vaccine-autism connection post
2 months ago

to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted]

I think someone may have misrepresented to you what Representative Courser posted regarding vaccines. The point of his post was parents should have the freedom to choose vaccines for their children. He acknowledged that some parents believe their children's autism is related to vaccines but he didn't actually say he believes vaccines cause autism. It is true that some parents do believe that. Regardless of whether that is true or not Rep. Courser believes it is a parent's right to choose what medical care is given to their child.

I hope this explains a bit more about his position on this issue.

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep Todd Courser

On 2015-06-10T15:31:29-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Mr. Courser,
>
> Since you represent my 82nd district, I feel compelled to tell you that I am quite angry with your recent public posting (I believe it was facebook, but you have blocked me as of last year so I am not sure). Your opinion about parents having the freedom to choose vaccinations for their children is one thing, but you are now perpetuating the PROVEN lie that autism is caused or linked to receiving vaccinations. You should already know that Dr. Andrew Wakefield who made that claim in his 1998 research paper, has been proven wrong and discredited for his claim. Please stop spreading false information to the people of Lapeer County and beyond, you obviously don't know the damage you are doing.
>
> I have emailed you before and have never had a reply. I am not sure you or anyone in your office reads these letters, but I would like to think you are. A small reply would make me feel at least that my elected official in the 82nd district is actually taking the time to listen to the people you are supposed to be representing. Thank you for your time.
> --
> Regards,
>
> [redacted]
> [redacted], MI
>
>
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- Reply
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- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

[redacted]sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: your recent vaccine-autism connection post
2 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Mr. Courser,

Since you represent my 82nd district, I feel compelled to tell you that I am quite angry with your recent public posting (I believe it was facebook, but you have blocked me as of last year so I am not sure). Your opinion about parents having the freedom to choose vaccinations for their children is one thing, but you are now perpetuating the PROVEN lie that autism is caused or linked to receiving vaccinations. You should already know that Dr. Andrew Wakefield who made that claim in his 1998 research paper, has been proven wrong and discredited for his claim. Please stop spreading false information to the people of Lapeer County and beyond, you obviously don't know the damage you are doing.

I have emailed you before and have never had a reply. I am not sure you or anyone in your office reads these letters, but I would like to think you are. A small reply would make me feel at least that my elected official in the 82nd district is actually taking the time to listen to the people you are supposed to be representing. Thank you for your time.
--
Regards,

[redacted], MI

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Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Yes_SickLeave
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham

- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Support paid sick leave for Michigan workers!
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
When economic and financial realities necessitate that sick and contagious people go to work, everyone loses. The customer. The employee. And the employer: workers feeling under-the-weather are estimated to cost employer's nearly $160 billion per year.

$160 billion. Each. Year. That's nothing to sneeze at. And the largest industry study to date found that nearly two-thirds of cooks and servers report cooking or serving while sick.

It doesn't have to be this way: Support Sen. Jim Ananich's proposed legislation to guarantee paid sick days for every worker in Michigan.

[redacted]

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- Follow [redacted]
- Report spam
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[redacted] s a prospect
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Phone number doesn't seem to be working? Called both variations and got error noise.

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Received response from DHS:

Hi Ben –

Please have her sign a release and we can have this looked at. Thanks.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Release_of_Info_406071_7.pdf

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Emailed DHS Leg services:

We have a constituent who called and is having a problem with her food stamps.
[redacted]

She has received several communications from DHS saying she hasn't mailed in the information they requested but she did send it to the Lansing DHS office on the 25th or 26th.
Her caseworker is [redacted] om the Lapeer office [redacted] She has called her caseworker several times but has't received a call back.
Could you update on the status of her foodstamps and if the required information has been received?
Thank you!

Ben Graham
Legislative Assistant
Representative Todd Courser

bgraham@house.mi.gov
517-373-1800

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

[redacted]alled and said she is having a problem with her food stamps.

DHS keeps saying she hasn't mailed in the requested information but she did send it to the Lansing DHS office on the 25th or 26th.

Her caseworker is [redacted] from the [redacted] She has called her caseworker several times but has't received a call back.

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_DHS
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_Open
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

Ben Graham added [redacted] as a prospect
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Don't Fix Roads by Breaking School Funding
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>

[redacted]

No Response

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Todd Courser
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Courser,

I am writing to urge you to support a plan to fix our roads that will raise new revenue and not transfer funds from one pot of money to another.

The Senate-passed plan accomplishes this goal, but the House-passed road funding plan transfers the 6 percent sales tax on gasoline away from schools and communities to the Michigan Transportation Fund where it will be used to fix our roads. The House plan doesn't guarantee any replacement funding for the School Aid Fund or local communities.

Schools receive 73% of the sales tax revenue. When the House plan is fully implemented in 2020, it would cut over $700 million annually from the School Aid Fund. The language added to the House bill that is supposed to protect schools is flawed in two important ways:
1) It would freeze school aid budget appropriations at the current year's level, which denies schools the opportunity to benefit from normal growth from sales tax revenue.
2) It ends in 2020, at the same time the hit to the School Aid Fund from lost revenue will be at its biggest.

The House plan takes six years to generate enough revenue to fix our roads. It also relies on overall economic growth to cover the cuts to the School Aid Fund. Why would we endanger our schools for a plan that doesn't even raise enough funds to fix our roads for another six years?

The school community agrees that we need to fix our roads, but we shouldn't do it on the backs of our schools. Please support a road funding plan that protects schools.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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- Follow

No Response.

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Surveillance
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Please vote no and stop the police state progression

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- Follow [redacted]
- Report spam
- Delete activity

[redacted] a prospect
6 months ago

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Forwarded to Keith for approval

6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Dear Representative Courser
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Dear Representative Courser,

My name is [redacted] I am a [redacted]
working on a campaign to stop the expansion of I-94 in Detroit.

I am writing to ask you to sign our letter of support.

As you know, Governor Snyder recently proposed his budget, highlighting the need to fix deteriorating roads in Michigan. Fixing these roads as well as structurally deficient bridges in Michigan is critical for public safety and our future economic success.

Currently, the state plans to spend $2.7 billion to widen I-94 in Detroit. Yet, studies have shown that driving trends have been stagnant for the past decade.

So, we're working to stop the expansion of I-94 to free up transportation funds to fix our crumbling infrastructure.

In order to convince Governor Snyder to do this, we need the support of elected officials like you.

Six elected representatives have signed on in the last week. Can I count on you to add your name?

Sincerely,
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] mailto [redacted]

Improve Transportation in Michigan by Opposing Diverting $2.7 Billion to Wasteful Highway Boondoggle

At a time when state and local government budgets are still recovering from the effects of the great recession, and available dollars for public

investments remain tight, now more then ever it is essential that we spend tax payers' hard-earned dollars wisely.

Yet, too often governments plan to spend billions on unneeded highway expansions that do little to serve the public good, but divert resources from other important transportation priorities.

[redacted]s working to shine a light on these examples of government waste. We look out for the public interest, and empower community members to do the same. Your voice is essential.

Here in Michigan, the state government plans to spend tax dollars to widen the current I-94 highway along a 7-mile stretch of road, known as the "Edsel Ford Expressway," which runs through the center of Detroit between the Midtown and New Center neighborhoods. The road is in need of maintenance, but not an expansion that is unnecessary and would harm the community.

This is a prime example of unnecessary and expensive highway expansion that is little more than a waste of tax dollars. This expansion is based on the assumption that the number of miles people travel annually will increase by at least 11 percent by 2025, while in fact vehicle miles traveled in the region decreased by 14 percent as of 2013. In addition, the highway expansion will cut through the heart of Detroit, separating two neighborhoods that are undergoing economic revitalization.

Together, we can make a difference. As public officials we call on Governor Snyder to reject the unnecessary and expensive expansion of highway I-94, and to support smarter transit for Michigan.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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[redacted] is a prospect
6 months ago

- Follow [redacted]

Sent in an email through WordPress or Constituent Concerns never entered in as a person and given a reply.

Sent email [redacted] Not in database/No responses

3-24 [redacted] No HB 4251

3-24 [redacted] No HB 4251

3-24 [redacted]

3-25 [redacted] No HB4251

3-26 [redacted] No HB4251

Dyeing animals

3-26 [redacted] No HB 4251

Karen Couture

- Michigan Protection + Advocacy Service
  4095 Legacy Pkwy Ste 500
  Lansing, MI 48911

  Feb 24 11:15-1:15 pm Luncheon to discuss MI residents w/disabilities

  Not on calendar and
  In Database as: Inc. Michigan Protection + Advocacy Service

  instead of Michigan Protection + Advocacy Service Inc

Not on calendar

- All organizations saved as people not organizations.

It costs money for people in the data base but not organizatio

---

- Email received - address not put in data base when constituent gave it
  - no response given back to email.
  [redacted] (Many)

When constituent wrote in to asl Rep Courser to vote a certain way, they wer not responded to.

Karen Couture

Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Keith said ignore

7 months ago

- Follow [redacted]
- Follow Ben Graham
- Delete activity

[redacted] sent an email to State Representative Todd Courser: Accountability from the elected officials
7 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Dan Lauwers (District 81)" <DanLauwers@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Paul Muxlow" <district083@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Edward Canfield (District 84)" <EdwardCanfield@house.mi.gov>
Dear Honorable State Representative,
As a tax-payer, I demand some accountability from the elected officials of this great State. Once, Twice, Thrice I've written and/or emailed various State Senators/State Representatives' with my concerns but instead of them addressing those concerns I was advised to contact the Senator/State Representative in my district. I do understand, respect and recognize the purpose of Legislative courtesy, but that concept seem to be so misplaced when each and every elected Senator/Representative runs/campaign on a State-wide platform and my concerns embrace the entire State of Michigan (Not selective districts) as it deals with the MDOC budgetary woes. (See Attachments) Again, if my elected Senator/Representative refuses to acknowledge my correspondence what other recourse is there. How say you? Please advise.
Sincerely,
[redacted]
Attachments

- Proposed_legis.doc - 13.88 kB bytes
- Lt._Governor_Calleyu2019s_office_reply.docx - 13.56 kB bytes
- Attorney_General__Bill_Schuette.docx - 15.57 kB bytes

Hide email
Show email
Reply · Reply to all · Forward ·
Show email

Tom Leonard

August 10, 9:26 p.m.

Last week, the Detroit News revealed disturbing allegations regarding Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. These two individuals have families, including young children. I cannot even begin to imagine what they are experiencing right now. The spouses and children of these legislators need our prayers now more than ever.

Speaker Cotter has ordered a full investigation and I commend him for that and I will review the findings of that investigation thoroughly. That said, the actions of Courser, the words spoken by him in the recordings posted by the Detroit News last week and his statement this morning are not just troubling, but sick.

Coming to Lansing, I knew that my colleagues and I would face many challenges. However, never in a million years did I believe a serving legislator would be heard on a recording, directing his state-paid staffer to cover up an alleged affair with a fake email discussing outlandish claims. Mr. Courser knowingly communicated bold-faced lies in an attempt to mask the truth. He is now trying to make himself the victim. It is an atrocious violation of the public trust and unworthy of the office.

Each serving State House member has been placed in a position of public trust by 90,000 people. It is an honor and great responsibility that none of us should take lightly. I have spent the past three years reaching out to as many of the 90,000 in my district as possible. While there are many diverse opinions, the one consistent theme I hear from most of them is this – the public no longer trusts politicians.

It is clear that over his eight months in office, Todd Courser has violated this trust. As a legislature, we have many serious issues to tackle over the next 17 months for Michigan's hardworking families. Todd has now become not only a distraction, but a liability to this body as we move forward to solve these problems. If he truly cares about this state and the 90,000 people who entrusted him in this position, he should resign immediately. The citizens of Lapeer County and this great state deserve better

Great statement from my Rep Tom Leonard calling for Courser's resignation. I completely agree.

Tom Leonard

Last week, the Detroit News revealed disturbing allegations regarding Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. These two individuals have families, including young childr...

Dear Representative Gamrat:

Since you were sworn in as my Representative, I have contacted your office many times via e-mail and telephone. I thought the staff was passing the messages to you.

I was surprised when you told me you were not getting these messages.

This is completely unacceptable conduct for any staff member to not inform the office holder of incoming constituent communications. Any staff member that fails to inform the officer holder must be fired. They are an important communications link and not a censor.

I should know this as most of my duties in the military were communication related.

Sincerely;

[redacted]

2/24/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Fwd: State of MI
6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
cc: [redacted]
Hello,
My clients live in [redacted] Michigan.
I have attached a copy of at Bill for Taxes due that they recently received.
I am contacting your office to ask for your help in a matter with the Michigan Department of Treasury.
The Michigan Department of Treasury Office of collections has issued a Bill of Taxes Due for my clients, [redacted] The Notice indicates that the [redacted] have 30 days to pay, however, I am concerned that the Office of Collections will attempt to take funds from their bank accounts before that date.

The facts are the following:
1. The [redacted] have a net operating loss that exceeds [redacted] from business losses incurred in [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]
2. The [redacted] own a remaining business that is struggling and has profits some years and losses in others. The [redacted] have tried to sell the business but have not had success because the business is struggling. The [redacted] are attempting to keep the employees employed and have had to put in funds of their own many times to cover payroll.
3. The [redacted] are ove[redacted]l and both [redacted] an[redacted] have health issues.
4. In [redacted] their business did show a profit and Michigan Treasury is attempting to assess income tax in spite of the availability of the huge net operating loss. The business had an offsetting loss in [redacted] nearly equal to the loss in [redacted]
5. The [redacted] asked MIchigan Treasury to accept the federal net operating loss calculation to save professional fees to compute the Michigan net operating loss. The Michigan calculation is somewhat different. However, in view of the huge federal net operating loss, the [redacted]ges, and the likelihood that the net operating loss will never be used up, [redacted] requested that Michigan Treasury accept the federal net operating loss calculation.
6. [redacted] contacted Michigan Treasury on several occasions to get relief from the lengthy preparation of Forms 1045. As far as I know, the [redacted] did not get notice that Michigan Treasury would not accept the federal net operating loss calculation until they received the Bill for Taxes Due dated [redacted]

My request is the following:
1. The [redacted] do not owe Michigan Treasury the amount on the Bill for Taxes Due. It is a matter of my preparation of the Michigan net operating loss form 1045 for the years from [redacted] to [redacted] This is a lengthy calculation. I need at least 45 days and preferably 60 days to calculate the forms that Michigan Treasury is requiring.
2. More importantly, we need a hold on the assessment and a delay in the possibility of the Office of Collections taking funds from the [redacted] bank accounts. The [redacted] are living only on Social Security and need their funds for food and heat bills.

In the last two years, I have found the Office of Collections to be very unreasonable

with taxpayer and that is the reason that I am contacting your office. I have been a

CPA for over 30 years and I regularly counsel taxpayers to pay what is their legal share.

This BILL is not owed by the [redacted]

[redacted]

Any advice contained in this email (including any attachments unless expressly stated otherwise) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for purposes of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on any taxpayer under the Internal Revenue Code or applicable state or local law provisions.

- T[redacted]State_of_MI_001.tif - 719.34 kB bytes **(Tax due bill shows client owes** [redacted]

3/2/15 Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed [redacted]n for constituent service: Re: Fwd: State of MI
6 months ago
to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted]

As you can imagine Rep. Gamrat is kept very busy here in Lansing with legislation but she has asked that I look into your clients case and see if we can help. On first glance I unfortunately would have to say that we may not be able to help as the legislature has no real authority over Treasury collections issues as this is an executive department. I am looking in to trying to see if there is anything we can do to help the process but I wanted to give you a quick update.

I apologize for not being able to be more helpful. I know this must be a concerning issue for your clients as this is a large sum of money but generally there is a process that must be followed for these matters and those processes are generally determined by the respective department.

As I said I am looking to see if we are able to assist. I will update you as soon as I hear anything.

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep. Cindy Gamrat

On 2015-02-24T08:58:09-05:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Hello,
> My clients live in [redacted] Michigan.
> I have attached a copy of at Bill for Taxes due that they recently received.
> I am contacting your office to ask for your help in a matter with the Michigan Department of Treasury.
> The Michigan Department of Treasury Office of collections has issued a Bill of Taxes Due for my clients, [redacted] and [redacted]. The Notice indicates that the [redacted] have 30 days to pay, however, I am concerned that the Office of Collections will attempt to take funds from their bank accounts before that date.
>
> The facts are the following:
> 1. The [redacted] have a net operating loss that exceeds [redacted] from business losses incurred in [redacted] and [redacted].
> 2. The [redacted] own a remaining business that is struggling and has profits some years and losses in others. The [redacted] have tried to sell the business but have not had success because the business is struggling. The [redacted] are attempting to keep the employees employed and have had to put in funds of their own many times to cover payroll.
> 3. The [redacted] are over [redacted] and both [redacted] and [redacted] have health issues.
> 4. [redacted], their business did show a profit and Michigan Treasury is attempting to assess income tax in spite of the availability of the huge net operating loss. The business had an offsetting loss in [redacted] nearly equal to the loss in [redacted]
> 5. The [redacted] asked MIchigan Treasury to accept the federal net operating loss calculation to save professional fees to compute the Michigan net operating loss. The Michigan calculation is somewhat different. However, in view of the huge federal net operating loss, the [redacted] ages, and the likelihood that the net operating loss will never be used up, [redacted] requested that Michigan Treasury accept the federal net operating loss calculation.
> 6. [redacted] contacted Michigan Treasury on several occasions to get relief from the lengthy preparation of Forms 1045. As far as I know, the [redacted] did not get notice that Michigan Treasury would not accept the federal net operating loss calculation until they received the Bill for Taxes Due dated February 13, 2015.
>
> My request is the following:
> 1. The [redacted] do not owe Michigan Treasury the amount on the Bill for Taxes Due. It is a matter of my preparation of the Michigan net operating loss form 1045 for the years from 2001 to 2012. This is a lengthy calculation. I need at least 45 days and preferably 60 days to calculate the forms that Michigan Treasury is requiring.
> 2. More importantly, we need a hold on the assessment and a delay in the possibility of the Office of Collections taking funds from the [redacted] bank accounts. The [redacted] are living only on Social Security and need their funds for food and heat bills.
>
> In the last two years, I have found the Office of Collections to be very unreasonable
>
> with taxpayer and that is the reason that I am contacting your office. I have been a

>
> CPA for over 30 years and I regularly counsel taxpayers to pay what is their legal share.
>
> This BILL is not owed by the [redacted]
>
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
>

3/2/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Re: Fwd: State of MI
6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Ben,

Thanks for responding. I assume that since Cindy Gamrat is new in Lansing, perhaps this issue is one that you have not encountered before.

Please feel free to consult with other representative's offices for us.

Thank you.

[redacted]

On Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 3:47 PM, <cindygamrat@house.mi.gov<mailto:cindygamrat@house.mi.gov>> wrote:
Greetings [redacted]

As you can imagine Rep. Gamrat is kept very busy here in Lansing with legislation but she has asked that I look into your clients case and see if we can help. On first glance I unfortunately would have to say that we may not be able to help as the legislature has no real authority over Treasury collections issues as this is an executive department. I am looking in to trying to see if there is anything we can do to help the process but I wanted to give you a quick update.

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Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep. Cindy Gamrat

3/2/15 [redacted]ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Re: Fwd: State of MI

6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Ben,

Thanks for responding. I assume that since Cindy Gamrat is new in Lansing, perhaps this issue is one that you have not encountered before.

Please feel free to consult with other representative's offices for us.

Thank you.

[redacted]

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<cindygamrat@house.mi.gov<mailto:cindygamrat@house.mi.gov>> wrote:
Greetings [redacted]

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As I said I am looking to see if we are able to assist. I will update you as soon as I hear anything.

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide

Rep. Cindy Gamrat

Documentation from NB regarding [redacted] communications:

Anne Hill posted a private note about [redacted]

Received a call from [redacted] after Rep Gamrat's live statement on 8/14. She stated that she was a constituent and thought Rep Gamrat should resign; that she and her staff were ineffective, and she thought it best for her to resign. Because she had stated she was a constituent, I thought I would get her name (had the first name, but not the last). I asked her to spell it. That is when she told me that we had it as she had called several times since March. She stated she had been trying to get a grant from the DNR, and had requested a letter of support, even providing a sample letter from Rep Genetski. She stated that she gave up a couple of months ago. While she was on the phone, I looked into the system and, in fact, found the documents that she had stated she had sent, and the time frame that she had stated. I asked if it was too late to submit the grant application, to which she replied that it was not. I told her that I would draft a letter that afternoon, and put it on Rep Gamrat's desk for her signature, stating that I expected the Representative to be in either 8/17 or 8/18. After the document was signed, I would fax it to her. She stated that was acceptable to her. The letter was drafted 8/14, and is awaiting Rep Gamrat's signature.

6/17/15 [redacted] posted a private note about [redacted]
Called in wondering why Cindy hasn't sent a letter for the Blue Star Trail to receive grant. Is mad that no one is getting back to here. Keith is going to call her back.
2 months ago

6/10/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter .2 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Ben,

As you can see, the email thread started in March 2015. Your help would be appreciated ASAP so that we can file Cindys letter with others in our DNR application. I have also included a one page bullet summary of the project, the Michigan map, and our phase development of the trail for your information. Let me know if you need anything. THANK YOU , in advance for your attention to this matter. [redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 8:45 AM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov
Subject: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter
Importance: High

Hello Cindy,

I have tried to contact your office repeatedly over the last two months. I represent the Friends of the Blue Star trail, a 20 mile trailway along the lakeshore that will connect South Haven to Saugatuck. We are applying for DNR Trust fund dollars and would appreciate a letter of support. A sample letter prepared by your predecessor, Bob Genetski. Since we do have deadlines your response would be appreciated

From: [redacted][mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:10 PM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov<mailto:CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Bob Genetski's sample letter

See Bobs letter from last year.

[redacted]

- BST_trail_map_050415.pdf - 1.85 MB bytes
- BST_State_of_MI_map_05-30-2015_20150520.pdf - 717.35 kB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers__May_2015doc.doc - 33.5 kB bytes
- Friendsl_Lette.pdf - 54.6 kB bytes

6/10/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
[redacted]called the clerks office and they transfered her over. Not happy because she's been trying to get this letter done for a few months. Will send over more info. They aren't buying any new property they are just developing the right of way for the blue start highway. Need a letter of support.
2 months ago

5/6/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
Keith said yeah we aren't doing this.
3 months ago

5/5/15 [redacted]sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter

3 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy,

I have tried to contact your office repeatedly over the last two months. I represent the Friends of the Blue Star trail, a 20 mile trailway along the lakeshore that will connect South Haven to Saugatuck. We are applying for DNR Trust fund dollars and would appreciate a letter of support. A sample letter prepared by your predecessor, Bob Genetski. Since we do have deadlines your response would be appreciated

From: [redacted][mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:10 PM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov
Subject: Bob Genetski's sample letter

See Bobs letter from last year.

[redacted]

- Friendsl_Lette.pdf - 54.6 kB bytes

3/31/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Spoke to Keith multiple times on this alerting him of several calls from [redacted] and he never brought it to Cindy.

5 months ago

3/27/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Blue Star Trail support letter
5 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have tried to contact via phone and have been unsuccessful. We are filing a DNR application on March 30th and would appreciate a letter of support (See Genetski sample letter in another email) from your office. Could you forward one to me prior to our deadline? Thank you for your assistance. [redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:06 PM
To: 'CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov'
Subject: Blue Star Trail support letter

Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have attached a summary of our project and a map showing the trailway' s proposed development. I will also send Bob Genetski's letter that he prepared for us last year as a guide for you. Thank you for your interest in the Blue Star Trail. See also our website www.bluestartrail.org<http://www.bluestartrail.org>. [redacted]

[redacted]

- Blue_Star_Ttrail_map__07-30-14_011214.pdf - 1.91 MB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers__Aug_14doc.doc - 34 kB bytes

3/13/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
Questions:
1. How is the land for this project obtained?
5 months ago

3/13/15 Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_Gen
5 months ago
Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_Open
5 months ago
Ben Graham merged [redacted] into [redacted]
5 months ago

3/12/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Blue Star Trail support letter
5 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have attached a summary of our project and a map showing the trailway' s proposed development. I will also send Bob Genetski's letter that he prepared for us last year as a guide for you. Thank you for your interest in the Blue Star Trail. See also our website www.bluestartrail.org<http://www.bluestartrail.org>. [redacted]

[redacted]

- Blue_Star_Ttrail_map__07-30-14_011214.pdf - 1.91 MB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers__Aug_14doc.doc - 34 kB bytes

3/12/15 Ben Graham posted a private note abou[redacted]
Some info on the trail:
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/04/blue_star_trail_in_south_haven.html
5 months ago

3/12/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about[redacted]
[redacted] called and left a message to see if Cindy would send a letter in support of DNR trust fund application for a section of the blue star trail along the coast. I spoke to Keith and he said get more information so I called [redacted]nd asked her to send over some information. She said Cindy should be aware of it as it is in the news a lot. I said she probably is but I'm not from the district. She said she would send over some info along with a leter genetski sent on their behalf.
5 months ago

3/12/15 Ben Graham added [redacted]s a prospect
5 months ago

80TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-0836
FAX: (517) 373-8728
E-MAIL: bobgenetski@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BOB GENETSKI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
HEALTH POLICY
TAX POLICY
TOURISM

March 13, 2014

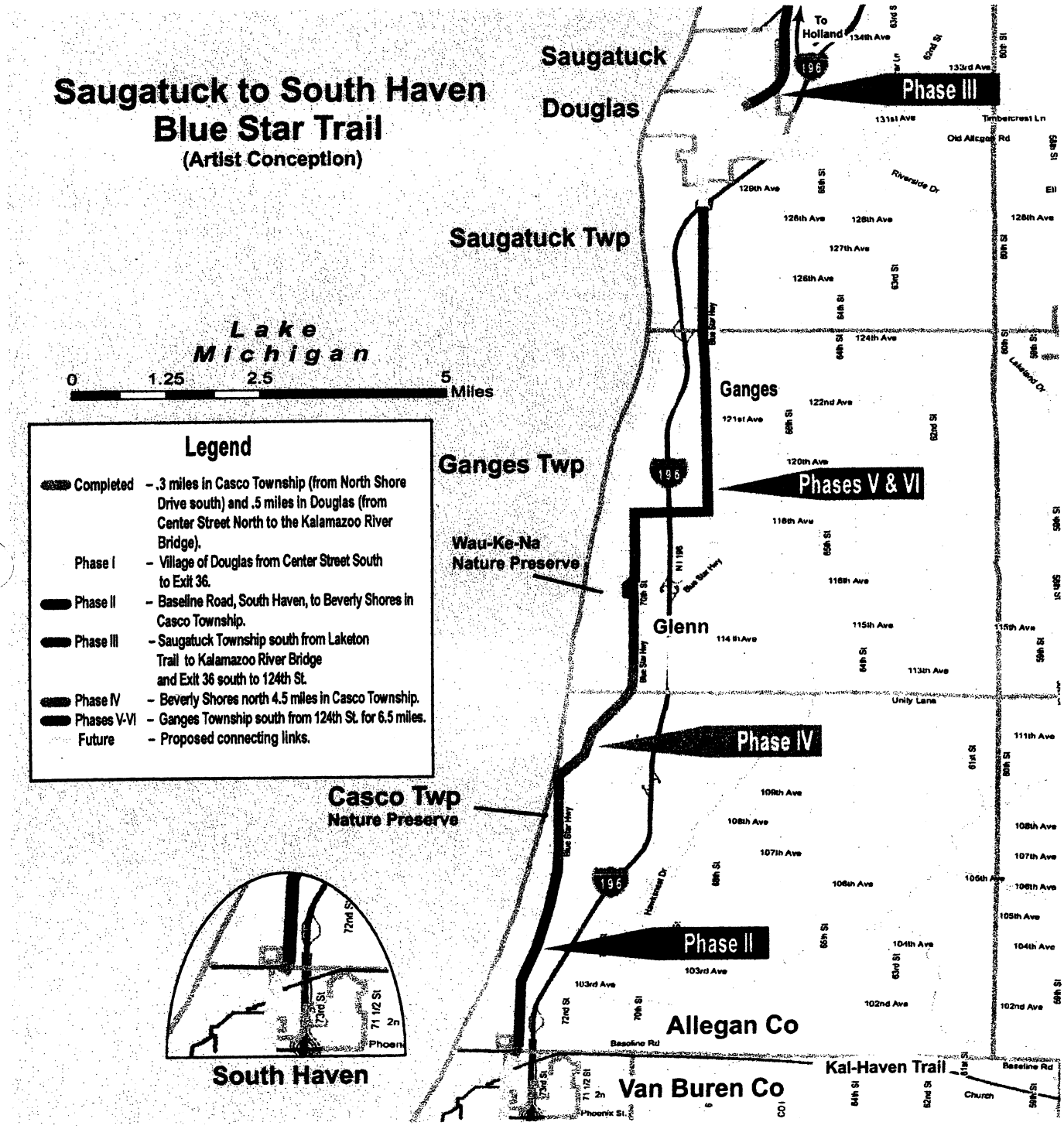
To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Representative for the 80th District, I strongly support the Blue Star Bike Trail Project. This trail, stretching through over half the length of the district, would provide an attractive amenity for a large number of Allegan County citizens, as well as serve as a point of interest and exploration for summer tourists. As a result, this trail and the recreational opportunities that it would provide would have a great economic impact on each community it touches.

The time and energy being donated by the Friends of the Blue Star Trail is commendable. This dedicated group of volunteers has committed themselves to raising funds to construct over 20 miles of the trail and providing maintenance for the trail with volunteers. It is an honor to provide my support for these hard working individuals and for the Blue Star Trail Project.

Sincerely,

Bob Genetski
State Representative
80th House District


Saugatuck to South Haven
Blue Star Trail
(Artist Conception)
Saugatuck
Douglas
Saugatuck Twp
Lake Michigan
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles
Ganges Twp
Wau-Ke-Na Nature Preserve
Casco Twp
Nature Preserve
South Haven
Allegan Co
Van Buren Co
Kal-Haven Trail
Ganges
Glenn
To Holland
Phase III
Phases V & VI
Phase IV
Phase II
Legend
Completed - .3 miles in Casco Township (from North Shore Drive south) and .5 miles in Douglas (from Center Street North to the Kalamazoo River Bridge).
Phase I - Village of Douglas from Center Street South to Exit 36.
Phase II - Baseline Road, South Haven, to Beverly Shores in Casco Township.
Phase III - Saugatuck Township south from Laketon Trail to Kalamazoo River Bridge and Exit 36 south to 124th St.
Phase IV - Beverly Shores north 4.5 miles in Casco Township.
Phases V-VI - Ganges Township south from 124th St. for 6.5 miles.
Future - Proposed connecting links.

Friends of the Blue Star Trail Questions and Answers

1. What is proposed?

A 19.5-mile non-motorized off road trail commencing from Baseline Road and extending north on the west side of Blue Star Highway to the existing Blue Star Highway trail in Saugatuck Township. Spring 2015 is the tentative start date for construction on the south end of the trail starting at Baseline Road. A CMAQ grant is providing the funding along with community matching dollars. .

The City of Douglas will complete its second mile of BS Trail next spring 2015 as well. If we get the two State and federal grants we will move forward with construction in 2016. See attached map.

2. How much will it cost?

The project is expected to cost $6.1 million dollars excluding Phase I.

3. Who will be the fiduciary for federal and state grants?

The fiduciary must always be a government entity such as the Allegan County Road Commission. or local township or city. Which ones we use are dependent upon the particular grant.

4. Where will the funding come from?

A combination of state and federal grants administered through the MDOT, CMAQ, and MDNR Trust Funds will provide 65%;area corporations, foundations, and individuals will provide the remainder. Local dollars will be used for required match money for the government grants. We are now fundraising for Saugatuck Twp. section of the Trail. We need a minimum of $200,000 by October 1, 2014

5. Will there be any special programming?

Yes. Programming via a QR system in numbered posts connected to cell phones will provide information about the historic West Michigan Pike and the development of the agricultural industry with special emphasis on red haven peaches and blueberries.

6. Will an endowment fund be established?

Yes. Working in conjunction with the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) two funds are in place; a development project (in and out) fund for local matching dollars and fees, and an endowment fund for maintenance and repair of the pathway.

7. Who will own the Blue Star Trail?

Because the pathway will extend across several local government units along the lakeshore, we are working with Allegan County and its Park Commission to create a linear park owned and supervised by Allegan County for two townships: Casco and Ganges. Douglas and SaugatuckTownship will own/operate their sections. Allegan County m/r will be funded through the ACCF endowment fund established by the Friends. Year-round trail winter grooming is included in the maintenance costs.

8. How can you become involved?

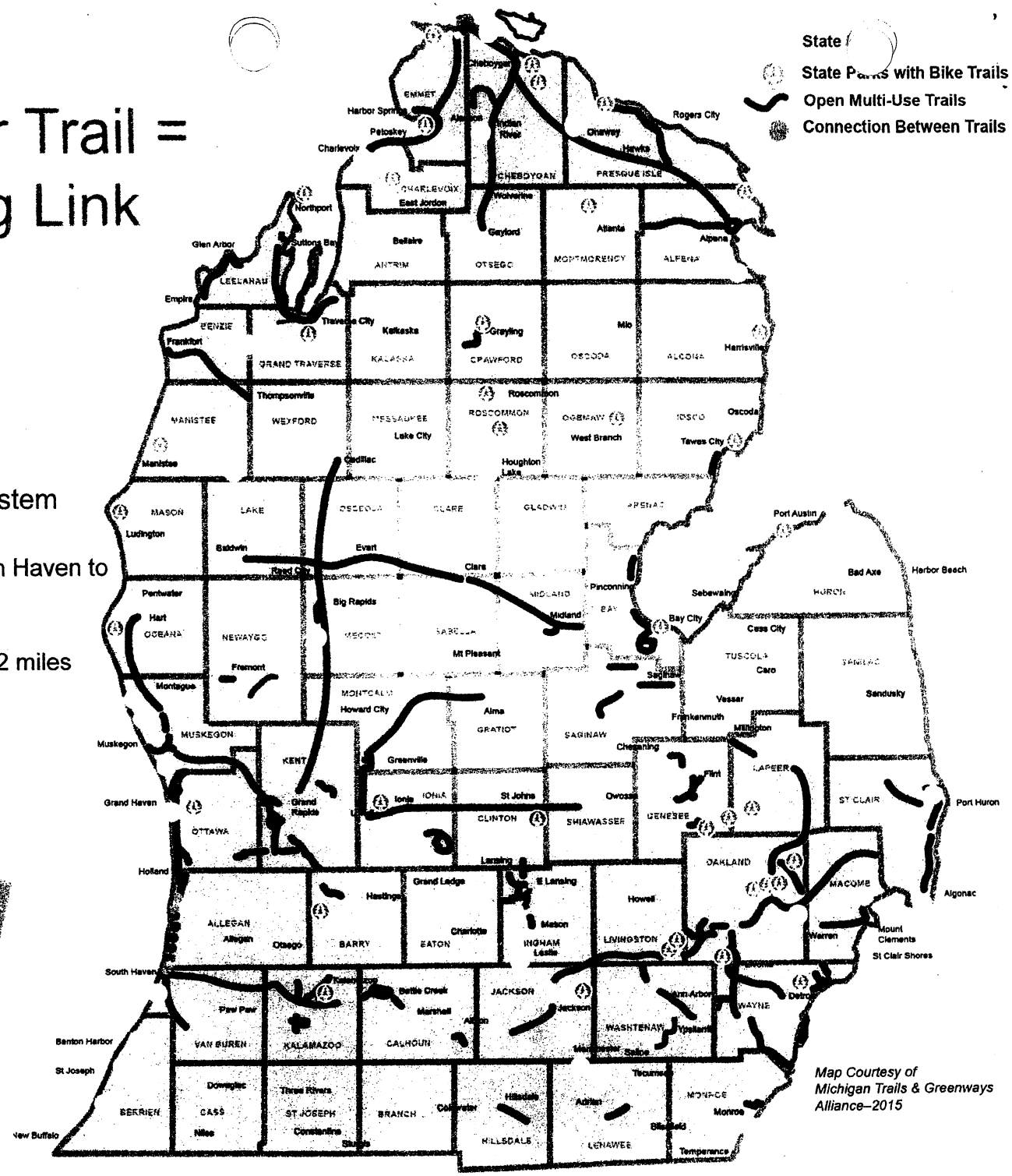
- Join us... Go to www.bluestartrail.com or www.fotbst.org
- Volunteer for committees or donate your special skills for specific events and projects
- Promote us on Facebook, your workplace, your neighborhood, town hall meetings
- Host a community information session in your neighborhood
- DONATE online with a check made payable to the Allegan County Community Foundation

The Blue Star Trail = The Missing Link

The Great Lake to Lake Trail System

- Approximately 240 miles from South Haven to Port Huron
- Comprised of 15 existing trails – 132 miles

Approximately 55% complete



Map Courtesy of Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance–2015

...e Blue Star Trail
Proposed route ●●●●●●
Completed sections

2/27/15 [redacted]ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat:
Benjamin's Hope

6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov> [redacted]

Hi Cindy, I was a delight to met you today. It was refreshing to here your perspectives and as a representative of our government. Frankly you gave me some hope as citizen.

I mentioned briefly that organizations such as Benjamin's Hope in Holland as at risk due to federal and state involvement, which is not to anyone financial or personal advantage. You expressed an interest in perhaps visiting Benjamin's Hope and learning more.

[redacted]of Benjamin's Hope.

I hope this electronic introduction helps to connect both of you on an important financial and in my view a personal freedom issue facing state governments \.

Best,
[redacted]

3/1/15 [redacted]was copied on an email sent by [redacted]Re: Benjamin's Hope

6 months ago
to: [redacted] <[redacted]
cc: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Good Morning Cindy,

I am so glad that [redacted]as introduced us!

I am encouraged by what [redacted]as shared regarding your greatly needed perspectives. And, thank you for taking interest in the threats to fundamental freedom of choice people with disability face due to recent CMS, DOJ and NDC positions on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). These are matters of urgent concern to thousands of Michigan people with developmental disabilities who rely on Medicaid waiver funding to live in their group home setting.

Last week's report from the National Council on Disability is deeply concerning. http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/02242015. The opening statement of Executive Summary reads:

A Right Not a Privilege. The legal mandate shifting the foundation of service delivery for people with disabilities to home and community settings is unequivocal. Yet, transition from traditional

congregate settings and service delivery approaches to the individualized, person-centered alternatives that facilitate full integration continues to challenge policymakers, providers, and other stakeholders alike.

The CMS position on what constitutes "community" seeks to use the Medicaid dollar to prescribe where and with whom a person with disability can chose to live. Cindy, 18 adults with disability enjoy a wonderful quality of life at Benjamin's Hope. Due to CMS-2249 they, and potentially thousands of people in our state who live in "congregate" group home settings, face the choice to lose their home or lose their Medicaid funding.

I would be most grateful to meet with you. And I would love for your to see Benjamin's Hope, and meet some of the men and women who have chosen to live at Ben's Hope. Please let me know what works for you!

Warm Regards,

[redacted]

"The people of Benjamin are loved by the Lord, and live in safety beside him. He surrounds them continuously and preserves them from every harm." Deut 33:12

On Feb 27, 2015, at 3:48 PM, [redacted]
<[redacted]mailto[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Cindy, I was a delight to met you today. It was refreshing to here your perspectives and as a representative of our government. Frankly you gave me some hope as citizen.

I mentioned briefly that organizations such as Benjamin's Hope in Holland as at risk due to federal and state involvement, which is not to anyone financial or personal advantage. You expressed an interest in perhaps visiting Benjamin's Hope and learning more.

[redacted] is the executive director of Benjamin's Hope.

I hope this electronic introduction helps to connect both of you on an important financial and in my view a personal freedom issue facing state governments \.

Best,

[redacted]

3/2/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Emailed Keith on this.

Hey Keith there are a few emails following up on the [redacted] meeting that you should look at and let me know what to do with.

https://servingallegan.nationbuilder.com/admin/signups/876

6 months ago

No responses ever went out to these two people responding to this.

Letters received from constituents through Sierra Club. Letters were not responded to, as Ben stated they did not respond to form letters.

4/20/15 – [redacted]

4/20/15 – [redacted]

4/19/15 – [redacted]

4/19/15 – [redacted]

4/19/15/- [redacted]

4/19/15 – [redacted]

4/19/15 – [redacted]

4/19/15 – [redacted]

4/12/15 – [redacted]

4/12/15 – [redacted]

4/12/15 – [redacted]

4/12/15 – [redacted]

4/12/15 – [redacted]

3/18/15 – [redacted]

3/16/15 – [redacted]

3/16/15 – [redacted]

3/1/15 [redacted]ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Please Support HB 4059
6 months ago
to: "SenTSchuitmaker@senate.michigan.gov" <SenTSchuitmaker@senate.michigan.gov>, "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
From: [redacted]

As a public school retiree, I urge you to support HB 4059, as introduced by Rep. Hughes, as it moves through the Michigan House of Representatives.Â This bill is currentlyÂ before the House Liability Reform Committee.Â This legislation exempts current retiree benefit reductions for pensions and health care benefits for retirees hired in designated critical shortage disciplines or as a substitute teacher, instructional coach, or school improvement facilitator. Many of our retirees would to like to return to work and use their years of expertise.Â This legislation would allow retirees to return to jobs that benefit public schools, their students, and the retirees. Thank you for your support of this legislation. [redacted]

3/2/15 Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Yes_HB4059_15
6 months ago

No response was given to the constituent

The bookmarks from this contest are the ones that Karen Couture found in Rep Courser's office. Nothing had been done with them. Both Rep Courser's district and Rep Gamrat's district had not had anything done with the bookmarks. There had been no response by the end of the school year. Bookmarks had been submitted, but none selected as winners.

2/26/15 Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed [redacted] for inbox:
Re: bookmark competition
6 months ago
to: [redacted]
Thank you for your interest [redacted]

While your district is Ottawa County I believe the district may have some students who reside in Rep. Gamrat's district? She does have a part of the City of Holland so I think that is the case. We would ask that any submissions come from residents of the 80th District. I do apologize if that exempts some of your students from participating. As part of legislative courtesy to other Representatives we try and avoid conducting programs and other contests in their district as it may conflict with their work.

Again, thank you for your interest!

Regards,
Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep. Cindy Gamrat

On 2015-02-25T14:38:31-05:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Hello Ms. Gamrat,
> My school received your invitation to participate in the bookmark competition and am curious if it matters that our district is in Ottawa County? Thanks in advance for your response, I believe we'll have some interested participants if allowed to submit!
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> [redacted]

2/26/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: bookmark competition
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Ms. Gamrat,

My school received your invitation to participate in the bookmark competition and am curious if it matters that our district is in Ottawa County? Thanks in advance for your response, I believe we'll have some interested participants if allowed to submit!

[redacted]

3/24/15 Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed [redacted] for legislation response: Re: Subcommittee actions
5 months ago
to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted],

As you can imagine Cindy is kept very busy here in Lansing, especially now during the budget process. But I will make sure to pass along your thoughts to her as she works through the budget process.

Thank you for your email!

Regards,
Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep Cindy Gamrat

On 2015-03-24T16:20:17-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Hello, Cindy: Considering your positive response to my previous communication regarding third grade reading, I would assume that the recommendation by your subcommittee to eliminate the third grade reading initiative would not be your preference. It certainly isn't mine or that of the 100+ members of South Haven's branch of AAUW. No matter what the politics or party, I think most thinking people in our part of the state -and the 80th district- would agree that both the reading initiative and the adult education provision make sense. Is this subcommittee actually promoting a poorly educated citizenry? I urge you to advocate for both the reading initiative and the adult education provision. This is one instance when LESS DOES NOT MEAN MORE!
[redacted]
>
> Sent from my iPhone

05/04/15 [redacted]ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Re: STEM Endorsement Bills
3 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Please let me know. The last notice did not have all the info. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 4, 2015, at 2:55 PM, cindygamrat@house.mi.gov wrote:
> Greetings [redacted]
>
> We haven't scheduled one yet, should be done this week. But I would expect it to be later this month. Keep a lookout, we always have it announced in the paper a week or two beforehand.
>
> Regards,
> Ben Graham
> Legislative aide
> Rep Cindy Gamrat

>> On 2015-05-04T10:37:33-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>>
>> Hello, Ben. When and where is Cindy's next coffee? [redacted]
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>

>>> On Apr 1, 2015, at 2:33 PM, cindygamrat@house.mi.gov wrote:
>>>
>>> Greetings [redacted]
>>> I will make sure to pass along your thoughts on the STEM endorsement to Rep. Gamrat as she considers this legislation.
>>>
>>> Thank you for sending over your email!
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>> Ben Graham
>>> Legislative Aide
>>> Rep Cindy Gamrat

>>>> On 2015-03-30T20:59:24-04:00, [redacted] wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Dear Representative Gamrat: While the STEM Endorsement for high school diplomas is an interesting concept and may accomplish the goal of attracting more students to a concentration in STEM areas, I have one concern and one objection.
>>>>

>>>> My concern is whether this endorsement will render other areas of study less "important" and desirable. Will students enthused about studying languages, social science, or fine arts be discouraged from following those paths because they conclude that their areas of study lacking endorsements are less valuable? Perhaps each of these areas should have their own endorsements.
>>>>
>>>> My objection is to the inclusion of the eligibility of charter school students and home school students for this endorsement. Since neither charter nor home school instructors are guaranteed to have appropriate certification and credentials, there will be no standard for these endorsements. Without this accountability the STEM endorsement becomes meaningless.
>>>> [https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif]
>>>>
>>>> --
>>>> [redacted]
>>>>
>>>> [redacted]
>>>> [redacted]
>>>>
>>>> [redacted]
>>>> [redacted]
>>

No response was ever documented.

2/22/15 [redacted]sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Education Legislation
6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cindy,
I tried to touch base with you at the convention; however, you seemed to be very busy.

I received an e-mail from your group and noticed one of your assignments was educational in nature.

I am an educator and have been very disappointed with the perception of teachers. Especially, at the convention. Most groups and individuals I have contact with do not have a clue why the education system is failing. They hear or read something and regurgitate it like it is a fact; when in reality its false. If you want to know the truth, I'm your inside man into the public, academy, and preparatory school systems.

I'd love to be of help and discuss this topic further with anyone who will listen. I have a perspective that would be extremely helpful and I think it needs to be heard.

As a side note: I did not win my the election in my district in the primary, so I will not have the pleasure of working with you (and the other two) in Lansing.

Please contact me at this e-mail or feel free to call me at [redacted]

In Christ,
[redacted]

2/26/25 [redacted]ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Growing local food and products markets
6 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy, my name is[redacted]. You may (or may not ;) remember me from when you were campaigning last fall. You visited[redacted]s (my mom and dad's) house and I was working in their garage building a bunk bed for my kids. I've attached a picture of the completed project.

I'm writing you today to tell you about another project that I'm working on, and hoping that your office can assist in some way. I'm currently working on a web project that will help grow markets for local foods and other products.I'm currently seeking some sort of grant (economic or community development, etc.) or other funding to get it started. Basically, the website I'd like to create makes it as simple as possible for the average consumer to purchase locally produced goods and services, and makes it equally simple for small farmers and craftsmen to connect directly with local consumers. If you wouldn't mind perusing the sample site below and perhaps suggesting a direction for funding or a few contacts I would be very grateful.

My family and I would like to congratulate you on your election. We knew you could do it!

Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much for your time,

[redacted]

[redacted]sample site

3/2/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about[redacted]

Forwarded to Keith

Keith how should we handle this? We aren't really supportive of these types of grants are we?

Thanks!

Ben

6 months ago

3/19/15 Ben Graham posted a private note abou[redacted]

Forwarded to Keith again.

5 months ago

3/19/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Reply from Keith: Tell him that you are forwarding his section to the relevant section of the Department of Agriculture and ask him to stay in touch with any comments or concerns.

5 months ago

3/19/15 Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed [redacted] for inbox: Re: Growing local food and products markets
5 months ago
to: [redacted]
Greetings [redacted] am forwarding your request to the relevant section of the Department of Agriculture

Please stay in touch with any comments or concerns.

Regards,

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep. Cindy Gamrat

On 2015-02-26T22:05:17-05:00, [redacted] wrote:
>
> Hello Cindy, my name is [redacted] You may (or may not ;) remember me from when you were campaigning last fall. You visited [redacted] my mom and dad's) house and I was working in their garage building a bunk bed for my kids. I've attached a picture of the completed project.
>
> I'm writing you today to tell you about another project that I'm working on, and hoping that your office can assist in some way. I'm currently working on a web project that will help grow

markets for local foods and other products.I'm currently seeking some sort of grant (economic or community development, etc.) or other funding to get it started. Basically, the website I'd like to create makes it as simple as possible for the average consumer to purchase locally produced goods and services, and makes it equally simple for small farmers and craftsmen to connect directly with local consumers. If you wouldn't mind perusing the sample site below and perhaps suggesting a direction for funding or a few contacts I would be very grateful.
>
> My family and I would like to congratulate you on your election. We knew you could do it!
>
> Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much for your time,
>
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted]

04/17.15 Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed [redacted] for inbox: Re: Keep up the great work
4 months ago
to: [redacted]
Thank you so much for your support [redacted] I'm doing my best to facilitate change in Lansing but many in power don't like challenging their power.

Cindy

On 2015-04-17T12:49:37-04:00 [redacted] wrote:
>
> I heard you on WHTC this morning and was happy to hear you haven't wavered from your positions on various topics one iota. When you said the state budget is going up by a billion dollars a year and I hear guys like Arlen Meekhof say the money just isn't there to fix the roads, I say BS. Now I hear they gave you the boot from some caucus. Sounds like the good ol' boy network is alive and well in Michigan, more concerned about hanging on to their political future over doing what's right. Welfare is the thing that's out of control in this state. Maybe we should cut those programs by 10% and start drug testing (I always had to in order to collect a paycheck) and use the money from those savings to fix the roads.
>
> [redacted]

Material submitted by Representative Todd Courser

Tim Bowlin

From: Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:07 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: investigation Fwd: Moving forward

Tim:

In this one Keith states the 40 hours of official work and then speaks about 10-15 hours on top of of that to the liberty movement - they did this type of work off site at the biggby or other places. Also in this one he speaks about the structure, fundraising, and other actions items. So they did both our political work down at the biggby and also for their other outside political projects, some of which I knew about and some they chose to do without me knowing. i required them to tell me who they were working for and what projects they were on but that didn't happen.

There are a couple of more

todd

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Keith Allard** <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 12, 2014 at 9:15 PM
Subject: Moving forward
To: "Todd A. Courser" <courserlaw@gmail.com>, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Joshua <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Team-

This e-mail should serve as a comprehensive assessment of where we need to go in the next several weeks, the structure of our team, and the expectations for the next 1.5 months and the initial three months of the legislative session in 2015.

Starting January 1st, we will be in the arena with 118 people who have all won a primary and a general election. We must operate under the assumption that they are all as tenacious and strategically minded as us. Success going forward will be determined by relentless hard work, preparation, and the systems we establish and hone **before** swearing in.

Cindy and Todd discussed with me their expectations and concerns for how our collective office will operate. I will do my best to accurately summarize, but should I miscommunicate in any way, the Rep-Elects' words are bond and I encourage them to jump in.

Structure and expectations for the legislative office

The taxpayers are owed 40-hours of hard work every single week. The liberty movement is owed another 10-15 hours on top of that to ensure their efforts to put us in this position reap profound and calculable results. Thus, expect for the first three months to be in Lansing every single weekday. This is also necessary to bring everybody up to speed on the various state departments and constituent issues. After 90 days, we will assess work so far, and possibly consider alternate work schedules and duty restructuring.

The initial structure of the office will feature all staff reporting to me, and me reporting directly to Cindy and Todd. I know this will be different than the campaign was structured, but I believe in the area of governance, this is what Cindy and Todd are most comfortable with. Cindy/Todd's time will become more scarce and precious after swearing in; if there's ever an office issue, it will be most efficient for them to come to one focal point (myself) for questions and resolution. Ben/Josh will report to me on ongoing matters and provide daily/weekly updates, though Cindy/Todd may want to remain in the loop without taking a direct management role.

It was also decided that any and all outside communications will come first to me for proofreading and to check messaging. This currently includes e-mails and Facebook posts, and after January 1st, will include any official correspondence sent by the offices. This also means I am responsible for any errors, omissions, or problems that might occur. If there's an issue with a typo, or punctuation, it was my fault, and Todd/Cindy will address with me. Again, this helps clarify responsibilities and roles.

Initially, Josh and Ben's primary responsibility will be constituent issues, including creating and refining our written messaging to constituents, establishing our contacts within state departments and with local/federal representatives, and working through constituent issues. At the end of 90 days, it will be expected that everyone is an expert on these matters. Systems and processes must be finalized and running like clockwork at that point. Interns must be recruited and trained in our systems. Constituent casework is an excellent way to learn about the true vastness of the bureaucracy leviathan - we can not produce truly successful legislation without first understanding the enormity and complexities of the Executive branch of state government.

I am going to be the primary person responsible for legislative and committee work for at least the first 90 days. The rest of the team will be a part of this from the beginning with the assumption that some of these responsibilities will be eventually split and shared, but not until our offices are running completely smoothly with a refined and established set of systems.

Additionally, everyone will be expected to read Gongwer, MIRS, and any pertinent articles in local newspapers every single day.

We are also going to adopt what I call the "Roger" system. To ensure e-mail chains stay on track, any action items requested will require the person tasked with the action to acknowledge immediately after receiving the e-mail that they recognize their task and will begin execution. For a simple example, if I send an e-mail that includes a line like "Ben, can you get a graphic up for pro-life on Cindy's Facebook?" Ben would respond "Roger"

(or any si[illegible] acknowledgment) as soon as he finishes reading the e-ma[illegible]ere are action items at the end of this e-mail, so I would ex[illegible] to hear some "rogers" or "10-4s" after sending this.

Fundraising

We will speak more in-depth about this on Tuesday to bring the whole team up-to-speed, but here is a summary of what we discussed this last Monday and some of my ideas since.

1.) Between now and January 1st, I am taking the lead on setting up meetings between Lansing-based PACs and Cindy/Todd.
2.) We are not currently going to pursue a professional fundraiser that requires exclusivity, but will consider using them for specific projects or buying lists. This will be reassessed at some point in Summer of 2015.
3.) We need to identify fundraising groups and begin messaging to them.
a.) In Lapeer County, we must begin establishing a list of the biggest businesses, the industries that employ the most people. Those trade organizations and businesses will serve as the backbone for the business roundtables we will hold regularly throughout the legislative session. The expectation is that proper courting and messaging will create the relationships that result in solid fundraising. (Since Cindy is in West Michigan, I already have this information for her).
b.) We need to obtain, through public record or purchase, the lists for constituent groups that may be receptive to the liberty message. Doctors were one notable group we had discussed. Committee assignments could also reveal other groups for us to focus on. We can begin messaging specifically to these groups and hopefully gain an in for funding.
4.) I would not send any fundraising e-mails or ask major donors for more money between now and swearing in. It strikes me as gauche and may actually offend donors. We're not going to pursue any type of fundraising for debt-reduction; that will be a longer-term project tied into our overall fundraising for the year of 2015.
5.) Purchase memberships for local and regional economic clubs/Chambers of Commerce/Farm Bureaus/etc. and ensure their events get on the schedule.

Meetings

From now on when we hold meetings, I will take the lead on preparing the agenda. If anyone else wishes to broach topics, they can either send them to me in advance or we can add them at the beginning of the meeting.

During our meetings, any action item must be notated and assigned. It will be expected to be completed in a timely fashion following our meeting. Ben, I'm going to ask you to take the lead in being our meeting "secretary" for lack of a better term, and notating these action items. It'd be nice to also receive a quick summary of the meeting afterwards (not overly detailed, but a summary of the action items and any major points discussed/consensuses reached).

Miscellaneous

-Do not pa[illegible]o run ads for any Facebook post regarding policy matters. T[illegible] are some legal walls on ethics between using political spen[illegible]g to promote specific legislative matters. We need to research this further.

Action items:
-Establish our subscriptions to Gongwer and MIRS. Set up auto-forwards for the daily e-mails from both of these services to the entire team.
-Set up Google Alerts for news stories regarding pertinent figures/issues in state government.
-Begin preparing for business round tables. Make lists of the most important industries in Todd's district and the biggest Republican donors in the Lapeer area. (Cindy: I've got the lead on your fundraising)
-Begin establishing our constituent services operation. Draft language for hot-button issues we know we will receive correspondence on (abortion, guns, taxes/spending, environment, others you think of). Set the timelines we will use for different types of correspondence. Bring the team a proposal and action plan for constituent services for us to discuss and refine.
-Establish our plan for sending congratulatory letters to constituents. How many do we send a week? Are they paid for by official or campaign funds? Who drafts?
-Begin soliciting and recruiting interns for both offices. If we can begin interviewing them before January 1st, that would be excellent, though I understand this is an optimal situation that might not be achievable.
-Josh: brainstorm our messaging plan for the Winter in the Hamptons project. Discuss with Todd if possible, and then present to us your thoughts and recommendations on Tuesday.

We are meeting as a team on Tuesday in Grand Rapids. I would expect that these action items are completed by then, and if they're not for any reason, an update/explanation is provided. I (and Cindy/Todd) realize not everything will be possible when we'd like and that circumstances can encroach on timelines, but in those situations it's still imperative that we be kept abreast of *why* an item or expectation was not fulfilled. Uncertainty is a mental purgatory we can ill-afford at this critical juncture.

The systems and structures we establish now will ensure great successes in the coming years. We have to walk before we can run, and how we handle the details of the little things will lead to great success on the bigger matters.

Let me know if there are any questions, and Cindy/Todd, please feel free to jump in if you have anything to expound upon.

-Keith

Tim Bowlin

From: Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:16 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: Rep 80/82 - Staff meeting tentative agenda, outstanding action items, processes/procedures

Here is another one where he is handling the political outside work issue - Keith writes -

"-Establish processes for political work after January 1st. Who handles the political side? Ensure everyone clearly understands that absolutely no political-related work may ever be done from the office or during office hours. "

Its the last item in the "tenantive agenda" section below - they were supposed to do their political work downstairs at the Biggby but I cannot speak to what they were involved in when I was not there. We had conversations about how these items cannot be done in house offices or on house time.

todd

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Keith Allard** <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Dec 27, 2014 at 9:37 AM
Subject: Rep 80/82 - Staff meeting tentative agenda, outstanding action items, processes/procedures
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "Todd A. Courser" <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Tentative agenda

-Finalized roles and chain of command/reporting
-On-loading a fourth member of the team into Cindy's office. Should their be an orientation? Where does fourth person fit into the processes/procedures?
-Determine which of the remaining 19 bills initially introduced will receive the full roll-out treatment. Establish and finalize creative ideas for messaging/landing pages/etc.
-Determine our process/procedure for media relations and media requests going forward. How are we documenting and archiving media mentions? We should also keep hard copies of print versions, and printouts of online versions **of the same stories**, as they might have discrepancies between them.
-Schedule staff for House of Reps orientations
-Finalize work schedules and expectations with staff.
-Establish processes for political work after January 1st. Who handles the political side? Ensure everyone clearly understands that absolutely no political-related work may ever be done from the office or during office hours.

Outstanding action items

-Augment our media list with outstate talk radio programs and other reporters that are not currently on the list.

-Match data [illegible] Republican-ID'd Congressional lists to e-mails.
-Meet with legal counsel for State House to discuss campaign finance, legal issues.
-Fill out Campaign Finance Compliance forms for Cindy and have them notarized.
-Obtain QVF data for 6th and 10th Congressional Districts.
-Establish and complete op-research file for Cindy up to this date, and establish process for continual updating of the file.
-Finalize leadership PAC forms for T/C
-Continue to update language and pocket responses for major issues for communications/constituents purposes. Current language is stored in Google Drive
-Submit all bill requests to LSB by December 31st
-Draft proposal on prioritizing Medicaid services

Process/procedures

Calendaring process

1. Todd
    1. Request Received
    2. Sent to Ben to figure out if we should do it. Consulting with Keith. Request is researched to determine legitimacy, urgency, and best way to handle.
    3. Sent to G-Ann for scheduling
    4. Prepare Meeting brief
    5. Confirm appointment the day or two before
    6. Log notes on meeting into NB along with contact info for attendees
    7. Follow up on meeting if necessary
2. Cindy
    1. Request received
    2. Forwarded to Keith. Request is researched to determine legitimacy, urgency, and best way to handle.
    3. Scheduling by Keith. Care is taken to ensure calendar event is descriptive and accurately communicates necessity of attending.
    4. Prepare Meeting brief
    5. Confirm appointment the day or two before
    6. Log notes on meeting into NB along with contact info for attendees
    7. Follow up on meeting if necessary
3. Notes
    1. Log ALL contacts into NB at every point in process

Reporting procedures

1.) Keith meets with Cindy/Todd Tuesday morning, or conference call on Monday, to preview the week, run through legislation, and give them their briefing books.
2.) Keith meets with all staff individually on Wednesdays for direct report meetings.

3.) Keith [illegible]ts with Cindy/Todd on Thursday afternoon to report on t[illegible]vents of the week, give status updates on all employees [illegible] their work for the week, report numbers of constituent contacts, and follow up on any outstanding action items.

Constituents/Nation Builder

Support or Oppose Bill
Request address, phone number, and email if available from constituent
Let constituent know that we will make sure Todd gets their message
Log contact into NB with proper notes on conversation and contact information update
Tag with support or oppose bill tag
Support= Yes_BILLNUMBER_BILL YEAR (Ex. Yes_HB325_14
Oppose=No_BILLNUMBER_BILLYEAR (Ex. No_HB325_14
Email to thank constituent for their opinion

Legislation Suggestion
Request address, phone number, and email if available from constituent
Take down all relevant information on legislation suggestion.
Ask that constituent email further, specific information.
Notify constituent that Todd/Cindy are working on a lot of legislation currently but we really do appreciate their suggestion and will consider it.
Save information into proper drive location
Log contact into Nationbuilder with proper notes on conversation and drive location of further information.
Tag with "Bill_Suggest"
Forward request to Keith for legislative consideration

Meeting Request
Constituent
- Notify constituent of upcoming district coffee hours (always have one scheduled) and they are definitely welcome to attend.
- If high priority, VIP, or friend, begin scheduling process with Keith.

Lobbyist or Other Lansing Person
- Take down information and begin scheduling process with Keith.

In Person
If a constituent drops by the office try and get as much information as possible. Address, Phone, Email and what they stopped by for.
Thank them for stopping in and let them know we will make sure Todd gets their message.

Constituent Services
Contact is received
Contact types and appropriate response times:

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Rep. Todd Courser Documents

Webform [illegible]h multiple different checkboxes for various issues and [illegible]s

- Auto response saying we will be in contact within one business day
- Return phone call (if # is available, or email) within one business day.

Phone call.

- Logged in NB.
- Take notes on conversation.
- Request constituent address, phone, and email address for district updates.

Phone voicemail message.

- Return phone call within one business day.

Email into NB.

- Return email within 48 hours

Tag constituent with applicable issue tag (See State House NB Tags DB)
Tag constituent with "Service_Open"
Contact appropriate department and log as Service Contact type.
Set appropriate follow up. (in most cases two days)
Repeat above two steps until issue is resolved. Making sure to log all contacts. (maybe separate contact types for each department?)
Send weekly updates to constituent via email and call on any significant movement.
After issue is resolved log final constituent contact and have constituent fill out constituent service satisfaction survey. (Automatically tag Service_Survey)
Send constituent service follow up letter. Tag with Service_Note
Tag constituent with Service_Closed.

Happy notes process

Sources

- Cindy
  - The Union Enterprise
  - The Commercial Record
  - Holland Sentinel
  - The Local Observer
- Todd
  - County Press
  - LA View
  - Tri City Times

Once a week, go through papers and find congratulations or condolence-worthy news articles.

- Wedding Announcements
- Birth Announcements
- Anniversary Announcements

- Business Openings
- Business Successes
- Sports successes
- Obituaries

Write short note of congratulations (one paragraph or so)

- Congratulations on (accomplishment)
- Personal application to Representative or explanation of importance of accomplishment, or note of condolence for their loss and the loss to the community
- Offer of any help from Lansing, if applicable
- Send note to Keith for approval.
- If an official House of Representatives tribute is requested, ask Keith for approval. Keith will then ask Cindy/Todd for final approval during their weekly meeting.

Tim Bowlin

From: Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:30 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: Pre Hiring promises from Keith Fwd: Thoughts before our meeting

Tim

Here is the final one for tonight - you should have 3 of them - in this one he says he has both the political role and the official role. Again we went thru this repeatedly with them both to keep them from doing their own political stuff in the house offices and also our political stuff. And any conversation we had that went political they were reminded that it can't be done in house offices or on house resources.

A quote from Keith below four paragraphs down -

"I view my role in this as providing the management necessary for both of your official offices, setting and meeting our strategic policy goals, while also serving as the liaison to political matters to ensure a harmony between the two. Essentially, the keeper of the flame who deals with the nitty gritty and keeps us constantly moving towards the goals we establish."

Then Keith closes with this set of quotes - see the bottom of the email -

"-Serving as the chief liaison to political matters, including fundraising, and ensuring political strategy does not distract from and complements our official work.

Essentially, I see myself most effective as the point person managing the staff of both official offices, serving as your point person for office duties and political/legislative strategy. When I worked in Lansing, we called this a "Chief of Staff" position, but the staffs have also shrunk since that time.

Obviously, there is still much to flesh out and discuss in person. I hope this outline gives some guidance as to my thoughts and helps to spur on more discussion as we move forward. Let me know if there's any questions this spurs on before our meeting Friday."

Those quotes above are from the email below

Have a great night! There are a few more, but I don't have the mind to think about and find them tonight!

thanks!

todd

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Keith Allard** <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Thoughts before our meeting
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "Todd A. Courser" <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Todd/Cindy-

Below is my outline based on our previous discussions and Todd's brainstorming e-mail. Instead of going through each question sequentially, I've tried to break things into groups and run through my thoughts.

Ultimately, our goal is the same. We want to restore Constitutional governance, shrink the size and scope of government, and protect the essential liberties granted by God and guaranteed by our founding documents. Each step we take must intentionally move us towards these goals, even if it is by the smallest increment. Not every play will be a touch down, sometimes we need to move the ball just a few inches.

With this in mind, I place a premium on loyalty and work ethic over other skills. Most of the work in a legislative office can be learned, but we can not teach someone to show up on time, finish tasks while providing updates, or not to blab to friends/facebook about what they saw/did at the office. I also think it's essential that we begin to build a farm team of staffers for the liberty movement - the establishment doesn't just entrench itself through elections, but also through the musical chairs game of legislative aides in official offices.

It's also necessary that though we all are focused 100% on the policy implications of our positions, we understand intrinsically the political necessities these entail. Since we will never sell out on policy - and I would not entertain the idea of working with you two if I thought that was the case :) - we have to approach the political side of things with more discipline, as a new path is being blazed.

I view my role in this as providing the management necessary for both of your official offices, setting and meeting our strategic policy goals, while also serving as the liaison to political matters to ensure a harmony between the two. Essentially, the keeper of the flame who deals with the nitty gritty and keeps us constantly moving towards the goals we establish.

Fundraising/elections

I think it's necessary to operate under the presumption that you two will both face primaries in 2016. Fundraising will be crucial, and it will be much harder than for other representatives, both by virtue of your policy positions and the route you took to office. Strong fundraising will provide some deterrence to potential challengers.

As I've discussed with Cindy, I see two phases to fundraising. Phase one requires getting the political establishment to unify behind you at this crucial juncture pre-general election. We've sent a major donor letter for Cindy's campaign, and are hosting a fundraiser with some major establishment names. Todd, we're also going to send a major donor letter for your campaign. We will see how these will work out monetarily, as again, we are in uncharted territory.

Once you begin voting, we are in phase two - this is where we really have to rely on the grassroots and outside organizations to be inspired by your voting records and the approach you take to office. It involves transparency and very strategic communications. We will need to work very hard to reach out to donors, hold meetings, send the right e-mails to the right lists, and make calls. It is extremely likely, if it hasn't happened already, that leadership will send the signal to Lansing PACs that Todd/Gary/Cindy are to be shunned from donations.

Luckily, fundraising is not the only way to deter opponents - you can also do so through political strength. Do not miss meetings in your district, try and make every single Chamber meeting/GOP Exec Cmmte/business roundtable. Send congratulation letters to County Commission candidates/school board candidates who win, and send condolence letters to the candidates who lose. Make yourself politically ubiquitous - this makes it extremely hard to challenge someone because people know you and like you.

Neither fun[illegible]ng nor political capital will dissuade a self-funder. We should make a lis[illegible]e people in your districts who are a.) establishment, b.) wealthy, and c.) [illegible]g to contribute their own personal resources to a campaign should the establishment ask them to. I can then begin opposition research on them immediately; before they even consider announcing, this research could drive them to reconsider.

In the setup I envision, I would take the lead on fundraising initiatives, though this would be something I would do on a volunteer basis outside of official hours (political and official business must never co-mingle; we must hold ourselves to a hire standard than the establishment). In terms of compensation, I find it highly advantageous to purchase lists of addresses/call lists for donors, but I only do so with vendors on a commission basis - this gives them the incentive to help us raise as much money as possible. I also specifically negotiate agreements solely on a project basis that give consultants no explicit or implied exclusivity on any funds brought in outside the scope of their project.

I also bring years of fundraising experience myself, particularly in communications. Examples include: what fundraising appeals should say in tone and content, what time a fundraising e-mail should be sent to induce max open rate, etc.

Official office management

There are two major components of a legislative office: 1.) Administrative, and 2.) Legislative. I strongly feel that as Representatives, you should never have to deal with either because everything is running so smoothly. As Reps, your time is the most precious commodity - whether it's dealing with other Reps, meeting with groups, or spending time with your families. My duty is to guarantee that your time is always optimized and office processes are established to properly ensure this. You should never have to question whether you will be briefed for a committee or a constituent got a response, and if you do decide to ask, the response should always be "It's been done." My job is to establish those processes, assign staff to them appropriately, and then demand the updates needed to keep the trains running on time.

Let me break down administrative first: the major component of administration is constituent relations, which can be frustrating but is also the easiest to develop concrete processes. Here is what I would recommend.

Response time: Constituents who call should have their call returned by a staff member within 24 hours. Constituents who e-mail should receive a response within 72 hours. Constituents who send postal mail should receive a response within 5 business days.

Responses:
-We will soon see that many constituent issues are dealing with executive branch agencies; these must be forwarded to a legislative liaison inside the executive branch to deal with. To provide the best constituent services, we must follow up with them on a weekly basis until we are assured that our constituents issue has been resolved.
-Many constituent issues deal with different levels of government; we must have forwarding letters drafted already i.e. "Because your issue deals with the federal government, I have forwarded your letter to the office of Rep. Candace Miller. I will follow up with her office to ensure they have received it."
-Some letters just deal broadly with issues; it will be good practice to draft several issue statements on the hot-button topics (guns, abortion, property rights, environment) so we have these to pull from when communication is inevitably received.
-I believe constituents should be responded to by the means they contact our office. Phone call gets a call back, e-mail gets an e-mail reply, letter gets a letter. The degree of personalization is also important. Though we will have letters/language drafted on many of these things, I find it insulting to send a form letter back to someone who sends a two-page handwritten letter. I think communications like that deserve some form of personalization, and I would ask you for your autonomy to make decisions on personalization of official communications that come under your name.
-I will also keep an eye out for letters/communications from local elected officials and other notable community VIPs. These always receive a personalized response, and probably even from Todd/Cindy. This is where it is important to have someone overseeing tasks who also has a firm grasp on the political ramifications of the positions.
-A filing/backup system should be established for every single communication received or sent by the official office.

Other concerns of administration - who's going to handle the phones, and who's going to staff the office. I really feel in this day and age that it is antiquated to expect someone to sit in an office 40 hours a week just to answer a phone, and I also feel that isn't an efficient use of taxpayer dollars. We will have to hammer out the best way to handle this once we look at the team and our budget.

Some other random points on administration:

-I think we should hold weekly in-person meetings of our team on weeks the legislature is in session. Early tuesday morning would be ideal. We will all look at the bills we will be voting on, ask aides for a briefing on the committee schedule, and compare and contrast how we're meeting our strategic goals. Gary and his team could certainly join these.

-It's import[illegible] have running e-mail conversations on communications, news, strategy[illegible] but there's also a great danger that group e-mails leave a confusion as [illegible]o will actually act on the e-mail. In my business, I ask all employees to conform to what I call the 'Roger' system. If a task or action is requested in an e-mail chain, the person who is asked it of must confirm their understanding by replying "Roger." This way a long e-mail chain is still kept on task.
-Ultimately, I don't envision Todd or Cindy needing to be cut in on any of the administrative tasks. These can be clearly established by process documents and I should oversee them.

Legislative

Following the November elections, we need to sit down, most likely several times, and gauge the political landscape. We then should establish 5-10 concrete, proactive legislative goals we want to accomplish in the legislative session. Obviously, these will be different if the Rs lose the house, Schauer is elected, etc., which is why we wait until after the election. Once we have the goals, we can identify allies/enemies for each one, and devise a two-year long strategy. The strategy will adjust with things like the legislative calendar, who is elected speaker, and what committees Todd/Cindy are assigned.

I'd like one staffer each assigned to committee work for Cindy/Todd. They'd work several weeks down the line analyzing bills, preparing lists of testimonies/questions, and then bringing to me to see if/how any of it fits into our major legislative strategy/goals. I'd work with the staffer to create an analysis with my recommendations that we'd present to Cindy/Todd and discuss. If Cindy/Todd are on the same committee(s), this makes things a little easier but also decreases our legislative reach.

I would also take the point position on engaging outside groups with our legislative goals. Groups like the Mackinac Center, Acton Institute, Generation Opportunity, AFP, and other similar orgs can provide crucial policy and media engagement on goals that align with free markets and free people. This made a huge difference with Right to Work.

I highly recommend explaining bills on social media, like Amash does. It's great policy and also good politics. It will take us some time to establish the language and reasoning for these, but after about a year, you'll notice that much language can be cross-utilized as bills continue coming up, procedural motions that mirror prior motions, etc. I will take the lead on drafting these with Todd/Cindy, but eventually by 2016 I feel this duty can be given to another staffer in the office.

Ironically, though legislative work is the most important, there's fewer concrete steps that can be laid out now because so much is dependent on the results of the general election. What we can establish is a flow-chart for information and accountability, and we can flesh that out at our in-person meeting on Friday. After the election, we can develop and finalize the processes.

Districts

I am a firm believer that candidates should always have a handler, and if a candidate is going to be speaking publicly, that handler should video record any public words said by the candidate. I think this will break down naturally due to geography - Josh/Ben (if that's who you're thinking) will be Todd's crew in 82, and I will handle Cindy's in-district in 80. This really should never be rotated - it's crucial politically that the handlers get an intrinsic understanding of the names, faces, and dynamics in the respective districts.

We should also keep specific, separate calendars for events in 80/82, and be proactive in finding these, not just putting up the ones we get invited to but events they might be surprised to have a politician show up at. School graduations, business openings, speaking to government classes, reading to kindergartners, etc - these all help establish you as not just a politician, but a community leader.

My role

Given the following outline, here is what I would view my role as being between your two offices:
-Managing staff, ensuring followups, and keeping the office running smoothly while maximizing Todd/Cindy's time for their most crucial duties.
-Working with Todd/Cindy to develop concrete legislative priorities, and then establishing a two-year strategy to achieve them. Maintaining the strategy and working with staff to oversee and ensure committee and legislative work meets our strategic goals. Engaging and utilizing third party organizations with similar goals. Identifying strategic allies and disarming strategic enemies.
-Thinking months (and years) down the line strategically and administratively. Being proactive and intentional in our actions and processes.
-Developing, assigning, and supervising administrative procedures and tasks.
-Ensuring outside communications are uniform and written in Todd/Cindy's voice.
-Serving as the chief liaison to political matters, including fundraising, and ensuring political strategy does not distract from and complements our official work.

Essentially, myself most effective as the point person managing the staff of both o offices, serving as your point person for office duties and political/legisla rategy. When I worked in Lansing, we called this a "Chief of Staff" position, but the staffs have also shrunk since that time.

Obviously, there is still much to flesh out and discuss in person. I hope this outline gives some guidance as to my thoughts and helps to spur on more discussion as we move forward. Let me know if there's any questions this spurs on before our meeting Friday.

-Keith

Most come from

MCCA
- insurance companies allowed to set tiers of coverage

[redacted]

He really thinks that he is influencing people.

Material submitted by Representative Cindy Gamrat

Tim -

I was asked by Rep. Gamrat to put a chronology of discussions we had regarding her staff not following up on constituent work.

She will be bringing the original to your meeting. This is a copy for you.

Sincerely,

Patti

8/16/15

This letter is written at the request of State Representative Cindy Gamrat to the Michigan House of Representatives Business Office relative to discussions she and I have had over the last few months relative to her frustration regarding staff in the Office of the 80th District and their inaction regarding constituent. The contents of the email are only for the use of the HBO's current investigation of the Office of the 80th.

While I recognize this document may be FOIA- able, my preference is that it remain private between me and the House Business Office (for whom I have a tremendous lasting respect for what its people do for the House of Representatives as I saw during my time in office).

To: Tim Bowlin

Director, House Business Office

Michigan House of Representatives

124 North Capitol, Suite 1022

Lansing, MI 48993

Dear Director Bowlin,

Since Representative Cindy Gamrat took office in January of 2015, she and I have been in communication on a monthly basis. As the former Rep from the 80th District, I tried very hard to only give advice or council when sought.

Often our talks revolved around constituent work. When I heard from someone in the District that said Cindy's office did not return his/her phone call, I would let her know. In some cases, I would let the Representative know of events that I felt she might want to be at. Some of these communications were via text message which I saved and can provide to the House Business Office if the Office would like.

One of my concerns regarding communication of staff in the Office of the 80th District occurred in April. A representative from North Allegan County Right to Life contacted me via email (which I may still have) concerned regarding no response from Rep. Gamrat's office regarding her attending the NACRTL dinner. The individual had sent more than one invitation to the Office of the 80th and received no response. On April 21, I sent the following text message to Rep. Gamrat:

"Are you going to the North Allegan County Right to Life Dinner next Tuesday night?"

Representative Gamrat responded,

"I didn't have it on my schedule and am having some issues with my staff not knowing about events. I have meeting scheduled with Speaker Cotter then but I will see about changing it to go to the dinner. Thanks for the heads up! Can you send me the details?"

Rep. Gamrat's text concerned me because having served in the same office for the previous six years, I knew two things - 1) a state legislator's attendance at the North Allegan County Right to Life Dinner is

essential to serving the office well and 2) the wonderful ladies who run NACRTL are very patient and thorough. For such an event, they typically will send a hard invitation through the US Mail and follow it up with multiple email reminders and a phone call.

I texted the following response to the Representative-

"6:30 St. Mary's Visitation Salem Township Next Tues"

To which she responded-

"Thanks"

On Sunday, June 28th, I texted Representative Gamrat with-

"Hey- I saw on Facebook that [Senator Schuitmaker] presented a tribute to Forever Curious Museum in Fennville. Did she not ask you to be a part of it or if you would be there?"

In my experience in the State House, whenever the State Senator was in the District to attend a function , his or her office would always coordinate with my office to orchestrate speaking opportunities or if there was a tribute presentation, to practice read the tribute.

Rep. Gamrat responded-

"Not that I am aware of, unless she asked my staff and they didn't tell me."

I texted back the following -

"You guys are going to want to coordinate events like that whenever [the Senator] is in your district"...

to which Gamrat responded-

"Well you know how it works more than most."

I then texted the Representative-

"It goes both ways, each time you present a tribute, you[r] office should call her and ask if she will be at the event and if she would like to read half and half. Make sure your offices are communicating bi-monthly. Or so."

I should say that this text is a very rare situation for me. Each State Representative does things his or her own way. I know this. I respect this and the fact that not all Reps do things as I did. Many did things much better than I did. However, on this rare occasion, I felt it important to give some guidance on how things had been done in the past.

The Representative responded via text-

"Thanks for the advice:-)"

Representative Gamrat later texted me (at 4:08 on Sunday, June 28th) -

"I sent a letter to my staff instructing them to do this."

On Tuesday, July 7th I wanted to talk to Rep Gamrat regarding a constituent who was awaiting a phone call from her office. I recommended she meet with this constituent and texted-

"I can call your office to schedule instead".

The representative responded-

"That sounds good, off the record and between you and me I am in the middle of making staff changes. I've tried for awhile now but just too many things not getting addressed and handled well, especially Constituents"

Other than these text messages, we had several other discussions regarding events and constituent issues that failed to reach the Representative.

If there are any questions relative to this message or further details needed, I can be reached at the cell phone number below (which I would also prefer remain with the House Business Office but recognize it may be FOIAed).

Sincerely,

Bob Genetski

[redacted]

1

Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed kallard@house.mi.gov for inbox:
Fwd: Re: Contact Form
7 months ago

to: kallard@house.mi.gov
What are we going to do with this guy?

Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2015-01-28T13:47:19-05:00
Subject: Re: Contact Form
To: Cindy Gamrat for State Representative <cindy@cindygamrat.com>, "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc:

Ben,

I haven't heard back from Keith, despite leaving him a v/m a week ago. In the mean time, I've had an extensive and detailed IM chat with Garrett Skorrup of the Mackinac Center trying to move them off dead center on this same issue/effort. The Mackinac Center lives and loves to "lob stink bombs from the cheap seats", but when it comes to doing the heavy lifting to actually accomplish something useful, it seems they lean on their 501(c)(3) crutch/excuse. I'm about ready to give up on them....

I'll be honest.....one of the BIGGEST problems with so-called Conservatives, in general, is that they refuse to LISTEN. They apparently think they know it all and that YOU need to listen to THEM. I'm HOPING Cindy is different.... And I'm sick and tired of so-called Conservatives who shoot of their mouth in the campaign and then completely fail to follow thru once elected. At first glance, Cindy does NOT seem like a Mitch McConnell, John Boehner, or Bill Huizenga, but at this point she's going to have to prove it.

I see Cindy and Todd's "Contract....". They're SPOT on. It's brilliant. But as I told Brian Calley to his face..."The landscape is littered with brilliant ideas that fail in the implementation phase". Implementation requires leadership. Implementation requires a PLAN. Implementation REQUIRES that you first correctly and completely understand the underlying problem you're trying to address, or any solution you try to implement is doomed to fail. I KNOW what "the problem" is. I KNOW how to fix it, conceptually, and specifically in many cases.

I am not a nut case. If you want a window into my mindset and (ONE of...) my ideas/solutions AND my grasp of the basic problem involved AND the effective and successful implementation plan I devised, see: http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/20897 It's a solution that needs to happen in similar fashion in Michigan as well, btw....and I'd be happy to talk with you about that as well.

I can help Cindy and Todd with the lions share of their Contract. I have 34 years experience living inside the "belly of the beast" and I KNOW how government works. I know how "government bureaucracy insiders" play the game. OTOH, I'm up to my neck in starting up a brand new business from the ground up, by myself, based on a patented idea that I have. (see

[redacted] It's a LOT of work....but I'm STILL willing to invest my precious time into an effort that has the potential to fulfill Cindy and Todd's "Contract" and reduce the size and scope and naked power of government. I'd work thru my own legislator, Van Heulen, but honestly I don't trust the guy as he was at the head of the effort to shove the new "internet tax" down our throat (without a public vote)....and he got his way and I'm sure got paid off by the Chamber of Commerce for his treachery. I've contacted him on a couple other issues, and sorry to say, he's an opportunistic RINO. Not gonna waste my time on him.

You're going to have to help me help you. Since my first contact attempt we now have a new internet tax, a regressive sales tax increase(to vote on....), and a huge newly "discovered" budget hole that will inevitably be filled with another RINO tax increase without anybody EVER ONCE proposing that we reduce the size and scope of state government in any way shape or form as a solution, and NOBODY FIGHTS BACK, effectively, other than to urge a "no" vote on the tax increases they HAVE to "allow you the privilege" to vote on. You haven't SOLVED the problem and you don't even really *understand* the underlying problem....

Imagine sitting down with Ben Franklin, Thomas Paine, John Hancock, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson and writing up "a plan" to fix "the problem". They called it "The Constitution". This effort has the potential to be just as 'foundational' as theirs and will/can apply across ALL levels of government. I honestly believe that's NOT an exaggeration, and I can prove it.

I don't have time to continue to write any more lengthy emails to anybody who refuses to listen. You're going to have to contact me. If not, I'll know you're not serious. Thanks for reading.

Blessings, and Best regards,

[redacted]

On Mon, Jan 19, 2015 at 10:33 AM, [redacted]
[redacted]l.com<mailto:[redacted]> wrote:
Awesome, Ben. Thanks.
Just left Keith a message. [redacted]

On Sun, Jan 18, 2015 at 12:13 PM, Cindy Gamrat for State Representative
<cindy@cindygamrat.com<mailto:cindy@cindygamrat.com>> wrote:
Greetings [redacted]!

If you would like you can call Keith Allard at Cindy's Lansing office to discuss some policy matters.

(517) 373-0836<tel:%28517%29%20373-0836>

Thanks!

Ben Graham
Legislative Aide
Rep. Cindy Gamrat.

2

kallard@house.mi.gov sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: RE: RESPONSE REQUESTED for Michigan Radio education series
7 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Just don't respond

-----Original Message-----
From: cindygamrat@house.mi.gov [mailto:cindygamrat@house.mi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 9:09 AM
To: Keith Allard
Subject: Fwd: RESPONSE REQUESTED for Michigan Radio education series

How should we handle this?

Todd got a request as well. I can't really answer the question about why they homeschool myself and I really don't like fueling the fire on this issue in the public square.

Thanks!
Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2015-01-26T11:51:28-05:00
Subject: RESPONSE REQUESTED for Michigan Radio education series
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc:

Hello Rep. Gamrat,

In response to a listener's question, my Michigan Radio colleagues and I are putting together a series of reports on education that we plan to air the week of March 30th. For part of the series, we would like to include information about what school choices our legislators make.

Please let us know about your choice of school, and/or whether this question applies to you, by answering a few questions in the following form:

http://goo.gl/forms/W5vAzMXYMH

We'd like to receive your answer by Friday, January 30th.

And please feel free to follow up with me here if you have any questions.

All the best,

Sarah Cwiek

--
Sarah Cwiek
Detroit reporter, Michigan Radio
Desk: (248) 850-8601
Mobile: [redacted]
www.michiganradio.org<http://www.michiganradio.org>

3

kallard@house.mi.gov was copied on an email sent by Ben Graham: RE: contact
6 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
cc: Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov>
How should I handle this? I know we aren't responding to form letters but obviously this one isn't. I'm not really sure where Cindy stands on fracking but I assume for it?

Thanks!

Ben

From: Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Ben Graham
Subject: FW: contact

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)
Subject: contact

Dear Cindy. I have seen from different emails that I have received that you are interested in our gun rights. I'm glad for that, but I have other concerns as well. One is the destruction of our beautiful Michigan environment, resources and our health. I am forwarding this web site with hopes that you will visit it to learn more about high volume horizontal fracturing. It is a reliable and reputable site, and the Compendium was used to assist with getting a moratorium on fracking in New York. I would welcome you comments after you are able to read some of this material.
[redacted]

Thank you for representing me. [redacted]

very active Constituent, goes to nearly every coffee hour.

4

Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed kallard@house.mi.gov for inbox:
Fwd: Growing local food and products markets
5 months ago

to: kallard@house.mi.gov
Hey I need to get an answer on this. I forwarded it to you two weeks ago and never heard back.

Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2015-02-26T22:05:17-05:00
Subject: Growing local food and products markets
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc:

Hello Cindy, my name is [redacted] You may (or may not ;) remember me from when you were campaigning last fall. You visited [redacted] and [redacted] (my mom and dad's) house and I was working in their garage building a bunk bed for my kids. I've attached a picture of the completed project.

I'm writing you today to tell you about another project that I'm working on, and hoping that your office can assist in some way. I'm currently working on a web project that will help grow markets for local foods and other products.I'm currently seeking some sort of grant (economic or community development, etc.) or other funding to get it started. Basically, the website I'd like to create makes it as simple as possible for the average consumer to purchase locally produced goods and services, and makes it equally simple for small farmers and craftsmen to connect directly with local consumers. If you wouldn't mind perusing the sample site below and perhaps suggesting a direction for funding or a few contacts I would be very grateful.

My family and I would like to congratulate you on your election. We knew you could do it!

Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much for your time,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[image]<http:[redacted]

personal letter from a supporter.

5

kallard@house.mi.gov sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: RE: Growing local food and products markets
5 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Tell him that you are forwarding his section to the relevant section of the Department of Agriculture and ask him to stay in touch with any comments or concerns.

-----Original Message-----
From: cindygamrat@house.mi.gov [mailto:cindygamrat@house.mi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:09 AM
To: Keith Allard
Subject: Fwd: Growing local food and products markets

Please advise on what I should do with this constituent.

Thanks!
Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2015-02-26T22:05:17-05:00
Subject: Growing local food and products markets
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc:

Hello Cindy, my name is [redacted]. You may (or may not ;) remember me from when you were campaigning last fall. You visited [redacted] (my mom and dad's) house and I was working in their garage building a bunk bed for my kids. I've attached a picture of the completed project.

I'm writing you today to tell you about another project that I'm working on, and hoping that your office can assist in some way. I'm currently working on a web project that will help grow markets for local foods and other products.I'm currently seeking some sort of grant (economic or community development, etc.) or other funding to get it started. Basically, the website I'd like to create makes it as simple as possible for the average consumer to purchase locally produced goods and services, and makes it equally simple for small farmers and craftsmen to connect directly with local consumers. If you wouldn't mind perusing the sample site below and perhaps suggesting a direction for funding or a few contacts I would be very grateful.

My family and I would like to congratulate you on your election. We knew you could do it!

Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much for your time,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[image]<[redacted]/http:>

I should have been notified about this to give a personal response.

6

Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed kallard@house.mi.gov for inbox:
Fwd: OPEN CARRY AND SCHOOLS
5 months ago

to: kallard@house.mi.gov, jcline@house.mi.gov
How should we handle this? Cindy met with him on AESA for the tech tour so we probably need to respond.

Thanks!

Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2015-03-13T10:43:08-04:00
Subject: OPEN CARRY AND SCHOOLS
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc: [redacted]

Dear Representative Gamrat,

Recently, there have been at least two instances of Open Carry at public schools in Michigan. I have attached a link to the Free Press article. http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/03/12/gun-rights-open-carry-michigan-school-property/70249066/

Surely this cannot be acceptable. This loophole needs to be closed. This practice needs to be banned. I am asking you to do this to avoid the needless disruption to our learning environments.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[cid:image001.jpg@01CEC9B3.597F7FA0] [redacted]

I should have been notified about this to give a personal response.

1

Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed kallard@house.mi.gov for inbox:
Fwd: Boilerplate Decision Document
5 months ago

to: kallard@house.mi.gov
cc: Elizabeth Drettmann <EDrettmann@house.mi.gov>, Perry Zielak <PZielak@house.mi.gov>, Emily Schwarzkopf <ESchwarzkopf@house.mi.gov>
FYI Just a heads up on this. Cindy will probably ask you to print and file it and never look at it agian. :)

inappropriate message to house fiscal employees

Ben
---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: Brad McGuire <AMcGuire@house.mi.gov>
Date: 2015-03-19T09:41:34-04:00
Subject: Boilerplate Decision Document
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Henry Yanez (District 25)" <HenryYanez@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Nancy Jenkins" <district057@house.mi.gov>, "Rep. Phil Potvin" <district102@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Drettmann <EDrettmann@house.mi.gov>, Perry Zielak <PZielak@house.mi.gov>, Emily Schwarzkopf <ESchwarzkopf@house.mi.gov>

Hi there,

Please see the boilerplate decision document attached.

Thank you!

A. Bradley McGuire
Legislative Director
Office of State Representative Larry Inman

Anderson House Office Building, S1388
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
amcguire@house.mi.gov<mailto:amcguire@house.mi.gov>
[redacted]
Office: 517-373-6613

[GOPhouse_logo]<http://repinman.gophouse.org></http:>

8

Ben Graham as State Representative Cindy Gamrat emailed kallard@house.mi.gov for inbox:
Fwd: Dinner Details
6 months ago

to: kallard@house.mi.gov
Should/Will Cindy go to this?

I should have been made aware of invitations to decide.

Ben

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: Brian Sapita <bsapita@house.mi.gov>
Date: 2015-02-19T13:55:53-05:00
Subject: Dinner Details
To: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Cc:

What: Dinner sponsored by Steve Young from GCSI
Where: Bravo (2970 Towne Centre Boulevard, Lansing, MI 48912)
Who: 4-8 Reps and Steve
When: Wednesday February 25th 6:00 PM
Why: Because everyone has to eat!

Brian Sapita
Legislative Assistant
Representative Ken Yonker
Phone: (517) 373-0840
E-mail: bsapita@house.mi.gov<mailto:bsapita@house.mi.gov>

Documentation from NB regarding [redacted]ommunications:

Anne Hill posted a private note about [redacted]

Received a call from [redacted] after Rep Gamrat's live statement on 8/14. She stated that she was a constituent and thought Rep Gamrat should resign; that she and her staff were ineffective, and she thought it best for her to resign. Because she had stated she was a constituent, I thought I would get her name (had the first name, but not the last). I asked her to spell it. That is when she told me that we had it as she had called several times since March. She stated she had been trying to get a grant from the DNR, and had requested a letter of support, even providing a sample letter from Rep Genetski. She stated that she gave up a couple of months ago. While she was on the phone, I looked into the system and, in fact, found the documents that she had stated she had sent, and the time frame that she had stated. I asked if it was too late to submit the grant application, to which she replied that it was not. I told her that I would draft a letter that afternoon, and put it on Rep Gamrat's desk for her signature, stating that I expected the Representative to be in either 8/17 or 8/18. After the document was signed, I would fax it to her. She stated that was acceptable to her. The letter was drafted 8/14, and is awaiting Rep Gamrat's signature.

6/17/15 Steven Johnson posted a private note about [redacted]
Called in wondering why Cindy hasn't sent a letter for the Blue Star Trail to receive grant. Is mad that no one is getting back to here. Keith is going to call her back.
2 months ago

6/10/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter .2 months ago

to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Ben,

As you can see, the email thread started in March 2015. Your help would be appreciated ASAP so that we can file Cindys letter with others in our DNR application. I have also included a one page bullet summary of the project, the Michigan map, and our phase development of the trail for your information. Let me know if you need anything. THANK YOU , in advance for your attention to this matter. [redacted]

From: [redacted]n [mailto[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 8:45 AM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov
Subject: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter
Importance: High

Hello Cindy,

I have tried to contact your office repeatedly over the last two months. I represent the Friends of the Blue Star trail, a 20 mile trailway along the lakeshore that will connect South Haven to Saugatuck. We are applying for DNR Trust fund dollars and would appreciate a letter of support. A sample letter prepared by your predecessor, Bob Genetski. Since we do have deadlines your response would be appreciated

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:10 PM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov<mailto:CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Bob Genetski's sample letter

See Bobs letter from last year.

[redacted]

- BST_trail_map_050415.pdf - 1.85 MB bytes
- BST_State_of_MI_map_05-30-2015_20150520.pdf - 717.35 kB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers__May_2015doc.doc - 33.5 kB bytes
- Friendsl_Lette.pdf - 54.6 kB bytes

6/10/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted] called the clerks office and they transfered her over. Not happy because she's been trying to get this letter done for a few months. Will send over more info. They aren't buying any new property they are just developing the right of way for the blue start highway. Need a letter of support.
2 months ago

5/6/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
Keith said yeah we aren't doing this.
3 months ago

5/5/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Bob Genetski sample letter

3 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy,

I have tried to contact your office repeatedly over the last two months. I represent the Friends of the Blue Star trail, a 20 mile trailway along the lakeshore that will connect South Haven to Saugatuck. We are applying for DNR Trust fund dollars and would appreciate a letter of support. A sample letter prepared by your predecessor, Bob Genetski. Since we do have deadlines your response would be appreciated

From: [redacted] mailto: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:10 PM
To: CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov
Subject: Bob Genetski's sample letter

See Bobs letter from last year.

[redacted]

- Friendsl_Lette.pdf - 54.6 kB bytes

3/31/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]

Spoke to Keith multiple times on this alerting him of several calls from [redacted] and he never brought it to Cindy.

5 months ago

3/27/15 [redacted] sent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: FW: Blue Star Trail support letter
5 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have tried to contact via phone and have been unsuccessful. We are filing a DNR application on March 30th and would appreciate a letter of support (See Genetski sample letter in another email) from your office. Could you forward one to me prior to our deadline? Thank you for your assistance. [redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:06 PM
To: 'CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov'
Subject: Blue Star Trail support letter

Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have attached a summary of our project and a map showing the trailway' s proposed development. I will also send Bob Genetski's letter that he prepared for us last year as a guide for you. Thank you for your interest in the Blue Star Trail. See also our website www.bluestartrail.org<http://www.bluestartrail.org>. [redacted]

[redacted]

- Blue_Star_Ttrail_map___07-30-14_011214.pdf - 1.91 MB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers___Aug_14doc.doc - 34 kB bytes

3/13/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
Questions:
1. How is the land for this project obtained?
5 months ago

3/13/15 Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_Gen
5 months ago
Ben Graham tagged [redacted] with Service_Open
5 months ago
Ben Graham merged [redacted] into [redacted]
5 months ago

3/12/15 [redacted] ent an email to State Representative Cindy Gamrat: Blue Star Trail support letter
5 months ago
to: "Rep. Cindy Gamrat (District 80)" <CindyGamrat@house.mi.gov>
Hello Cindy and Staff,

I have attached a summary of our project and a map showing the trailway' s proposed development. I will also send Bob Genetski's letter that he prepared for us last year as a guide for you. Thank you for your interest in the Blue Star Trail. See also our website www.bluestartrail.org<http://www.bluestartrail.org>. [redacted]

- Blue_Star_Ttrail_map___07-30-14_011214.pdf - 1.91 MB bytes
- Friends_of_the_Blue_Star_Trail_Questions_and_Answers___Aug_14doc.doc - 34 kB bytes

3/12/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted]
Some info on the trail: http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/04/blue_star_trail_in_south_haven.html
5 months ago

3/12/15 Ben Graham posted a private note about [redacted] called and left a message to see if Cindy would send a letter in support of DNR trust fund application for a section of the blue star trail along the coast. I spoke to Keith and he said get more information so I called [redacted] and asked her to send over some information. She said Cindy should be aware of it as it is in the news a lot. I said she probably is but I'm not from the district. She said she would send over some info along with a leter genetski sent on their behalf.
5 months ago

3/12/15 Ben Graham added [redacted] as a prospect
5 months ago

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help 69% Sun 3:49 PM Cindy

Weekly Staff Meeting Agenda – Google Docs

https docs.google.com

Updates Available
Do you want to restart to install these updates now or try tonight?
Restart
Later

Weekly Staff Meeting Agenda

cindydistrict80@gmail.com

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Add-ons Help Last edit was made on March 19 by kethallard

Comments Share

100% Normal text Arial 11

Active

- Letters back on all constituent contact.
- Scheduling Requests
- Process discussion for posting vote explanations
- Constituent outreach processes
- Lincoln dinners
- March legislation

Gmail by Google

G

Rep 80 constituent LTE response

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 12:02 AM
To: team@cindygamrat.com

As of yet I haven't signed any cards for anniversaries, obituaries, births, or LTE's.
Please aquire the addresses of each person who writes a letter to the editor and put the addressed envelopes on the paper and on my desk each week. I will sign those and look at the paper and decide if anything else should get s card.
Thanks.
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

H

Gmail by Google

Rep 80 TeenPact request

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 11:19 AM
To: team@cindygamrat.com

Keith the email below is from [redacted] and it appears that she hasn't gotten a response, can you make sure that we get back with her today and of course I would be happy to help out.

Thanks!
Cindy

Hi Cindy, In case you do not see every email, I wanted to let you know I did send an email to your office last week to see if you would be one of our Legislative Sponsors for this year's TeenPact Michigan class. Looking forward to your answer!
Sent from my iPhone

No response to invitation to speak
[redacted] messaged me on facebook

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help 62% Sun 4:09 PM Cindy

[redacted] - Messages

https www.facebook.com

Inbox (61)

[redacted]

Feb 9

[redacted] Hi Cindy, In case you do n...

Search Messages

[redacted]

+ New Message

Cindy A. Gamrat
Got it, thank you!!

Cindy A. Gamrat
[redacted] I am having an open house for my campaign headquarters on Saturday. We will be knocking on doors and handing out flyers and if there are any students that you know that might want to help with that, please let me know or have them contact me. Thank you!

[redacted]
Hi Cindy, In case you do not see every email, I wanted to let you know I did send an email to your office last week to see if you would be one of our Legislative Sponsors for this year's TeenPact Michigan class. Looking forward to your answer!

Reply

Sponsored

Create Ad

Come home to Verizon
www.verizonwireless.com

CeraVe® - Save on skincare
CERAVE.COM

Facebook © 2015
English (US) Privacy Terms Cookies
Advertising Ad Choices More

Gmail by Google

M

Bookmark contest

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 3:55 PM
To: team@cindygamrat.com

Hey guys we really need to wrap up the bookmark contest since it is a month after March reading month now.
I think we had promised some pictures and some gift cards to Barnes & Noble and a statement in the paper off the winners.
Let's make it a priority to get that wrapped up this week.
Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Bookmark contest was never completed.

Gmail by Google

N

p 80/82 time accountability

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, May 11, 2015 at 2:01 PM
To: team@cindygamrat.com

Keith please put on the schedule a time for us this week to review staff time and where the time is allocated and on what. Also included is the time it takes your process of reviewing bills coming out of committee and that we are voting on.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

u

rking from home or call ins

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
To: team@cindygamrat.com

Thu, May 28, 2015 at 6:41 PM

To all staff (current and new),

If you call in sick for the day, work from home, need to come in late or leave early, send me an email to let me know and copy Keith. Todd may want to be copied too.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

No Response to this and Staff didn't Follow instructions.

Gmail
by Google

V

Important Office Changes

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sun, Jun 7, 2015 at 10:13 PM
To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>

Todd, Keith and Ben,

Hope you guys all had a good weekend!

I just wanted to first thank each of you for all that you have poured into trying to make this work here in Lansing. It has been a new and a high learning curve and hard on all of us and I want to thank you each for your grace and patience during this time.

We have learned a lot along the way, and in many ways have done some great work considering all that has been thrown at us. We have overcome some unique and difficult challenges over the last few months, yet, there are some areas of weaknesses in our processes and follow through that continue to linger.

For example, responding in an appropriate and timely manner to phone calls and emails is still not occurring. I have had a number of constituents and local officials complain that they have not been responded to. And again just recently at my Lincoln Day, I received complaints from a constituent who said he called my office twice to set up a time to talk and hasn't heard back, and also from a local leader who said they get calls regularly from lobbyist groups and organizations who complain that we are not even bothering to respond to their communications. And today, [redacted] where they honored me today, said he has been to my office to visit twice but I was totally unaware of that. If I was given a notice or update that told me that and missed it, I apologize, but if I wasn't given a notice, that needs to be addressed. If someone, especially from district stops in to the office, we should be [redacted]ing their contact information so we can send them a little note regarding their visit.

There also continues to be issues regarding calendaring of events, from contact and other information not being included on the calendar, to coffee hours being advertised and scheduled on a Holiday.

We have also had way too many days that the offices have not been staffed in part or for an entire day. I have been unaware of many times when staff leaves early or arrives late and leaves my office unattended. It is important that I know when my office is being staffed and when it is not.

I do recognize and understand that we have been short staffed and I think bringing on additional staff, especially ones that are strong in administration, will help. But I also think we should consider separating the offices and staff duties in a way that makes the best sense in serving our districts and offices.

This is a little bit of a different direction than what we envisioned coming in in January, but I think since we have now had some time to see what the needs and requirements are for running an office, it is a good time to reassess and make changes that will in the end serve our districts better and help each office to run more efficiently and effectively.

This week I'd like to meet and discuss how we might be able to address these issues. Again I am not sure what is the best path for each involved but I think there is a lot of merit for trying to do some of this. I think in the end we can come to a better solution that best utilizes the strengths of each staff member and also helps us serve our districts well.

Thanks and God bless,
Cindy

ps Please send me the dates of when [redacted] will be available and when he will be gone on his mission trips.

[redacted]s I have scheduled an interview for Tuesday with [redacted] who is from [redacted] graduated from [redacted] in Political Science, and helped a bit on my campaign before leaving for an internship. [redacted] I had forwarded on his email and attached resume. Please print that out for us. Thanks!

Y

Gmail

Separating offices

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jul 2, 2015 at 5:23 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "Todd A. Courser" <courserlaw@gmail.com>

I wanted to update you on the progress of separating offices per our discussion three weeks ago. After much thought and carefully assessing any potential problem spots due to overlap, I have undertaken the following action items:

1.) I have removed key card access for Todd to Cindy's office and from Cindy to Todd's office.

2.) I have removed Todd from the team@cindygamrat email and removed Cindy from the team@toddcourser email.

3.) I have begun adding separate calendar appointments on each future session day where I will discuss floor votes and your pending legislation with each of you separately.

4.) I will set up weekly appointments for each of you individually to meet with pertinent staff and myself to discuss any constituent issues that may have arisen or require your input or awareness in your respective districts.

5.) I have removed Cindy's access to Todd's calendar. Cindy - you will need to remove Todd's access from yours. Ben can show you how to do this next week.

6.) I've removed admin access to each other's respective Facebook pages

7.) In terms of staffing, I envision that Anne will be primarily responsible for Cindy's email intake from constituents the official district 80 box. I will continue to be responsible for Cindy's campaign Nation Builder followups. Steve, ne, and Karen, when available, will all perform intake on phone calls from both districts. Karen will remain primarily responsible for both Todd's campaign Nation Builder and official district box intake and followups. Ben will shift from initial intake into higher-level constituent issues (i.e. those requiring communication and action from executive departments and contacts), coordinating tributes, and managing intra-office communications (i.e. maintaining positive proactive and reactive communications with our caucus staff in Communications and Constituent Services, managing outreach and necessary functions from facilities and other non-partisan staff), consistently following up with LSB and keeping me abreast of the current status of any legislation or changes we ask for. He will also assist me with projects as assigned. I'll continue to take the lead on all policy matters, including both of your respective committees.

8.) With the exception of very special circumstances that may arise, we will book any meetings with lobbyists, constituents, organizations etc separately and individually for each Rep.

Obviously, there will be some duplicative functions of staff caused by such a separation, but I'm willing to perform such functions to respect the harmony of both offices, perform the best duties for each respective district, and begin to reverse the public relations issues we have experienced as of late. We can evaluate and discuss these various items as we move forward.

Material submitted by Ben Graham

Recordings

Voice 005
06/09/2015 | 02:11:55

Voice 004
05/26/2015 | 00:38:20

Voice 003
05/21/2015 | 01:07:44

Voice 002
05/20/2015 | 01:22:40

Material submitted by Keith Allard

Tim Bowlin

From: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: Job descriptions second try

This e-mail chain below outlines the tasking of Karen with political work. As you see in Todd's initial response, items number 1 and 2 are purely political (Toddforrep and Toddformichigan are the names of his political databases). In his second e-mail in the chain, he also asks her to be trained in how to upload an email list from "NB to fb for targeting", this is asking her to upload specific emails from Nation Builder (his political database) to Facebook for advertising use. In person, he clarified that this meant he wanted Karen to do business advertising for his law firm as a condition of her employment by the House.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Todd Courser** <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 12, 2015 at 8:21 AM
Subject: Re: Job descriptions second try
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, Georgeann Courser <georgeann@toddcourser.com>, KAREN HIRZEL <karen@toddcourser.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Karen if you can give me some idea on what has and has not been covered in the main list below that would be helpful and here are a few more items - In some of these areas it will also make sense to have ann inserted and trained or cross trained - please feel free to bring her in on any of this. Thanks!

Keith - here are some added items that Karen, possibly Ann, needs to be brought up to speed on.

1. Need feedback on the Idea of a contact log for each office - inbound calls, messages, people, and mail - where are we at with it

2. How is the new admin going on NB?

3. I need to have Ben begin to do deeper steps on NB with Karen on how to do our messaging protocols / how to upload a email list from NB to fb for targeting (Keith I need this step now and really like yesterday for me) / also finally the lingering billing issue in NB

4. How to post stuff to website and fb

5. Cut her o the team email and ann as well - show her how to do it.

6. Is she now getting the official emails and the private official emails? And is she signed up to receive them?

7. Is every email (not being answered in NB) from the team that is being sent out in our efforts being copied into the "district82) email? It's not and it needs to be. It's a warehouse for me to check freight and see if we are moving. It helps and it keeps me updated on much without having to rehash stuff

8. Is Karen now on the calendaring stuff - does she get updates to them?

9. Please walk her thru our legislative tracker from beginning thru drafting process and blue backing.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 1, 2015, at 6:18 PM, Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

> Karen this is the hit list for tomorrow.
>
> thanks!
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Todd Courser** <courserlaw@gmail.com>
> Date: Mon, Jun 1, 2015 at 4:02 PM
> Subject: Re: Job descriptions second try
> To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
> Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
>
> Karen will be in Tuesday at 9 am;
> She will need deeper access than Ann at this point.
>
> Tomorrow - create new accesses to these and give her accesses where adding authorized users isn't available. Then explain what is being done in each and what is supposed to be done; share google docs essential for both official and political. Cindy feel free to add or expand or limit this where you see it as appropriate for ann and even Karen if you feel it isn't appropriate or causes some issues I am not seeing.

1. ddforrep
2. Toddformichigan
3. Servinglapeer
4. Official house email
5. Private house email
6. Toddadmin82@gmail.com
7. Calendaring
8. Phones
9. Google drive docs original and shared
10. Call log
11. Constituent tracker?
12. Legislative tracker
13. Legislative ideas tracker
14. Vote tracker and posting
15. Letterhead
16. Letter and response templates
17. Tributes given and processes
18. Press releases
19. In office meetings v out office meetings
20. Event docs and processes
21. Process doc bank
22. Email in and out processes
23. Facebook page accesses for posting

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2015, at 5:39 PM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

> I would suggest that we have both Karen and Ann come in on Tuesday and have them brought up to speed on all things administrative. That would mean Keith and Ben walking out what processes are in place, data, phones, emails, political v non political, paperwork, happy noted, letters to constituents, calls in and out and steps to handle constituent services. If this is acceptable I will see if Karen is able to come on Tuesday as well.
>
> Thanks
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On May 29, 2015, at 5:01 PM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:

My take on job descriptions for Anne and Karen. This is a r[illegible]draft with my best effort to get down what we've discussed over the last couple weeks, so please feel free to give any input, augment, or change anything I've written. I won't be insulted :)

Anne Hill

1. Administrative assistance for office operations, including but not limited to phone and message intake, printing, copying, organization, and calendaring.
2. Develop and refine office processes. Work through processes currently developed and evaluate efficacy. Identify faulty or missing processes, and develop new processes. Refine these processes as needed.
3. Evaluate administrative systems for the office and identify the most efficient means of utilizing them for the goal of providing efficient and excellent constituent service and administrative tasks with minimal bottleneck for human capital or decision making.
4. Assist in constituent outreach through official means, including identifying recipients for and producing tributes and special letters from the Representatives.
5. Work with interns to provide training and tasks for their time in Lansing. Assist in identifying and recruiting potential interns for future semesters.

Karen Hirzel

1. Develop and execute intentional constituent outreach plans. These should be holistic guides that encompass official communications from the office with official events in the respective districts. Event planning should be proactive, and include relevant speaking engagements, coffee hours, town hall meetings, township and board meetings, sustained regular outreach to county and municipal officials, Right to Life leaders, Farm Bureaus, NGOs, and church leaders.
2. Work with staff and Representatives on the proofreading and dissemination of outgoing communications. Help to create a style guide for outgoing communications that reflect each Representative's unique voice.
3. Work with staff on the calendaring and execution of the constituent outreach plans. Determine open dates, anticipate upcoming events (holidays, school graduations, Right to Life month, etc.) and make a standing schedule that guides constituent outreach throughout the year.
4. Special projects as assigned by the Representatives.
5. Work will be performed on a project basis, not a set number of hours.

Tim Bowlin

From: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: open issues - planning on coming over to meet tomorrow

Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser began requiring Lansing meetings during the recess as a means to use staff as an alibi for their rendezvouses. Here, Todd calls a meeting in the official office to discuss his business advertising ("the fb ads deal") and issues he has with his political database no longer allowing him to send mass emails (the "pause" he refers to). Neither should be discussed in a state office with state employees on official time.

Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser then came in that day for about 15 minutes and met regarding these purely political and business issues. They left, and pictures from Rep. Gamrat's husband showed that they had a romantic rendezvous in a strip mall parking lot during the work day.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Todd A. Courser** <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 24, 2015 at 6:52 PM
Subject: open issues - planning on coming over to meet tomorrow
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>

I would like to meet and go thru the open issues we have and get some updates; if this is a problem please let me know. There are a lot of hanging parts; one in particular is the email that Keith you commented back on and said Ben had part and Karen had part so I would like to get an update on that as well. One of particular concern is the fb ads deal and obviously the "pause" for the emails and I think we need to consider stopping the aggregating of the emails from the "cc's" and what it takes to wind the flamethrower deal back up. and whatever else comes to mind. Not sure how far we will get but we shall see. thanks!

Tim Bowlin

From: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:08 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: 82 - issues to deal with

Here is Todd tasking us with a variety of tasks pertaining to Cindy's RNC Committeewoman campaign. It clearly shows a mingling of political and government work, and was sent in the morning on a Friday work day.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Todd A. Courser** <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 11:15 AM
Subject: 82 - issues to deal with
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Good Morning:

Josh I need some idea on what the deal is for tonight and for tomorrow?

RNC National Committeewoman...need to get a game plan on this and I need to know who is in and what part you are handling...

Look no offense on this to any of you, but if she does this it affects us all...Josh when you ran for state board of ed it was a reflection on your quality adn the way you did it and said it and ran it was a reflection on you and on me when I endorsed you... What I am saying is that this all goes to my reputation and each of our reputations....and to each of our own personal integrity...we need to look like we know what the hell we are doing in everything we do and that we do it our best and that we don't miss stuff and are on it, not just appear to be on it, but are on it....and we need to do whatever we do in an efficient well oiled machine like fashion...right now it looks like a bunch of half donkeyed partially thought thru facebook pokers who have no game...I can't have that happening around me like that....or better put right now it looks like we are a monkey screwing a football...so get together a plan on what and who and when and how....

1. we need the state committee list now or last week or as soon as possible..
2. josh/ben we need to know from past data mining which are hard either way,
3. we need to know what is the opposition doing,
4. and what is the roll out package supposed to look like on this

5. and how we get it in motion,
6. because right now it looks like it isn't in motion.
7. I believe you all said you were in to do this so if so what does that mean?
8. is it being there to take credit for it or is it putting it in motion?
9. is that a facebook page?
10. is it a graphic to add adds
11. and likes?
12. is it a logo?
13. is it stickers?
14. is it tee shirts?
15. is it a flyer?
16. at the event what does it look like?
17. or is there any mail?

theeeeeeen please deal with these...

1. post the rest of the votes explanations
2. post the articles we were quoted in this week - these should be going to our website and our fb page
3. modify the bill entry process to include a press release / a fb post / website / we need to put our steps in motion to put more pressure on our offensive game
4. deal with the data request further - get me the contract Josh quoted to me in the email - data development takes time, it doesn't happen in a flash so we have to get the contract, then request the data and then they will get us the data and then we will have to pare it down and then we will need to match the data and then we will need to upload the data and then we will need to begin to introduce the identification in emails and on fb. to do it properly it takes months and so i am feeling a bit behind the 8 ball now on this. so please get me the contract to sign the first of the week.
5. Ben give feedback on the vendor stuff where it is relevant.
6. correct the paystub issue or get me the log in info so i can do it myself.
7. we need the state committee list today.

thanks

Tim Bowlin

From: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:12 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: Not sure how to address this???

This e-mail came out of the blue on a Monday night in early June. We both viewed it as a direct threat to our positions in Lansing. Neither of us had reached out to their family (though they had certainly come to us with suspicions) nor had talked openly about their relationship to anyone. Most of what he says is either entirely untrue or a gross distortion.

Ironically, this email was the first confirmation I personally had from either of them (Cindy/Todd) directly that they were having an affair. Ben had obviously known firsthand since May 19th.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Todd Courser** <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 10:14 PM
Subject: Not sure how to address this???
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>

Gentlemen:

This is from me not Cindy I get it has implications for her as well so just read it and consider it and then we can go from there. Thanks

What your doing is not at all appropriate; I am working thru all of it with my family and you broadcasting or sharing what you think you know and what is rumored about me isn't appropriate at all; it's not right to share and it isn't at all helping.

I still believe God has called me here to do something and to stand for something until I don't have any breath left in my lungs I am going to do my damnedest to do it.

L[illegible] I understand if you can't be on board and I will respect you[illegible]ision, but I would ask both of you to decide if you are here [illegible] help and if so what can be expected of you while you are here, because right now with what I just heard from my wife and my mother concerning a chat between the two of you about me I can't see how you are here to be on this team. This isn't the first time we have discussed communicating with others and I think we were pretty specific. And it is not the first time I have heard it. I am praying to God that what I heard was in jest and nothing more and in no way serious, but it seemed pretty serious. I get that it may be now a tough question for each of you on whether or not you stay; there is plenty of reasons to go, but there is still a bunch that can be done and should be done to advance conservatism and represent my district well. I am going to do my best to do it and I need help to make that happen. I didn't ask for this in my life and I will be glad when there are more capable liberty voices to carry this message but as long as I have breath I am going to do my best to advance what I was elected on. If you want to participate with those who are wanting to decide for me what direction this all should have taken, then just do it and be done with it, but if you are here then I shouldn't question if you are here to help or undermine. I was elected and I have a purpose in being here and until such time as that is no longer the case I am going to work to advocate for the conservative cause and to do it with all of the energy and passion that God has given to me!

I realize you both are disappointed in me; you both and all the rest, have deserved better from me along the way and I am sorry I have failed each of you; i hope at some point you can forgive me; you deserved better from me. I understand if you want to leave in some fashion, even in jerry springer fashion, but if you are staying then we can't have this happening anymore; we have a hell of a lot of work to do.

It is not appropriate to share any details with my brother or my family or current staff or former staff members; it's just not; if you are here to monitor me and broadcast it then please reconsider your positions.. I wouldn't in any way treat either of you this way; your actions aren't any more appropriate than if I call your wife, or significant other and asked why you left early, or why you didn't come in without letting me know, or that you refused to give me a daily email to account for what you have done, and that I can't get a contact log even when I ask for it and what has happened to those calls. Would it be appropriate for me to explain why Ben is asleep in my office and gets caught doing it, or why I have 3 out of 8 of my coffee attendees tell me they have called or emailed and haven't gotten a call back ([redacted] being one of them). Finally guys it is not appropriate to chat in the building and expose new staff hires to antics of such low degree about how you are going to follow me and take pictures of me (when I am on my way to a funeral). The chatter and rumor mill needs to stop. Speaking about me and surmising where I spend my time or questioning whether my damn tire is messed up or where I am at when I go for a walk, or where I shop or when I am at the "y"; or at the damned library writing a messaging email, it's not really your business at all. Should I have staff members who give out ongoing updated information on any of this? You both understand that these things are not at all professional. You both know very well that I can't have staff who isn't on board to assist without undermining the efforts I have been taking and will continue to keep taking to represent the district well.

I want the two of you here and I want to build a team but if you are here to stay then I need to know you have the commitment to take our opportunities seriously and the professionalism to take your positions more seriously than what I just heard. I need to know you are going to stop monitoring me for people who in no way are acting appropriately. If you think this is helping it is not. I can't make

y ecide to be here it's your call on that. But while you are her s not appropriate to be texting back and forth in such a demeaning way about me, let alone while I am in the building and with you, rumors or true it is not appropriate; I seriously love you both and want to move this all forward but it is now in your corner to decide on whether or not you are on this team.

Gentlemen I want to work with the two of you. Please put this all to rest; decide one way or another; then we can move to get some stuff done.

Ben you can stop napping in my office and getting caught and you can also stop eating in my office as well.

God bless you both and whatever you choose you have my utmost respect and thanks for all you have done for me personally and politically and much more for the cause. Thanks again.

Sent from my iPhone

Tim Bowlin

From: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Facebook post about Cindy's constituent
Attachments: Screen Shot 2015-08-20 at 9.46.40 AM.png

Hassan had requested a screenshot of the Facebook post Todd made after meeting with one of Cindy's constituents. It is attached. The constituent was [redacted] who is also member of the Michigan Railroad Association. He was a kindly elderly man who wore a train-themed tie and had no real agenda other than promoting passenger rail travel.

Todd A. Courser

February 6 · Edited ·

Reality is hard for people to deal with...Had a meeting with "some greenies," who were their to meet with me as paid fronts for the "sustainable development powers," it's the new more acceptable term for "soviet style top down central planning," well funny thing they were toting the fact that passenger rail in our state spends 40 million in the mi economy; and as an economist would look at it that equates into 120 million in economic activity, so in their argument this government entity actually produces huge economic impact for the dollars it spends in the economy...hmmmm? I always hate to have to school someone on the basics of economics when they so clearly believe a lie, so I held back a bit and then just said, but didn't they have to first steal the 40 mill to spend 40 mill? and to create this economic impact it has to first take 40 million out of someone's pocket and therefore steal the impact of those dollars from the private economy first?

Share

Material submitted by Jessica Jeurink

●●●○○ Sprint LTE 2:47 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

Text Message
Tue, Jan 27, 12:21 PM

This is Josh Cline, when would u like to do lunch?

Can we do Friday? Say, 1?

Sounds good. Works for me.

Darn it. I just had a meeting request for 2. Can we do noon just to be safe?

Sure thing.

I'll meet you outside the cafe in the HOB

Good deal.

Fri, Jan 30, 11:49 AM

Still on for lunch?

Yep!

Send

●●●○○ Sprint LTE 2:47 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

See u downstairs in 10

Mon, Feb 9, 12:11 PM

What is the best way to reach Norm to schedule a sit down ASAP.

Lync if he's on or email.

Everything ok?

Or just dial his extension. Leave a fm

vm

Not really at all. Took two steps back this weekend.

Hang in there. Let me know if you have issues getting in touch with him. He should be at the all staff today.

Send

●●●○○ Sprint LTE 2:47 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

Good.

Mon. Feb 9, 4:34 PM

How did it go?

I will call u later. I think it went good.

Sounds good. I'll be out of here around 5:15.

I will still be here working..

call me anytime

Thu, Feb 12, 7:44 AM

Can I call you in 5 mins?

Might not be able to you in 5 minutes we need to talk sometime this morning as soon as possible interesting developments not good

Tue.

Send

●●●○○ Sprint LTE 2:47 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

Tue, Mar 17, 8:25 AM

Need to speak to u this morning, but can't be around your staff, my staff, or my bosses.

Tue, Mar 17, 11:19 AM

Hi there. I'm out today sick. Catch up tomorrow?

Tue, Mar 17, 1:33 PM

Sure feel better.

Wed, Mar 18, 5:35 PM

Man I wish we would have had a chance to talk...Right as we left Joe Gamrat just showed up unannounced to Cindy's office to confront Cindy and Todd.

Fri, Apr 24, 3:19 PM

I reached out to Lucido and his right hand man. I told him to reach out to Norm, Tim Bowlin

●●ooo Sprint LTE 2:47 PM

Messages Josh Details

reach out to Norm, Tim Bowlin and others for recemmondations. I am playing to card that I k

now how to handle him, the dual office thing, and I already worked well with the front desker. He is really looking at the experience thing so I am not s

ure how that is going to work in my favor. Hopefully you guys can put in a really good word.

I'll see what I can do friend :)

If that doesn't work out hopefully something happens soon.

I'm working with Matt Golden to find you something if that doesn't work out

That would be awesome and

●●ooo Sprint LTE 2:48 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

That would be awesome and espically before the money runs out :) I have applied for quite a few positions in the private sector so we shall see what happ

ens. Still thinking about the rep thing should TC run for Congress and maybe even if he doesn't.

Keep me posted on all fronts

Will do and let me know of any other openings you here of. Thanks and have a great weekend.

Sun, Apr 26, 9:58 PM

Heads up: TC is sending an email tomorrow slamming the speaker and his leadership or lack thereof.

Mon, Apr 27, 7:25 AM

●●ooo Sprint LTE 2:48 PM

Messages Josh Details

Mon, Apr 27, 7:25 AM

Thanks Josh.

Wed, May 20, 3:56 PM

Hi there, did you ever hear back from DHS?

No I did not. All my interviews have been non-political.

FYI, an email was sent out with highly vulgar, discusting accusations about Todd and then Todd and Cindy. A DC reporter called and asked if Courser's lis

t got hacked. Then email was written and sent by Todd, but it is being masked. It is the email he asked Ben to send late in the evening last night.

Do you have the job posting # for the DHS job? Norm would like to make a call to help you

●●○○○ Sprint LTE 2:48 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

Do you have the job posting # for the DHS job? Norm would like to make a call to help you out

6401-14-bhcs 202 ltc Wayne DHS. It closed on May 3rd.

Wed, May 27, 8:57 AM

What is your email so I can send you the info?

[redacted]

Sent. You should have it now.

Thu, May 28, 7:01 AM

Hey Josh. Can you send me your resume too.

Thu, May 28, 9:20 AM

Just sent it.

Thanks!

Send

●●●○○ Sprint LTE 2:48 PM

Messages **Josh** Details

Let me know if you need anything else or here of anything. You know if you here something in the private sector that would be great too.

Will do!

Wed, Aug 5, 5:22 PM

When u get a chance you should give me a call. As gentleman and a scholar I would like to give u advance warning of an upcoming story.

Wed, Aug 5, 7:04 PM

Hi Josh! I in Canada with terrible reception. I can't get calls to go through. I'm back in the states tomorrow night.

That might be too late. Could be front page DetNews tomorrow morning.

Send

hikes. Let me see if I can find a spot with better service. I just tried to call my parents and they couldn't hear me.

ould be aware of.

That would be great. If it wasn't that respect you and I know that you looked out for me I wouldn't give u a heads up on something the speakers office sh

Wed, Aug 5, 8:10 PM

I tried 🤦 Won't even let a call go through. Keeps saying call failed.

Trying to send this message again. Taking awhile.

Wed, Aug 5, 9:39 PM

Story is moved to Friday front

Material submitted by Joshua Cline

Tim Bowlin

From: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Fwd: Rep 80/82: It is finished

My email of my resignation letter to Todd. FYI, I am on my way to review my statements. Should be there in 45 or less minutes.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Joshua Cline" <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Date: Apr 14, 2015 10:05 AM
Subject: Rep 80/82: It is finished
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>
Cc:

There is a printed copy on Todd's desk.

Dear Representative Courser,

It has been a wild ride for the last two and half years and I can remember the exact moment it started. It was a divinely inspired January day at Tim Horton's where the Holy Spirit moved in such a way that I knew I was going to follow you on a journey that seemed absolutely crazy and daunting. How would it end and when would it end nobody knew, but we did know we were called to do it and to do it for the glory of His kingdom. Those five weeks we ran the chair race were one of the most defining of my professional, personal, and spiritual life and it was then that I knew, through the guidance of our Lord, that I would have walked through a wall for you. For the last few years, I had absolute confidence that the Lord would direct our steps and that we would follow, with your leadership, as a team. That journey has stretched me in ways that I could have never understood and allowed me to learn how to balance my professional life with my family, seek out options, be more strategic and tactical, and start and run a business. All of these things, and many more, were made possible because of your friendship and mentorship. I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to be apart of this team that at times was a beacon of light for the gospel and advancement of liberty and conservatism.

Unfortu[illegible]y, the last four to five months have lost any resemblanc[illegible] being a team and any sense of being guided by the Holy [illegible]rit to advance the movement in the cause of liberty. I do not know when and where we lost the confidence and respect of each other's leadership and professionalism, but it's there, interwoven, in email after email sent to the team. It has now moved from persistent assaults on our ability to be perfect in the performance of our daily work tasks to personally attacking my integrity and character. After tolerating months of emails that were disrespectful, unprofessional and demeaning, the email sent to me and the entire staff on March 27th, with the subject of 82-issues to deal with, was offensive, ungrateful, and beyond reproach. To attack my personal integrity because of my State Board of Education race for how it looks and appears to YOU is arrogance of the highest degree and shows a complete lack of respect for me as a person and the sacrifices I made to ensure that you were elected as State Representative. I am sure, then, that you would have welcomed me campaigning around the state for my election while GLEP was personally attacking you and your business to ensure your defeat in the primary election? Of course we both know that is ludicrous and it would have showed a lack of respect to you as a person, friend, mentor, and to the conservative movement, to place my desires to win my own campaign ahead of yours. The relentless barrage of emails, text messages, etc.. dealing with actions regarding official and political tasks is one thing, but that email took it to another level entirely. Like the many other unprofessional communications of the last few months, I have tried to sweep it under the rug and move along to keep the peace, but it only highlights your true feelings toward me and your staff that you feel the need to say such things with no regret and remorse. It is quite apparent that you have lost all confidence in my ability to perform, guide, and consult on matters of legislative and political importance, and that I "don't have the chops" or "lack the commitment necessary" to achieve your goals.

As such, with deep regret and prayerful consideration , I hereby offer my resignation, effective today, April 14th, 2015. There are seasons in which the Lord has brought us together to further His will and seasons in which that will happen with us on different trajectories, and now is that time. It is disappointing that we couldn't continue on this journey together and see it through to the end of the term.

God Bless,

Joshua Cline

--

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: 810.338.5613
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

PROCESS AMENDMENT: Scheduling/calendaring Rep 80/82

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 10:31 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Henceforth, anytime we are scheduling a media interview/photo shoot/meeting/**important event** (i.e. one necessitating the presence of Todd/Cindy, not just a regular township meeting or breakfast, etc.) MAKE SURE to add me as an attendee so it goes onto my calendar.

Even if I am not attending, I can be sure to set an alarm for 24 hours prior, and then two hours prior to the event, to ensure that reminders can be sent, proper briefing occurs, and nothing slips by us. This is a backstop that will ensure we don't miss anything as T/C's calendars begin to fill as the legislative term progresses.

I'm not sure what happened with the Livengood interview. I've heard that Josh informed Todd and briefed on the event, but it may not have happened close enough to serve as a reminder that the event was occurring. We must not forego these reminders in the future, as the act of putting something on the calendar has not proven to provide the assurance that attendance/awareness has occurred.

Cindy, you have an interview with Chad tomorrow morning that is on your calendar for 2 pm. He is somewhat flexible in the timing, but would appreciate if you could call as close to 2pm as possible. You are calling him, and his cell number is included in the event description. I will send a reminder tomorrow for the interview with adequate time so it is not missed.

---

n Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 10:33 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
(810) 373-2152
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep82/80 Todds interview with Chad

3 messages

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 10:01 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I'd like to see a breakdown of how Todds interview with Chad was handled. After recently missing my photoshoot and Todd now nearly missing his interview, it appears we still do not have a process down that works in this area and that concerns me. Please email it and then we can discuss it on Mondays meeting. Also Keith we need an agenda for Monday's meeting.
Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 2, 2015 at 10:58 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I'll send an agenda tomorrow

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 4, 2015 at 2:22 AM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Keith as we said Josh is on calendaring; that means from end to bloody end; Keith we can't have you on ends of processes it won't work; we can't have one event on one day and have it not get noticed by the guy who does scheduling and calendaring; Josh you have to put in place steps so we do not miss events and you have a backup and that means you have to make sure you know and act on every event; you screwed this one up; so really you need to apologize to the team for it; again I am having to spend my time talking about another admin screw up it wastes my time.

If I have to spend my home time lamenting a missed protocol of a process and no one has claimed it then I will be expecting someone to run down where the breakdown happened and why and how it will be handled better in the future; And an apology; it's a disregard for me and my time; you all are hired to admin this stuff not hangout and visit; you have been hired to run stuff down. So decide if and how I need to remind you to remind me that I have to be reminded about an interview in the morning? You need to have a process that will handle this situation. Or if you think you did your duty then tell us all that informing me of the interview 4 or 5 days before is handling it and somehow if full execution of the protocol. I received no alert that morning and unless you have a good reason or a bad excuse it's you dropping the ball on it.

If Cindy didn't remind me I would have missed it; you can't tell me 4 days before and call yourself done with the process; you can't tell Keith it's done and you handled it; we have now said, post photo gate, that we need to get a reminder in by text or phone call and we have to respond to you or your not done; you have to brief me or Cindy the day before or your not done. Your not done and that means you haven't run the process completely with each protocol. That means its a failure; so that means you failed in the process and that you failed and when you do you need to own it; so please make sure you have a new protocol that will solve this for the future and be ready to share it.

Gentlemen you need to make sure you have an alert on every event that we are supposed to attend and make sure you are alerted prior and then of course confirm that you then get us to it and thru it successfully. Or your not done and it's a failure to administer the process and or a failure of one of the protocols.

todd

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: Lapeer ISD Meeting

4 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 1:30 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Todd Courser <toddcourser@toddcourser.com>
Bcc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

[redacted]

Thank you so much for wanting to meet with Representative Courser. Per our phone conversation Mr. Courser will not be able to attend your meeting of Friday, January 9th at 7pm; however I have added the February event to the representatives calendar. I will keep you informed of his availability as we draw closer to the February meeting.

God Bless,

Joshua Cline

--
Joshua Cline
Legislative Director
Representative Todd Courser
p: 810.338.5613
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

[redacted] <[redacted]> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 1:25 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Good Morning Sir!!

Wanted to follow-up on our email correspondence to see whether Representative Courser would indeed be available to meet with the Lapeer County superintendents at their meeting on February 13th (Friday). The monthly meeting takes place at the Education & Technology Center, located at 690 North Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, Michigan 48412.

We begin at 8am and usually conclude by 10:30. If Representative Courser wishes to join us at the beginning of the meeting, he of course will be first on the agenda.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

[redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]
LCISD Official Email - www.lcisd.k12.mi.us

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 2:54 PM
To: [redacted]

[redacted]

My apologizes in getting back to you so late. I missed this in my personal email. As far as tomorrow's meeting it is on the schedule and Todd is planning on attending as well as myself. I hope to see you tomorrow at 8am.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Joshua
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: 810.338.5613
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

[redacted] Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 3:04 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> [redacted]

Excellent! Senator Green is planning to join the group at 8:30.

I look forward to seeing you!

[redacted]
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82 - Lapeer Township:[redacted]

1 message

Julia <julia@toddcourser.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 5:21 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com
Cc: lawoffice@toddcourser.com

Team:

[redacted] from the Lapeer Township called to discuss some bills with Todd as well as some concerns she has. She also wanted to know what committee or committee's that he would b[redacted] Her phone number is [redacted] and her email is [redacted]

Sincerely,

Julia K. Black

Paralegal

LAW OFFICES OF
TODD A. COURSER
& ASSOCIATES PLLC

Phone: (810) 245-0813

Fax: (810) 245-0907

Julia@ToddCourser.Com

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
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www.avast.com

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TODD A. COURSER
& ASSOCIATES

image001.jpg
912K

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re 82/80: New Official House emails

2 messages

Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 4:52 PM
To: "georgeann@toddcourser.com" <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "lawoffice@toddcourser.com" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Dear Courser Law Team Members,

All incoming contact that is legislative needs to be sent to toddcourser@house.mi.gov. You can also include jcline@house.mi.gov and bgraham@house.mi.gov

You can forward and phone calls to this number 517-373-1800. That is the official incoming phone number for Todd's office.

God Bless,

Josh

Julia <julia@toddcourser.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 5:30 PM
To: Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov>, georgeann@toddcourser.com
Cc: lawoffice@toddcourser.com, team@toddcourser.com

Ok great! Sorry I didn't see this until after I sent those other emails.

Julia

From: Joshua Cline [mailto:JCline@house.mi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 4:53 PM
To: georgeann@toddcourser.com
Cc: lawoffice@toddcourser.com; team@toddcourser.com
Subject: Re 82/80: New Official House emails

[Quoted text hidden]

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: CTE/Debt

1 message

Cindy Gamrat <cindy@cindygamrat.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 11:46 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Not sure what to do with this?

Seems like they are trolling for information that they could just look up themselves?

Heather is a pretty nice girl. A little diva for my taste but nice. So I don't want to be unhelpful but I don't really see the point?

Keith I guess this is your call.

Thanks!

Ben

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Heather Lombardini** [redacted]>
Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 11:22 AM
Subject: CTE/Debt
To: Heather Lombardini <[redacted]>

Good morning Representative,

Per your last CTE filing (Dec. 4th), you filed with campaign debt. Did you pay the debt off, or do you still have campaign debt? If yes, I need the exact amount please!! We are doing some member tracking with debt.... THANK YOU for your cooperation!! Happy New Year.

—
Heather Lombardini, Member Finance Director
House Republican Campaign Committee
[redacted]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

80 - Inbound fb messenger questions - [redacted] - Constituent Question

4 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:29 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

She is a friend of the family and is asking via FB messenger about SB1135 - specifically did it pass into law and does it require children to be 16 to sit in the front seat?

How do we plan to handle inbound FB messenger issues for constituents?

thanks

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:37 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

No it never got taken up by the House. We have been taking inbound FB questions and log them in NB and emailing the person back with an answer to their request. One of our CS Unemployment issues came in via the contact form on your State Rep website.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:52 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Maybe I am not understanding the process you have in place?

Ok so do I cut and paste the message? Does this sort of thing flow in auto? If so how? if not then what do I do so you can respond? Or do I? And if so how is it captured in NB database? And does it create info in NBdatabase as a message thru FB? and does it end up as a constituent action in the new NB? Or in old NB? In our permanent house stuff?

thanks

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:10 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I would say if it comes in to your personal Facebook account reply and ask for a phone number and let them know you will have your staff contact them back. Then email their message and contact information over.

Facebook messages do not automatically go into NB so once we receive them we will enter them into the regular constituent relations process which includes saving it into NB etc...

I hope that answers your question.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

MIRS on office furniture issue

3 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:12 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok so it will probably come out in MIRS tonight; not sure how you want to play this but...its coming...

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:14 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Did you talk to them? Did you give a statement?

On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:12 PM, Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
Ok so it will probably come out in MIRS tonight; not sure how you want to play this but...its coming...

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 4:04 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yep I sure did I told him to not dealing with this Bashas them Nazi situation I started quoting Pink Floyd we don't need no education we don't need no thought control and I burst into the song I couldn't help myself I think it'll be a great piece he said he's desperate for a story

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

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FYI MIRS Article on Office Furniture

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 10:52 PM

Courser Clashing With House Over Office Renovations

A week into his first term, freshman Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) is clashing with House officials over renovations he'd like to make to his Lansing office that run counter to the chamber's policies.

Contacted today on the situation, the new House member from the 82nd House District said he wants to remove several file cabinets and knock down the cubicle-like configuration of his House Office Building (HOB) to create a more open floor plan.

Earlier this week, Courser's office staff moved forward with the plans, dragging and carrying furniture out into the hall in the HOB. House staff put the furniture back and explained to his staff that all furniture allotted to a staff office must stay in that office.

Courser said that in the digitized age of the 21st Century, there is no need for file cabinets. They are clutter that take up space and wants at least four out of the six in his office removed. As far as the dividers, Courser said cubicles "don't work for team building" and wants his two staffers to work without cubicles.

Also, if there is a way to create a larger waiting area for guests, he said he'd like to do that, as well.

What he's being told by House business officials is that while he can add furniture to the office, he isn't allowed to pitch the state-issued material the 82nd District has been assigned and Courser isn't happy.

"The office of the 82nd District isn't a storage unit for the state of Michigan," he said. "The larger issue here is that there's a lack of flexibility within the bureaucracy itself and this is just a small example of that."

House Business Office Director Tim **BOWLIN** said the House's policy on furniture in the HOB is the same now as it has been since the building was first constructed. It is built to remain in place for a variety of reasons, the primary being that the technology is built into the framework of the furniture.

He said the furniture that is freestanding can be moved around, but it's preferred that the facilities staff be called to handle those requests so employees don't get injured and the furniture and walls aren't damaged.

"The HOB was designed so that we have 110 equal sized offices with the same furniture and staff

accommodations," Bowlin said. "To alter that configuration and completely change and/or dismantle the office would be very costly."

Courser said he's willing to store any furniture at his own expense. He said he has not met with Bowlin on this issue, yet, but intends to write him a letter after this weekend's conservative grassroots powwow.

–
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82/80 Conference Perricone Conference for calendar?

7 messages

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 11:03 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: December 13, 2014 at 12:02:50 PM EST
To: cindygamrat80@gmail.com
Subject: Conference

Cindy,

My apologies for the delay; I wished to update the itinerary prior to forwarding it to you. As you will see, we're working with a number of individuals on this so that's no easy task! That said, I know you had/have questions so I wanted you to have it.

However, I do respectfully request that the itinerary not be distributed. I'd like to get it out to your colleagues en masse so as not to offend anyone (e.g. their feeling "last to receive..."). I'll be doing that once Session ends.

Also, THANK YOU for taking a moment to call me! I truly appreciated that.

I'd very much enjoy the opportunity to continue our discussion over coffee or lunch. Totally your call on when and where. I'll make the drive. I'm busy, but that's because I'm calling and e-mailing throughout the day. Actual "set" appointments are down this time of year (I don't have a "dog" in this year's lame duck list of issues...).

With the exception of late Tuesday and Wednesday, I'm flexible this coming week. Early the following week works as well. Just let me know what is best for you, okay?

Thank you again for your time on the phone. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions that you may have. I look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers,

Chuck Perricone
[redacted]

2 attachments

savethedatecorrected1213.docx
30K

1itinerary.docx
23K

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 1:30 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Keith please advise on scheduling both the conference and another meeting for Cindy and speaker Pericone.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 18, 2014 at 12:47 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

One of the things that stunned me most about working in Lansing/DC is the amount of former officeholders who continue to kick around well after their terms are completed in various lobbyist/emeritus/advisory roles. Perricone might be a good resource, but if he wants to meet to push his agenda, I would put it at a lower priority than meeting with groups/people who want to help push *our* agenda.

Obviously, if Cindy (who knows him better than I do and has spoken with him previously) thinks Perricone would be a good resource and wants to prioritize a meeting, we move forward without question and find a spot for that meeting ASAP.
[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 18, 2014 at 12:56 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I do not really know Perricone nor what his agenda is as I have only spoken with him once. It may be a good idea if someone would like to call him and find out and put it on the priority list in the appropriate place.

He doesn't live to far from me and said he'd drive over for coffee. There is a place called Grove Street Cafe, I think right across Delton High School in Delton. If it works in the schedule I wouldn't be against coffee. However, my guess is that what he would say to me would also pertain to Todd so it may be better to have a meeting with him together with Todd and Keith if Keith is available.

Cindy

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 22, 2014 at 11:51 AM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Cindy did you want to go to this?

I saw you forwarded on Speaker Perricone's email on this conference but from what I can tell here it wasn't really

decided if you wanted to go.

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 22, 2014 at 11:57 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It seemed like something to consider attending. Maybe to RSVP and if we find out anything more that is concerning than we can cancel? I don't always like staying in the hotels that they choose, I feel trapped under their ever watching eyes, and I do not like to feel trapped or under surveillance. I like to stay as independent of the lobbyist as possible while at the same time making myself accessible on my own terms. Still trying to figure out how that looks in these things.

Cindy
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 8:23 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Hey Cindy.

Here are the details on the Perricone conference. Did you want us to get some more info other than this invite and the itinerary?

[Quoted text hidden]

---

2 attachments

savethedatecorrected1213.docx
30K

1Itinerary.docx
23K

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: Draft website bio for review

4 messages

Cindy Gamrat <cindy@cindygamrat.com> Fri, Dec 26, 2014 at 1:04 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Keith/Cindy,

Please approve this bio for your official state website.

Thanks!

Ben
--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **John Whetstone** <jwhetstone@house.mi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 23, 2014 at 2:45 PM
Subject: Draft website bio for review
To: "cindy@cindygamrat.com" <cindy@cindygamrat.com>

Hello Rep. Gamrat,

Hope all is well. When you get a chance, please review the following draft caucus website bio for accuracy and style. Feel free to change or delete anything. We're hoping to get new member websites up and running shortly after the first of the year. As a side note, I noticed you have twins. My wife and I have [redacted], and have certainly enjoyed the experience.

If you have a head and shoulders photo you could send us for the website, that would be great. We could also have Mike Quillinan, our photographer, take your photo over the next couple of weeks at the Anderson Building in Lansing. Please let me know if you happen to be coming to town during regular business hours and we can schedule a time.

Please let me know if I can help in any other way.

Thank you,

John Whetstone

Director, Communications

House Republican Caucus

Michigan House of Representatives

517-373-5059

Cell: [redacted]

Bio

DISTRICT

State Rep. Cindy Gamrat was first elected to serve the 80th District in the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2014. The 80th District includes the cities of Allegan, Fennville, part of Holland, Otsego, Plainwell, Saugatuck, and part of South Haven. She also represents the village of Douglas city and the townships of Allegan, Casco, Cheshire, Clyde, Fillmore, Ganges, Gun Plain, Heath, Hopkins, Laketown, Lee, Manlius, Martin, Monterey, Otsego, Overisel, Salem, Saugatuck, Trowbridge, Valley and Watson.

COMMITTEES

To be determined.

EDUCATION

Gamrat graduated with honors from University of Michigan and is a licensed Registered Nurse.

PROFESSIONAL

Rep. Gamrat has worked as nurse in Oncology, Hospice, and Intensive Care before becoming a stay-at-home mom. She chose to home school her children and in addition to teaching her children she has taught Biology, E[redacted]rnment to high school home school co-op classes.

PUBLIC OFFICES AND AFFILIATIONS

In the fall of 2012, Cindy was elected as Allegan County's Precinct 2 Delegate and the Presidential Elector of the Sixth Congressional District. She was most recently a candidate for Vice-Chair for the Michigan Republican Party at the 2013 State Convention. She currently serves on the GOP Executive Committee in Allegan County.

PERSONAL

Cindy is married to her high school sweetheart, Joe. They have three children, daughter Meghan and twins Paige and Joey.

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> **Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 5:03 PM**
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindy@cindygamrat.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just a reminder.

Keith and Cindy please approve ASAP
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 5:11 PM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindy@cindygamrat.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It looks fine to me, let him know I'd like a new picture and then I need to get that scheduled.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 5:17 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Gamrat <cindy@cindygamrat.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay I will let him know that Keith will contact him to schedule that.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

REP 82 Citizen of the Year- Lapeer

5 messages

Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 4:27 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

The ceremony is Jan 22, 2015. It is on the calendar.

[redacted] hopes Todd will continue a long-standing tradition of attending and presenting a "declaration plaque" to the recipients.

The plaque is something they get in Lansing. It is about poster size and in some sort of laminate frame and is signed by the Governor and the Rep.

First I need to confirm that we will continue the tradition. Then, [redacted] will email bullet point accomplishments of the recipients to be included in the declaration.

[redacted] might be helpful on this if you need more clarification per [redacted]

[redacted] can be reached at [redacted] or [redacted].

Let me know how to proceed.

Sincerely,

Georgeann Courser

Legal Assistant

LAW OFFICES OF
TODD A. COURSER
& ASSOCIATES PLLC

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Phone: (810) 245-0813

Fax: (810) 245-0907

Georgeann@ToddCourser.Com

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www.avast.com

LAW OFFICES OF TODD A. COURSER & ASSOCIATES image001.jpg 912K

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 4:41 PM
To: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Georgeann,

I will contact the House GOP Constituent Services Department and [redacted] at the [redacted].

Thanks,

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 1:40 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't see any reason we would not participate? Unless I am missing something?

thanks

On Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 4:27 PM, Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:03 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com, Georgeann Courser <georgeann@toddcourser.com>

Agreed and started the process on making this happen. Will update along the way.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 11:13 AM
To: cmott@house.mi.gov
Cc: jcline@house.mi.gov

Lapeer Chamber Event with 4 Citizen of the Year Awards. Todd should be attending.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

LAW OFFICES OF TODD A. COURSER & ASSOCIATES PLLC

image001.jpg
912K

[redacted]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Memo on events/calendaring these first couple weeks Rep 80/82

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 12:55 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

Obviously, we have been inundated with calendaring requests these past couple days. Many of these invites have been to events surrounding State of the State, or are impersonal requests from organizations/multi-client lobbyists to hold what Cindy correctly summarized as 'speed dating' events with as many Reps as possible.

After some brief conversation with Cindy, and after running through these with Josh/Ben, let's have the following procedures guide us on these events:

1.) Josh and I have established a spreadsheet with all the requests received thus far for Todd/Cindy respectively. We will continue to update these as requests come in and put them into our official office Nation Builders. These spreadsheets will go into Google Docs, and we will run through all the events with Cindy/Todd at our staff meeting next week.

2.) Ben will place events for cocktail parties/State of the State events/large parties/etc. into the "Office Calendar" google calendar. They will NOT be placed onto T/C's calendar. The night before these events occur, Ben will send a brief e-mail to the team informing us what large-scale events are happening on the next day. This way, we have them on a calendar, and Cindy/Todd are given enough info should they choose to exercise the option to attend or simply pop-in to say hi. (Ben, I know this is similar to the process you had recommended but I initially denied. Upon further reflection, your suggestion was best and I'm sorry I said otherwise).

3.) We are going to avoid setting up appointments with the large multi-client lobbying firms or organizations initially. It simply isn't a priority for us at this time - as Cindy stated, when legislation relevant to them or us arises, they will certainly be in touch. However, we should still request that they provide us with full contact information for their organization's point person, which will be placed into Nation Builder. In the case of multi-client lobbying firms, we also will request their client list, which will be placed into Nation Builder and filed in a hard copy.

4.) One exception to number 3 would be organizations that work on issues directly pertaining to our initial legislative push. For example, Right to Life contacted both C/T requesting a meeting. I think this should be scheduled on both their calendars, with both in attendance on the same date/time. We must resist efforts by organizations to split T/C up for meetings - they're trying to gang up on them when they're by themselves, and that takes up too much precious calendar time to do them separately.

5.) Events that are unique and personal invites will follow our established calendar process. A good example of this would be the Detroit Public Schools reception T/C were personally invited to by a fellow Representative. A meeting with Tom Hooker to discuss Life at Conception bill is another example.

These procedures will be operative immediately. If Cindy/Todd object to any of the above points, we will refine, but I believe this is a system they are comfortable with for this initial massive wave of scheduling requests.

Let me know if their are any questions, and J/B please 'roger' once you read.

-Keith

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 1:05 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger.

Excellent summary and process Keith!

Also thank you for your input Cindy. This is very helpful.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

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Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82 - Tracking our legislation requests

3 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 2:13 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

Please take a second to look at the attached spreadsheet. We will use these sheets to track the status of our legislation requests throughout the entirety of the year. It includes a brief description of the bill and other information regarding pertinent dates and the attorney assigned. The one attached is for Cindy's legislation.

Josh, please duplicate this spreadsheet and fill in the pertinent information for Todd's initial 10 bills.

Ben, once Josh is done, please upload both of these to a Google doc shared with the whole team. Name it "Legislative Project Tracker - Gamrat" (and Courser for Todd's, obviously)

Gracias,

Keith

LegislativeTrackerGamrat.xlsx
12K

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 3:07 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Good stuff Keith!

:)
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:07 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

This task is complete and can be found in Google Drive and on the Courser O Drive.

[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p[redacted]

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Okay gotcha. Sorry on that. She knows Cindy so I figured I would just go direct.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:43 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Absolutely Cindy, Not a problem.

Did you just want us to choose a time during a session day before or after session?

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:46 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

This is not a priority. [redacted]s great, smart, and full of ideas but we can literally meet with her anytime and we have yet to know how our days will be in session so it's best to keep them open so we can adequately prepare. Cindy and I both know her personally. I will talk with [redacted] and figure out how to proceed. She lives in [redacted] and attends [redacted] so Lansing is probably not the best place to meet anyways.
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:48 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay great.

Thanks Keith!
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80- [redacted] Scheduling Request

7 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:21 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

CAG ACTION NEEDED

Hey Cindy, [redacted] has requested a time to meet with you. She is a constituent and also a nurse and said she has spoken with you a few times concerning health policy at your tea party meetings.

Wanted to see if you could meet on Next Thursday the 15th in Lansing. She will be in Lansing that day. Unfortunately you have the policy workshop that day until 4pm and then the Pernicone conference that you said you may want to go to? So that may be totally booked.

Please let me know ASAP if you want to take that meeting. If we can't do the 15th do you just want me to place it on a session day before session?

Thanks!

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:36 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Honestly been I am not sure the first week quote on the job" is a good week to schedule a lot of those meetings.

Please see if she can meet the following week.

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:38 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

These should always go to me first before going to the whole team.
[Quoted text hidden]

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Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:40 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Federal Government Reform: Avenues to Reign in Federal Government Overreach

Making State Government Work: Ballot Initiative Campaigns, lessons from the Part-Time Legislature, Implications of the Sales Tax Proposal, and Elections-Primary Options and Campaign Finance.

The cause of liberty is too important for anyone to miss this! Sign up now! [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 30, 2014, at 7:26 PM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:

Approve [redacted]

On Tuesday, December 30, 2014, Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> wrote:

Are you ready for the powwow? When people are talking about what happened at this event you want to say that you were there. Don't be disappointed that you were not at the Powwow and get your tickets now. This event is also different than any other Powwow before it. The conservative movement is ready to go on the offensive to advance liberty and there will be some great breakout sessions that you won't want to miss. Which one will you be a part of?

I hope to see you, your friends and family at the Powwow.

[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 31, 2014 at 12:50 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Proofreading looks good; we can move on this ASAP. J or B - send Todd's most recent draft first thing in the morning before even heading to the office.

Make sure the salutation is "Hi Friends!" and do not duplicate a salutation.

-Keith
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 31, 2014 at 1:00 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok I am going to need a lesson in how we do emails out so I can just follow up when it isn't in the time I need; I am not pissed or anything but if we say am then it goes am; if we say it's am it's the first priority; it can't be am the next day unless you say am the next day and I agree with it, because if you said 36 hours from now I would need to repriortize your time and attention and modify your list or have some else do it or if that isn't possible then really I will just need a lesson in doing our email process myself; it's got to be clear and then it needs to have follow thru and completion and confirmation.

Let's do a lesson; put it on your list so I or Keith can do the outbound email steps just in case.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 31, 2014 at 1:02 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

One small edit of an extra "the" next to michigan. Probably throw it out.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Meetings Process Steps...

2 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:49 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]>

I can't speak for Cindy, but from my perspective we cannot be reactionary on this or anything. It all has to be done with care and concern, we cannot act like something that is rented by the hour.

I know you all are trying to find your rhythm on meetings but right now if you can get your processes in order on this subject and get a ss on it and then we can just see the requests and decide how to proceed at a staff meeting; I am not willing to be at the whims on what happens and when; we have a lot to do so group them up and get them in order on priority and then we can go thru them.

todd

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 5:14 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: Wendy Day <[redacted]@gmail.com>, team@toddcourser.com

Yep absolutely!

Keith sent a email on this earlier today as well with some great stuff in it. We already have a spreadsheet for meetings set and going.

I forwarded on the request from [redacted] directly because she was a constituent who knows and has spoke with Cindy several times. I'll make sure to add those types of meetings to the SS in the future as well instead of forwarding it directly.

When you are in session it would probably be a good idea to try and go through meeting requests on a somewhat daily basis. Waiting a week is a bit long for scheduling requests and at times the list will get very long and will take some time to sort through which will take up valuable staff meeting time

Just a few thoughts.

Thanks for the input and advice on this!

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Action Items from 1/6/15 Meeting

2 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 6, 2015 at 10:59 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Action items from last night.

Please add anything as needed.

Thanks!

- Put together printed binder of processes for Cindy- Ben
- Add update dates to process- Ben
- Set up Dropbox- Keith
- More info on how permissions in Dropbox work- Keith
- Update process for printing all constituent casework files- Ben
- Action log in GDocs or basecamp set up- Keith
- List of processes??
- Call [redacted] to get audio Equipment from [redacted] to [redacted]- Josh
- *Conference call with [redacted] to see what he needs- ALL*
  - Ask who is doing airport running if he needs help
- List of political shows from house COMS again and new list - Josh
- Proactive media meetings- Keith
- Landing page for the new legislative plan- Ben
  - thecontractforliberty.com
- Change constitutional carry to age 18- Keith
- Add life at conception exception for tubal pregnancy- Keith
- Have Cindys desk put on an angle.- Josh
- New Nationbuilders for Todd/Cindy- Ben
- Bookshelves from carpenters office- Josh

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 11, 2015 at 7:24 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Action items from last week.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82 RESPONSE NEEDED: Swearing in Tickets

2 messages

Rep. Todd Courser (District 82) <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 9:25 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd/Cindy

Yesterday Keith, Josh, and I picked up your tickets for the swearing in ceremonies on the 14th.

You each have:

2 Floor tickets

1 Balcony ticket

5 overflow seating tickets

[redacted]

You will also have an opportunity on that day to take pictures on the floor with [redacted] families so I would plan on having them come but not necessarily be one of the people you give tickets to. Obviously important in district people would be top priority. For Todd I'm thinking someone like [redacted] but that is totally up to you guys.

Please let us know ASAP who you would like to attend so we can get them their tickets.

Thanks!

Ben

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 9:29 AM
To: "Rep. Todd Courser (District 82)" <ToddCourser@house.mi.gov>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Oops, I meant to send this from my house email.

Gotta figure out this outlook thing. lol
[Quoted text hidden]
—
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology

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Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: NEW POWWOW FLIER

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 10:48 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: **DAVID WELLS** [redacted]
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Subject: NEW FLIER
To: "keithjallard@gmail.com" <keithjallard@gmail.com>

NEW FLIER SHARE AWAY C4 L AND AMASH ARE ALSO SPONSORS.

POWWOW V GOING ON OFFENSE.pdf
616K

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

MIRS on office furniture issue

3 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:12 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok so it will probably come out in MIRS tonight; not sure how you want to play this but...its coming...

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:14 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Did you talk to them? Did you give a statement?

On Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 3:12 PM, Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
Ok so it will probably come out in MIRS tonight; not sure how you want to play this but...its coming...

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 4:04 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yep I sure did I told him to not dealing with this Bashas them Nazi situation I started quoting Pink Floyd we don't need no education we don't need no thought control and I burst into the song I couldn't help myself I think it'll be a great piece he said he's desperate for a story

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: McKinney and Associates wants a 15 minute Intro

5 messages

Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 11:44 AM
To: Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Keith and Team,

McKinney and Associates firm would like a few minutes to meet with Rep. Courser. When can we do this and do we want to? Please get back to us ASAP on how to proceed.

Thanks,

Josh

Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 11:50 AM
To: Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Cindy is receiving all these requests as well. I am asking folks who call and want a meeting to e-mail me their contact information. We will then print these out, add to our stack of invites, and next time we have Cindy/Todd in person we will run through all of them en masse.

From: Joshua Cline
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Keith Allard
Cc: Ben Graham; team@toddcourser.com
Subject: Rep 82: McKinney and Associates wants a 15 minute Intro

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 11:53 AM
To: Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov>, Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay I will edit the process to reflect that change.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
—
Ben Graham

Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
engraham.mi@gmail.com

Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 11:54 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov>, Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It doesn't change our process, but reflects the reality that we are inundated with requests during this week specifically, and I don't want to start a new e-mail chain for each request. I think each office is currently sitting on 30+ scheduling requests that were taken in the last three days.

From: Ben Graham [mailto:bjamm90@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Keith Allard
Cc: Joshua Cline; Ben Graham; team@toddcourser.com
Subject: Re: Rep 82: McKinney and Associates wants a 15 minute Intro

[Quoted text hidden]

---

dy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 12:42 PM
: Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Joshua Cline <JCline@house.mi.gov>, Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I would just say that we have a lot on our plates and need a thoughtful and intentional approach with our time and these meetings. There will need to be some prioritization of the requests by you and maybe us and then with our time by us.
I am not sure why the urgency is there for us to do this rapid fire dating process so I am okay with slowing that down and I am also okay with doing many of them together with Todd to utilize our time wisely and then to not be outnumbered or double teamed in the meetings.

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - The Contract for Liberty

1 message

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:27 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I need a couple of facts checked for this - how many laws are on the books both federally and in Mi; And what is the percentage of the Mi budget that is federal dollars.

then for another project I need to know how much sales tax and income tax revenue is produced in our state each year plus what is the total amount of sales of the items that are not covered under the sales tax umbrella.

thanks!

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Agenda Development and Management - how and what is priority, monitoring, and timelines to completion?

3 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 12:54 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Agenda Development and Management Process - Where do action items fit into planning and process development?

Emailing from House Emails v personal emails - what emails are being used now and for what? and where do they go?

Password Spreadsheets

Justin and Cindy's access to HQ

Google Docs Summarized and moved to being sourced in Cindy or Todd's as original source - not in our primary emails

Detroit Freshmen thing - go or no?

Powwow Issues - equipment / speaking / liberty contract rollout

Data Development Process

Data Storage Process - drop box and google docs and other parts to the puzzle

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Review of Constituent Services Process - what processes are in place? Review the Process and view it thru the actual constituent services being provided

Review fo the Consituent Contact Plan Process -

Review of the Constituent Issues Process

Physical book of the processes being developed and employed

Official v Poltical - websites / facebook / meetings / letters

Capitol Parking Lot form is in my side pocket of my bag

Updated Legislation Submission Process - Review of the Legislation Submitted

Timeline of the Legislation already submitted and to be submitted

Updated Upcoming Legislation Research Process

Timeline of Upcoming Legislation Process

Winter in the Hampton's Contract Play - Our post rollout steps / the response from sources

concerning "The Contrract?"

Messaging Process Updated - Website / Facebook / Tritter / Emailing

Calendaring Process Updated

Caucus Rules Process Updated

State Party Convention Process - What if any role do we play? And if so what roles do our team members play?

Approved Language Use and Bank Process

Approved Outbound Communications Use and Bank Process

Outbound Communications Documenting and Scanning Process

Inbound Document Process - Presently these items are flowing into 80/82 and into my home / business / official office

Who scans and who checks and how do we know it is happening?

Inbound Communications Process - I got a call on my cell phone that originated from [redacted] believe Ben said this was inactive but apparently its connected in

somewhere? So what else is out there and where?

Building Manager Issue

Bio Issue

Sdrive v Dropbox

Nomenclarture Issues

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 2:12 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Google Docs Sourcing _ on this item it appears we will keep having Google Docs and SS's so I think we should have a gmail account from which we will source out the sharing steps and parts.

Also another item - is cleaning up the google drive and keeping it fresh - I do not know which docs and parts are named for what processes so we need to institute some standardized nomenclature to title the google docs.

One other item is the need for a meetings request process and spreadsheet - so we can run down the requested meetings in one motion - to approve / to disapprove / to wait on - add [redacted] as Education meeting to the list

Email inbound checking and back people and process of backing up

Also in my side pocket of my bag is a stack of info for official or non and a letgislative issues page from dial henning on county gov legislative issues

Also still having trouble accessing my rep v michigan nb - I go to "toddcourser.com" and it allows me to log in but takes me too....

thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 7, 2015 at 5:04 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Phewwwww... that was fun! :)

Keith, Josh, and I went through the whole list and answered the items we could. Please take a look and clarify a few items that we have questions on.

Agenda Development and Management Process - Where do action items fit into planning and process development?

Not sure exactly what you mean but Action items are a permanent item on the agendas. Both pending action items and completed action

items from last meeting. Staff has separate meeting to discuss administrative issues brief update is provided in meeting but not discussed in detail for main meeting. Todd and Cindy take active role in determining items to include on meeting agendas.

Emailing from House Emails v personal emails - what emails are being used now and for what? and where do they go?

Staff is using official emails for official legislative duties. Personal emails are being used for political items. We are sending crucial items to your personal emails to make sure you are notified. Todd/Cindy will have to set up their official email and determine how it will be used

Password Spreadsheets

Todd's PW spreadsheet is done and kept in his Sdrive. Not sure if we want to keep that here? We will make sure updated PW's are given to G-Ann for updating on the main SS. For Cindy we have added all the passwords we know to PW google doc. Cindy needs to add any more personal PW's to that SS and then we can save to Dropbox account.

Justin and Cindy's access to HQ

Cindy has access to access. I emailed her several times with the log in information. Justin had access before but then Cindy said he couldn't do anything so I removed it. I have re enabled his web design access.

Google Docs summarized and moved to being sourced in Cindy or Todd's as original

source - not in our primary emails

We are creating a Dropbox account as we discussed in our meeting which Todd and Cindy will control and give staff limited access to as needed. Process documents, shared files, admin files, and passwords and other permanent files will be saved here. Google drive by it's nature can't be controlled by two people. It is a communal file.

Detroit Freshmen thing - go or no?

Need further clarification on this from Todd

Powwow Issues - equipment / speaking / liberty contract rollout

Josh has left a voicemail with [redacted] Following up if we don't hear back ASAP. Josh has discussed his panel with Tony and is prepared for that. Tony has relayed that J/K/B aren't needed for airport pickup. We are ready and waiting to roll out the liberty contract when you have it finished.

Data Development Process

Need further clarification on what specific aspects of data you are referring to. Also need to differentiate from Official/campaign data development for legal reasons

Data Storage Process - drop box and google docs and other parts to the puzzle

In development

Review of Constituent Services Process - what processes are in place? Review the Process and

view it thru the actual constituent services being provided

Process completed and currently being executed. Printed Process folder in development.

Review fo the Constituent Contact Plan Process -

Process completed and currently being executed. Printed Process folder in development.

Review of the Constituent Issues Process

Process completed and currently being executed. Printed Process folder in development.

Physical book of the processes being developed and employed

In process

Official v Political - websites / Facebook / meetings / letters

We can brief you on this next time you are in the office.

Capitol Parking Lot form is in my side pocket of my bag

When you come in to the office leave it on Ben's Desk. There are other admin issues related 401k, Pay, timecards, IT/computers, house email, and other issues that need to be dealt with by Cindy/Todd

Updated Legislation Submission Process - Review of the Legislation Submitted

Process: We submit bills to LSB and CC Todd and Cindy. We are still awaiting drafts. Josh and Keith have been in

contact with them today.

Timeline of the Legislation already submitted and to be submitted

We have a spreadsheet of legislative priorities and if they were submitted and what dates. Currently it is in Google Drive under "Legislative Priorities 2014" We will move it to Dropbox when it is ready.

Updated Upcoming Legislation Research Process

Still establishing process on who to contact and how this works in the house with LSB, policy, research, etc...

Timeline of Upcoming Legislation Process

Weekly on Monday we will be given a update on upcoming legislation. We can't update this process or conduct proper research without you coming in and giving us access to this information.

Winter in the Hampton's Contract Play - Our post rollout steps / the response from sources concerning "The Contract?"

As soon as you are ready we are eagerly awaiting the contract.
The usual process for emailing, FB, twitter, and press release will be followed.

Messaging Process Updated - Website / Facebook / Twitter / Emailing

I believe we have a old process on this. I will dig it up and update it- Ben

Calendaring

Process Updated

Process is done will be in processes folder

Caucus Rules Process Updated

Need some more clarification on this.

State Party Convention Process - What if any role do we play? And if so what roles do our team members play?

At this point we are helping Joey as much as he needs.

Approved Language Use and Bank Process

Continuing to add to. We have a bank of generic responses ready and are preparing more. Approval process with Keith is being followed.

Approved Outbound Communications Use and Bank Process

Continuing to add to. We have a bank of generic responses ready and are preparing more. Approval process with Keith is being followed.

Outbound Communications Documenting and Scanning Process

Part of the constituent relations/ Office contact process

Inbound Document Process - Presently these items are flowing into 80/82 and into my home / business / official office

They will likely continue to come in several places. The ladies at the office know to

forward those things via email. In the office those items follow the incoming mail process which will be in the processes folder.

Who scans and who checks and how do we know it is happening?

This is part of the incoming mail process. Ben/ Wendy scan and Keith supervises.

Inbound Communications Process - I got a call on my cell phone that originated from [redacted] believe Ben said this was inactive but apparently its connected in somewhere? So what else is out there and where?

Building Manager Issue

House office Head Tim Bowlin has requested a meeting with you to discuss this.

Bio Issue

You need to approve it or give input on what changes you would like. We have sent a few emails on this and placed it on your chair. It is very important that we finish this because your house website is blank now because there is no approved bio.

Sdrive v Dropbox

Need more clarification on what files you are referring to.

Nomenclature Issues

We aren't really sure what you are referring to. Need further clarification.

Google Docs Sources

Google Docs should eliminate this issue

Cleaning up the google drive and keeping it fresh

We will move necessary items

to Dropbox and eliminate the need for Google Drive

Meetings request process and spreadsheet

We have a spreadsheet of requests to review with you when you are in and a request process is already in place in the office contact process

Email inbound checking and back people and process of backing up

This is part of the office [redacted] contact process

Also in my side pocket of my bag is a stack of info for official or non and a letgislative issues page from dial henning on county gov legislative issues

Please leave this on Joshs desk

Also still having trouble accessing my rep v michigan nb - I go to "toddcourser.com" and it allows me to log in but takes me too....

Todd for michigan nationbuilder address is toddformichigan.nationbuilder.com/admin

We lost some of your text above so I think this answers your question.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Meetings Process Steps...

2 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 4:49 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]>

I can't speak for Cindy, but from my perspective we cannot be reactionary on this or anything. It all has to be done with care and concern, we cannot act like something that is rented by the hour.

I know you all are trying to find your rhythm on meetings but right now if you can get your processes in order on this subject and get a ss on it and then we can just see the requests and decide how to proceed at a staff meeting; I am not willing to be at the whims on what happens and when; we have a lot to do so group them up and get them in order on priority and then we can go thru them.

todd

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 5:14 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: Wendy Day <[redacted]>, team@toddcourser.com

Yep absolutely!

Keith sent a email on this earlier today as well with some great stuff in it. We already have a spreadsheet for meetings set and going.

I forwarded on the request from [redacted] directly because she was a constituent who knows and has spoke with Cindy several times. I'll make sure to add those types of meetings to the SS in the future as well instead of forwarding it directly.

When you are in session it would probably be a good idea to try and go through meeting requests on a somewhat daily basis. Waiting a week is a bit long for scheduling requests and at times the list will get very long and will take some time to sort through which will take up valuable staff meeting time

Just a few thoughts.

Thanks for the input and advice on this!

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Memo on events/calendaring these first couple weeks Rep 80/82

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 12:55 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

Obviously, we have been inundated with calendaring requests these past couple days. Many of these invites have been to events surrounding State of the State, or are impersonal requests from organizations/multi-client lobbyists to hold what Cindy correctly summarized as 'speed dating' events with as many Reps as possible.

After some brief conversation with Cindy, and after running through these with Josh/Ben, let's have the following procedures guide us on these events:

1.) Josh and I have established a spreadsheet with all the requests received thus far for Todd/Cindy respectively. We will continue to update these as requests come in and put them into our official office Nation Builders. These spreadsheets will go into Google Docs, and we will run through all the events with Cindy/Todd at our staff meeting next week.

2.) Ben will place events for cocktail parties/State of the State events/large parties/etc. into the "Office Calendar" google calendar. They will NOT be placed onto T/C's calendar. The night before these events occur, Ben will send a brief e-mail to the team informing us what large-scale events are happening on the next day. This way, we have them on a calendar, and Cindy/Todd are given enough info should they choose to exercise the option to attend or simply pop-in to say hi. (Ben, I know this is similar to the process you had recommended but I initially denied. Upon further reflection, your suggestion was best and I'm sorry I said otherwise).

3.) We are going to avoid setting up appointments with the large multi-client lobbying firms or organizations initially. It simply isn't a priority for us at this time - as Cindy stated, when legislation relevant to them or us arises, they will certainly be in touch. However, we should still request that they provide us with full contact information for their organization's point person, which will be placed into Nation Builder. In the case of multi-client lobbying firms, we also will request their client list, which will be placed into Nation Builder and filed in a hard copy.

4.) One exception to number 3 would be organizations that work on issues directly pertaining to our initial legislative push. For example, Right to Life contacted both C/T requesting a meeting. I think this should be scheduled on both their calendars, with both in attendance on the same date/time. We must resist efforts by organizations to split T/C up for meetings - they're trying to gang up on them when they're by themselves, and that takes up too much precious calendar time to do them separately.

5.) Events that are unique and personal invites will follow our established calendar process. A good example of this would be the Detroit Public Schools reception T/C were personally invited to by a fellow Representative. A meeting with Tom Hooker to discuss Life at Conception bill is another example.

These procedures will be operative immediately. If Cindy/Todd object to any of the above points, we will refine, but I believe this is a system they are comfortable with for this initial massive wave of scheduling requests.

Let me know if their are any questions, and J/B please 'roger' once you read.

-Keith

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Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 8, 2015 at 1:05 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger.

Excellent summary and process Keith!

Also thank you for your input Cindy. This is very helpful.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 sales tax election question

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 9:18 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Please call [redacted] and let him know who is paying the cost of the sales tax increase election? Is it the state or the counties?

Also please add this to the rolling task list for thought and consideration - any constituent question is probably worth posting the answer to social media - a constituent question post...

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 9:20 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Roger. It seems it would be the state paying but I'm not sure. I'll figure that out tomorrow.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 4:04 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Spoke to someone in the policy office about the special election. They finally got back to me today. The state will be paying for the special election. The statute on this is MCL 168.487.

I will pass this info along to [redacted]

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - items needing attention

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 12:50 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Guys give me a rough of an agenda later today; I get this changes but I need you to look out and tell me the items you see...

1. Past items still needing to be addressed - admin / clerical / development items in process - should be quick stuff needing us to touch

2. Current items needing to be addressed - items due this week - admin / clerical / development items in process

3. Next week and the following? items - what do you see coming at us? And what steps do we need to do to bring the item to a good result? admin / clerical / development items in process

BEN - Again I NEED A TASK JOURNAL OR MANAGER OF TASKS - this should be a Google doc or spreadsheet thingy and it should have all items first asked to be admin'd - then we can see as it happens and help keep your heads and minds focused on where we are at.

And I will have a few more item but we can discuss it later.

thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

PowWow Press Release

6 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 10:34 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Cindy/Team-

I wasn't really sure how to work in the quotes that I was sent, since Pat/Melanie's were about their specific breakout session, and Wendy's was about the swearing in (for which we are doing a separate release, with pictures, to the local papers in Allegan county). So, I used a little judgment and drafted the below release. If I'm totally off base from what you're looking for, let me know and I will go back to the drawing board.

##

Conservatives gather in Mount Pleasant to lay out positive vision for governing in 2015

MT PLEASANT, [redacted] conservative grassroots from across Michigan gathered this past weekend to unite behind a positive vision for conservative governance in 2015.

Coordinated by newly-elected Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, the Tea Party PowWow at Soaring Eagle Resort was attended by over 400 activists, policy makers and grassroots leaders from across the state. Centered around the release of Representative Gamrat's and Courser's "Contract for Liberty," participants attended breakout sessions and heard from speakers encouraging attendees to "go on offense" in the effort to enact policies based on Constitutional principles of government restraint and fiscal responsibility.

"The message from this weekend was heard loud and clear: conservatives are ready to lead, not follow," said Gamrat. "We are putting forward a positive agenda to protect taxpayers, restore Constitutional liberties, and ensure every generation thrives in a stronger Michigan."

The Contract for Liberty features ten principles, each of which has legislation submitted for drafting by Representatives Gamrat and Courser.

"Too often, grassroots conservatives have been portrayed as obstructionists or naysayers by those in the political establishment and the mainstream media," said Courser. "This weekend showed the maturity of our grassroots movement. We have moved from protesting to legislating, and are united behind our principles and the path forward."

The PowWow also featured breakout sessions focused on education, health care, and tax policy, as well as speeches from state and nationally recognized conservative leaders.

The Contract for Liberty is available for viewing at the following address:
http://www.cindygamrat.com/contract_for_liberty

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 10:47 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Keith its pretty heavy on the contract stuff and I'd like to make it more about the three main areas. Also Tony Sharkey and D[redacted]ors of the event.
You can take my quote out and give Tony Sharkey one instead.
Also please include one from one of the breakout panelists I sent and mention the swearing in as the first TEA Party leader to be elected into the house.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 11:36 AM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Draft 2:

Conservatives gather in Mount Pleasant to lay out positive vision for governing in 2015

MT PLEASANT, MI: Members of the conservative grassroots from across Michigan gathered this past weekend to unite behind a positive vision for conservative governance in 2015.

Coordinated by newly-elected Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser and grassroots leaders Tony Sharkey and David Wells, the Tea Party PowWow at Soaring Eagle Resort was attended by over 400 activists, policy makers and grassroots leaders from across the state. The event focused broadly on advancing the conservative agenda in three areas: legislation, inter-party politics and election strategy.

Participants attended breakout sessions and heard from speakers encouraging attendees to "go on offense" in the effort to elect leaders and enact policies based on Constitutional principles of government restraint and fiscal responsibility.

"The message from this weekend was heard loud and clear: conservatives are ready to lead, not follow," said Sharkey. "We are putting forward a positive agenda to protect taxpayers, restore Constitutional liberties, and ensure every generation thrives in a stronger Michigan."

The PowWow also featured breakout sessions focused on education, health care and tax policy.

"Ideas and energy were readily apparent at the PowWow and our education breakout session was no exception," said Melanie Kurdys, founder of Stop Common Core in Michigan and a former nominee for State Board of Education. "A panel of diverse education experts, including teachers, parents, a board member, and a legislator, traded ideas as we begin to establish a positive vision moving forward."

The legislative portion of the event centered around the release of Courser and Gamrat's Contract for Liberty, which features ten principles for a conservative policy agenda, each of which has legislation submitted for drafting by Representatives Gamrat and Courser.

"Too often, grassroots conservatives have been portrayed as obstructionists or naysayers by those in the political establishment and the mainstream media," said Courser. "This weekend showed the maturity of our grassroots movement. We have moved from protesting to legislating, and are united behind our principles and the path forward."

Representative Gamrat was ceremonially sworn into her office at the event by Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley. Gamrat is the first TEA Party leader to be elected to a state office in Michigan.

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 11:48 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Getting there, include at the top, hundreds of the top grassroots leaders and activists from around the state attended and change the coordinators as to me in my capacity as founder of Plainwell patriots and Todd as grassroots leader. We started panning and organizing this event as grassroots before we were even elected. The way it is written now it sounds like we did this as State Reps.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 12:13 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Draft 3:

Conservatives gather in Mount Pleasant to lay out positive vision for governing in 2015

MT PLEASANT, MI: Hundreds of the top grassroots leaders and activists from across Michigan gathered this past weekend to unite behind a positive vision for conservative governance in 2015.

Coordinated by Plainwell Patriots founder Cindy Gamrat, and grassroots leaders Todd Courser, Tony Sharkey and David Wells, the Tea Party PowWow at Soaring Eagle Resort was attended by over 400 activists, policy makers and grassroots leaders from across the state. The event focused broadly on advancing the conservative agenda in three areas: legislation, *inter-party politics and election strategy*.

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[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 12:29 PM
To: Keith Allar[redacted]
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day [redacted]

Sounds great, thanks Keith! Please have it blasted out to the media from my Plainwell patriots broadcaster, from me in my Plainwell patriots capacity and give them my contact information.

Thanks!

Ps if you blast it from Pp you have to take off the URL at the bottom that is there automatically and directs people to my campaign site.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

[redacted]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 sales tax election question

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 12, 2015 at 9:18 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Please call [redacted] and let him know who is paying the cost of the sales tax increase election? Is it the state or the counties?

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To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

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Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 4:04 PM
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I will pass this info along to [redacted]

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Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Agenda for staff meeting 1/20/15

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 1:31 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

This agenda is also shared as a google document with the team; file name is Staff Meeting Agenda 1/20/15.

Pending items and status

- Find out more information on process for a proclamation. - Keith
- Print Cindy Password File - Ben
- Official House NB Database key printed for Cindy- Ben
- Legislation Process- Ben
  - **-Process decided; document pending**
- Talk to LSB on amending DNR bill to just include enforcement powers- Josh
  - **Done, awaiting action/decision by TC**
- Research- Where do local govs get the authority to levy property taxes?- Josh
- Print Mackinac Center document on budget cuts.- Ben
- Coordinate bringing [redacted] over with G-Ann- Josh
  - **Completed**
- Steps for Contract with liberty rollout/ website- Cindy/Todd
  - **Pending action from T/C**
- Find out session schedule for 22nd about Hillsdale meeting- Josh
- Project tracker- Keith
- Standardized agendas on Google docs- Ben
- Agenda making process- Ben
- Just a picture for Todd's swearing in from the Coms person- Ben
  - **Completed**
- Deal with Cindy's friends and family for swearing in.- Ben
  - **Completed**

Present items

1.) Scheduling requests / briefings
2.) Status and final approval of bill drafts
-Pending action from LSB
-Drafts must be printed and compiled for T/C
3.) Working with LSB to finalize initial bills and begin drafts of January bills
4.) Current messaging projects
a.) Messaging on seating charts/swearing-in ceremony
-Keith draft submitted; awaiting feedback/approval
b.) State of the State response
-K/B/J draft language completed, available in Google Drive and awaiting further specifics from Governor's speech.
5.) Recording Cindy/Todd's voicemail messages
-Scripts written; requires action from Cindy/Todd
6.) Defining roles for Wendy/4th person.

a.) When are firm start dates?
b.) What are the roles/responsibilities before start date? What are they after?

7.) Amending scheduling process
a.) What decisions can staff make autonomously for scheduling?
b.) What events are priorities for T/C?
c.) When can Keith decide on a scheduling item without consulting T/C?
(i.e. State Bar magazine photo shoot)

8.) Legislative schedule for the week.

Future items

1.) Requesting bluebacks from completed legislation
2.) Deciding what, if any, legislation we wish to cosponsor from other submitters and make the ask to cosponsor
-Should T/C talk to Gary about cosponsoring his legislation?
-Some legislators will not allow us to cosponsor their legislation
3.) Garner cosponsors for our legislative submissions
4.) Long-term messaging
-What is on the horizon? Where do we wish to be in April, July, December, etc.
5.) Establishing standing appointments for staff meetings and conference calls with T/C and staff/Keith.

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - items needing attention

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 12:50 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

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And I will have a few more item but we can discuss it later.

thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

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Joshua Cline Documents
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State of the State response draft

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 1:51 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Wendy Day <[redacted]

Team, here is my draft of the State of the State response as discussed in our staff meeting. Obviously, we will work during the speech to update with relevant details from Snyder's speech, but I think this gives us a solid framework to work off of. Let me know any thoughts/suggestions:

FIRSTNAME,

Listening to tonight's speech from the Governor, one would forget that the people of Michigan had just elected two large Republican majorities and a Republican governor with a clear mandate to propose conservative solutions to the problems our state faces and begin the hard task of restoring liberty to our republic. Instead of cuts, we heard tax hikes. Instead of working harder with less and streamlining our bureaucracies, we heard calls for brand new departments. Instead of self-sufficiency and policies that allow individuals to thrive, we received mandates for cradle-to-grave policies that are redolent of the worst types of liberal utopian designs.

We need to move beyond the policies and pomposity of tonight's ceremony and recognize that there is a simple solution to the problems big government has wrought on the residents of our state: return to the Constitution.

It is not easy to stand athwart the trend towards government leviathan and yell stop, yet Rep. Gamrat and I have made the choice to listen with intention to the Lord's wishes for us, and this has led us to propose a road map pointing our government towards the path to Constitutional restraint and fiscal sanity. This document is the Contract for Liberty. If you have not had a chance to read it, I hope you will please take some time to read it at the following link:

This Contract was forged from a deep understanding of our Founders intents combined with deep prayer and commiseration for the future of our Nation. It was borne from our desire to leave a freer state for our children and the next generations. It was written as a means to promote opportunity and prosperity while simultaneously honoring the sacrifices of the principled patriots who sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty.

That is not to say that we can not find common ground within our party or across the aisle. I fully agree with the Governor's call for _____. I will gladly support legislation supporting these initiatives should the proposed acts adhere to constitutional proscriptions and avoid the temptation to hang special favors for lobbyists like ornaments on a Christmas tree.

However, I respectfully and vigorously disagree with some of the Governor's proposals tonight. Higher taxes for roads are unconscionable - many of our citizens have not felt the "comeback" so often referred to, and now they are being asked to vote for a 17% increase in their sales tax liability because their elected officials have failed to properly prioritize an over $52 billion budget.

The Governor also called for the establishment of a new state department. Though the goal of reaching a highly-trained workplace is admirable, it is neither fiscally sound nor within the proper responsibilities of state government to do so. If we can not currently fund our roads and infrastructure, which are a proper and constitutional role of state government, why are we creating

new departments that are not specifically called for in the state constitution?

Over the next two years, I will continue to push for policies that utilize your hard-earned tax dollars prudently and responsibly. I will not be afraid to stand up to the big spenders in both parties, or the lobbyists in the Lansing establishment, as I fight for the Contract for Liberty and the constitutional restraint it proscribes.

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: Barrett Handgun Registration Bill

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 6:32 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,
Here is the background on the meeting and the handgun registration bill. Todd submitted a elimination of handgun registration bill among his first ten. Tom Barrett also submitted the same request and he was the first in line so he has had the bill drafted. Today,he released that information internally and his LD started seeking out the other Rep who had drafted the same bill. Since we put out the Contract for Liberty one of his first stops was to Gamrat's office, but we were in Todd's office so he came there. He asked if we were the ones that has the handgun registration bill and if we were, would Todd like to discuss the bill with Rep.Barrett. Since Barrett was first to submit the bill with LSB it is his bill to run with. Since he is in a 50/50 district he is willing to discuss the possibility of letting Todd be the primary sponsor and he would be a co-sponsor or give it up all together. If he gives the bill up entirely to Todd and Todd agrees to do that then Rep. Barrett would then have the ability to free up one of his ten bills. For Rep. Barrett he has a narrow time window to give the bill to the next in line and get another bill among his first ten. He would like to have the discussion in person and discuss how we can get pro-gun legislation moved forward. He needs to have this meeting this ASAP and the only time he has that is not already booked is from 2:30 to 5:30 on Tuesday. I asked Keith for approval to book the meeting and he approved. I booked the meeting and notified you. This is an important issue to all of us and is apart of the contract for liberty and it is important to have this discussion with Rep. Barrett.

Josh

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

County Press - did he get...

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 6:59 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Did he get what was needed to finalize the article for Sunday? Pics and questions and that not? I didn't see a email of the answers being sent back to him?

todd

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 16, 2015 at 7:03 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Yes he did on Thursday per Keith approval.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82/80 - new no gas tax increase page...

5 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 5:25 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I like it, but what issues do we have now that the world knows it's in Josh's name? With him being staff? and what about the political action side and the legislative aide? And finally just in perception and understanding? Cause if anything we are now promoting josh as the guy or should it be myself or better yet we switch and roll it with Gamrat? Not sure what transpired on how it got here, so think it out and make sure the team has its ducks in row and then share it with me.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 5:32 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Is there an attachment that goes with this? I'd like to see what Todd is referring to if the attachment could be sent, thanks!

Cindy

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 7:05 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We had a similar fight over a gas tax in Grand Rapids over an income tax hike earlier this year - we formed the Grand Rapids Taxpayers Association to fight the tax and I served as the Chair (and continue to do so). After the vote early this morning, I was talking with some of our fellow Taxpayers Association brethren and we decided to move very quickly to ensure we established a ballot committee to have in place on the proposed sales tax so messaging, etc could occur. Since ballot committees can not legally coordinate with candidates or candidate committees, we couldn't have anything on this come from Gamrat/Courser, though any list that resulted from intercepted data could be sold or rented down the line. Basically, this has nothing to do with my role on the legislative team, but rather in my role as Chairman of the Grand Rapids Taxpayers Association, a non-profit organization which I would not resign (not have to) when we take office.
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 5:09 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Please read the below e-mail from 12/19/14 briefing on this issue, to which nobody ever replied.

Cindy, I also met with you in Grand Rapids on 12/28/14 at Starbucks by M6 and said I had been receiving media calls about the tax ballot issue because of my role in the Grand Rapids Taxpayers association and our involvement in a previous tax hike special election that occurred in May of 2014 - I expressly asked you if you would like to do the media calls, and you told me (paraphrasing) that you were wrapped up in other issues and that you felt tactically that it was best for me to take it. I expressed reservations about doing so because I did not

want the speaker to deny my employment papers (which had not been signed yet) and you assured me that Todd and you would not let that happen.

I have not personally formed any ballot committee, nor serve as a record keeper for one. The ballot committee was formed by an attorney I know in Grand Rapids, and he serves as the treasurer and record keeper. Any media, including Off the Record, was done in my capacity as Chairman of the Grand Rapids Taxpayers Association - an organization I was never asked to quit as a contingency of my employment, and could have been asked to after this 12/19 e-mail, for which I would have obliged. Yes, Skubik got some of the facts wrong in his intro of me, which a.) is Skubik and the media's problem, and b.) upset me just as much as it may have upset you.

The "$10 million" figure is being taken out of context - he asked how much it would cost, and I said that a media article had pegged the number at $10 million on each side (here: http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/12/michigan_road_funding_debate_w.html). That is not from one committee or any group I'm involved in; that figured includes in it's totality and estimation expenditures made by AFP, NFIB, MITA, Chambers of Commerce, etc etc. No PAC has been created - just a ballot committee, and though I know the people who created it and have worked with them on similar issues, my name is not attached other than as a spokesman for a legally unrelated non-profit entity that I serve as chair of that advocates for similar pro-growth goals.

I don't mean to cause you any consternation, nor seek to undermine any trust, but obviously I am a little confused as I felt this matter had been discussed in the e-mail chain above and in in-person conversations. If you want me to resign as Chair of the GRTA, I will certainly give that due and full consideration.

Additionally, the implication that work on this has conflicted or caused detriment to our legislative work is just not true. Including Off the Record, I have maybe spent 2 hours total on this matter since December 18th (including the filming of Off the Record at 7:30am).

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 6:31 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thanks Keith for the quick response and your efforts at clarification but it still leaves me with a number of concerns and questions surrounding all of this that I think we need to cover as a team that is hard to do in email.

As far as our brief conversation in December I was under the impression you were referring to local Grand Rapids issues that fell under your responsibility locally in that role. I was not concerned about your local involvement in that. Maybe it was my assumptions on that with what you were telling me.

But I do not feel that full disclosure as to your role in this or the scope and expanse of this project has really occurred to me and Todd, especially for instance your appearance on Skubick.

As for josh and Ben what is their involvement in this or any other political projects and has their been full disclosure on those?

There are still a number of questions around all of this, there is the landing page, petition etc that was only first mentioned two staff meetings ago. What was and is that all about and why wasn't there a full disclosure conversation going into that?

Are we have a political team and we get that are are willing to make accommodations for that when possible but if we are intentionally or unintentionally not notified about these political projects then we are unable to have trust and that overall has to be there.
I even understand ambition to do a personal side job but if it is political in nature or has time requirements there is no way that we can be excluded from that conversation. That is just the situation as staff that it is in this environment.
There are other things which also need some addressing so I will talk to Todd and see his thoughts to on the best way and time to discuss this stuff.

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Scheduling an education meeting at Hillsdale

5 messages

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 18, 2014 at 11:56 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, [redacted]

[redacted]please contact Keith Allard who I have ccd above. Keith is handling my schedule and also assisting with Todds as well when it makes sense as in this case to do the meetings together.

Keith, [redacted]is working on an educational project with Hillsdale and we would like to have a meeting together if possible in January to discuss some possible solutions and strategy for educational reform in Michigan.

Thank you both!
Cindy

[redacted]
Keith's number. [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 12:42 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, [redacted]

[redacted]

Keith asked me to confirm Cindy's appointment for January 22nd at 1:30pm with [redacted]

I have tentatively scheduled this appointment for Cindy barring any conflicts with the legislative calendar.

Thanks!

Ben Graham
Offiice of Rep-Elect Cindy Gamrat
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted] Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 1:15 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, team@toddcourser.com

Thanks Ben,

I'll send confirmation to Hillsdale. Will Todd be attending also? Anybody else?

"The true path to the restoration and future of our blessed republic runs right through the halls of our schools."

[redacted]

From: Ben Graham [mailto:bjamm90@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 12:43 PM
To: Cindy Rep
Cc: Keith Allard; team@toddcourser.com; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Scheduling an education meeting at Hillsdale

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 1:16 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yes, I believe Todd will be attending as well. That should be it but if that changes I will let you know.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 19, 2015 at 11:53 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Email stream tentatively confirming Cindy and Todd's attendance of the meeting.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ben Graham** <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 19, 2014 at 1:16 PM
Subject: Re: Scheduling an education meeting at Hillsdale
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Seating Chart

2 messages

Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov> Sun, Jan 18, 2015 at 5:29 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Hey Cindy here is the seating chart you requested.

https://mihouse.house.mi.gov/https/session.mihouse.mi.gov/seatingchart/

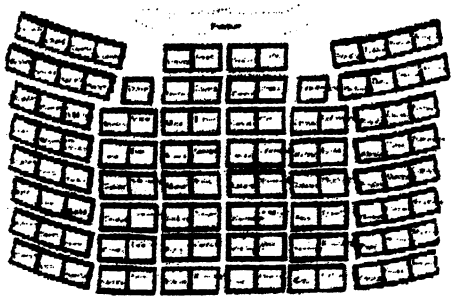
You will probably need to sign in to housenet to see it.

Thanks!

Ben

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 18, 2015 at 5:33 PM
To: Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Screenshot attached if Housenet gives you troubles
[Quoted text hidden]



Screen Shot 2015-01-18 at 5.32.54 PM.png
971K

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Staff meeting agenda 1/28/15

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 23, 2015 at 4:12 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Working agenda is below; I have shared a google doc entitled "Staff meeting agenda 1/28/15" with everyone.

Staff Meeting Agenda 1/28/15

Pending items and status

- Find out more information on process for a proclamation. - Keith
- Research- Where do local govs get the authority to levy property taxes?- Josh
- Heat in Cindy's office- Ben
- Heater for T/C office- Josh
- Prioritizing of scheduling process- Keith
- Open meetings act for commissions etc??- Keith
- Constituent outreach plan- All
- ET Rover legislation- Josh
- Coffee hours
- Recording cindy and Todd VM messages
- Google Doc of little dumb stuff we can go over with T/C during down time.- Keith
- Proposal on Steve Cara as a temp 4th person- Keith
- Bills Research
  - CINDY Constitutionally changing to eliminate DNR Trust fund regarding buying land-Josh
  - What % of state is owned by state and fed? What % of that is roads
- Find out if we have the first crack at introducing 3 tier licensing- Josh
- Keith send bills to Uncle- Keith **COMPLETED**
- Roe V Wade graphics.- Wendy **COMPLETED**

Present items

1.) Scheduling requests / briefings
2.) Finalized legislation
- Requesting bluebacks
- Cosponsors
- Tactics/messaging
- Dates/schedule

3.) Finalize schedule of in-district events for now through May
4.) Committee updates
5.) Co-sponsorship briefings/updates
6.) *Scheduling standing appointments for Keith/Cindy/Todd meetings and conference calls*

Future items

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1.) Long term messaging/strategy

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 23, 2015 at 8:54 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Off the top of my head:
I need you to get the budgets from the last three years of each of the subcommittees I am on.

I also need research on the Indiana bill that I sent over from [redacted] that would prevent the enforcement of Obamacare.

Also research on a conscience exception bill. RTL has one they are looking for a sponsor for but I'd like to beat them to it and put in my own.

Is there some legislation already moving forward on TESLA? [redacted]

Thanks!

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
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Joshua Cl[redacted] Documents
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[redacted]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82/80 communication issue? Fwd: Hillsdale Visit

2 messages

Plainwell Patriots <plainwellpatriots@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 19, 2015 at 10:56 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "[redacted]
Date: January 19, 2015 at 10:01:30 AM EST
To: "Cindy Gamrat" <plainwellpatriots@gmail.com>
Subject: Hillsdale Visit

Good morning Cindy,

I am blessed to have been able to garner a relationship with the most conservative university in America and it's very influential leader Dr. Larry Arnn. Hillsdale has agreed to bring their vast historical experience, circles of influence and will dedicate their very capable Director of their Charter Schools Initiative, Phillip Kilgore to our needs as we try to craft cogent and meaningful educational legislation. I know that you understand the significance of this but to date I have never received a return call or e-mail from Todd.

I truly understand time constraints, but we absolutely need to talk before we meet on Thursday. Do you know if Todd even committed to this meeting?

"The true path to the restoration and future of our blessed republic runs right through the halls of our schools."

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 19, 2015 at 11:52 AM
To: Plainwell Patriots <plainwellpatriots@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It seems from his email that [redacted] has tried to call Todd and hasn't heard back? I've seen several emails back and forth between you and [redacted] confirming attendance as well. Perhaps he is not understanding how closely you and Todd work together?

I went back and looked. I tentatively confirmed (pending the legislative calendar) both of your attendance on Dec 19th at Keith's direction. I will forward on that email stream.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

[redacted]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

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Seatgate...I need this prepped to send out tonight...

1 message

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 12:01 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Lunch time reading...K/B/J - if you can take some time and go thru this I would appreciate [redacted] want it before the end of the day...

It's hard at times to know what should and should not be shared with people about the mechanical processes of official government, nor what is even worth sharing, and how it affects them. As a representative my first duty is of course to God, then to my family, then my home district, and finally to the great people of our state that truly want a voice that is uncompromising in its advocacy for the cause of freedom and liberty. All of this should be done with a sense of decorum and civility that is due the respect of the office with which I have been entrusted.

This issue I need to bring to light today is that of the seat selection process in the House of Representatives. While the seat one sits in may seem trivial, there are much deeper issues going on at the root of what really happens. According to state law, [insert actual wording of the law here]. This is not at all what happened during our first day as new representatives. The "lottery" was merely a charade; in reality, each of us was handed a card telling us which seat we were to sit in. When each name was drawn, we were to choose the seat that had been chosen ahead of time for us. This is clearly contrary to the intent of the law.

Many will wonder why I am making such a big deal out of this. Does it really matter where we all sit? This is a critical issue for several reasons. First, I take great issue with the fact that the first thing we were all asked to do as new representatives was to break a law and act in some sort of play for the public. This is the first set of steps on a path that is meant to set a precedent for how we are expected to behave: it's a do as you're told and it certainly creates an inauspicious beginning for all of us who are sworn in. Secondly, the seats were assigned in a strategic manner such that forming coalitions between like-minded legislators is very difficult. Finally, the charade of seat *selections is a small piece of a much bigger picture: go along with what those in power tell you to do, or be stripped* of your ability to be an effective legislator.

Indent the next section as a insert of the portion of the law and then reference the law and put the remainder at the bottom -

"A box shall be provided in which shall be deposited numbered white balls, which shall bear the same numbers as those appearing on said list. A boy or girl, selected by the clerk, then being blindfolded shall draw from the box 1 ball and hand it to the clerk, who shall announce the number on the ball, and the clerk shall call the member's name found on the list opposite the corresponding number, who shall then select a seat not previously selected. In like manner all members entering upon their first terms shall select seats...."

[I added this portion to really lay out the facts clearly...you may need to reword it a little bit in case I didn't get something quite right, but I think you need to be pretty cut and dry with the initial explanation.]

Seatgate: Keith edit

5 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 12:35 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It's hard at times to know what should and should not be shared with people about the mechanical processes of official government, nor what is even worth sharing, and how it affects them. As a representative my first duty is of course to God, then to my family, then my home district, and finally to the great people of our state that truly want a voice that is uncompromising in its advocacy for the cause of freedom and liberty. All of this should be done with a sense of decorum and civility that is due the respect of the office with which I have been entrusted.

This issue I need to bring to light today is that of the seat selection process in the House of Representatives. While the seat one sits in may seem trivial, there are much deeper issues going on at the root of what really happens. The following is the state law that governs seating on the House floor:

As a part of the organization of the house of representatives upon the first day of the first regular session of each legislature, the seats in the hall of the house shall be selected by the members in a manner as follows: The clerk shall call the names of the members having the greatest total length of service in the house who shall select a seat. In like manner, the clerk shall call the names of members in the order of their total length of service in the house, who shall select seats of their choice not already selected, down to and including those members commencing their second terms. If there are 2 or more members who have an equal length of service the clerk shall prepare a list of their names and place opposite each name a number, which shall be drawn by lottery as prescribed in this section for members entering their first terms. The clerk shall then prepare a list of members entering upon their first terms, listing the names of such members alphabetically and placing opposite each name numbers in consecutive order from 1, using as many numbers as are necessary. A box shall be provided in which shall be deposited numbered white balls, which shall bear the same numbers as those appearing on said list. A boy or girl, selected by the clerk, then being blindfolded shall draw from the box 1 ball and hand it to the clerk, who shall announce the number on the ball, and the clerk shall call the member's name found on the list opposite the corresponding number, who shall then select a seat not previously selected. In like manner all members entering upon their first terms shall select seats. Any representative-elect necessarily absent on the first day of the session may, in writing, appoint any representative to select a seat for him, and if no one appears for such absent representative-elect, then the clerk of the house shall make a selection for him, when his name is called.

This is not at all what happened during our first day as new representatives. The "lottery" was merely a charade; in reality, each of us was handed a card telling us in which seat we were to sit. When each name was drawn, we were instructed to "choose" the seat that had in fact been chosen ahead of time for us. This is clearly contrary to the intent of the law.

Many may wonder why I am making such a big deal out of this - does it really matter where we all sit? This is a critical issue for several reasons. First, I take great issue with the fact that the first thing we were all asked to do as new representatives was to break a law and act in some sort of play for the public. This is the first set of steps on a path that is meant to set a precedent for how we are expected to behave: it's a do as you're told and it certainly creates an inauspicious beginning for all of us who are sworn in. Secondly, the seats were assigned in a strategic manner such that forming coalitions between like-minded legislators is very difficult. Finally, the

charade of seat selections is a small piece of a much bigger picture: go along with what those in power tell you to do, or be stripped of your ability to be an effective legislator.

> *"A box shall be provided in which shall be deposited numbered white balls, which shall bear the same numbers as those appearing on said list. A boy or girl, selected by the clerk, then being blindfolded shall draw from the box 1 ball and hand it to the clerk, who shall announce the number on the ball, and the clerk shall call the member's name found on the list opposite the corresponding number, who shall then select a seat not previously selected. In like manner all members entering upon their first terms shall select seats...."*

This is how the machine keeps its grip on power. Unfortunately there are hidden politics and theater at every level and at times it's hard to even see the evidence, but in this current case it is strikingly clear. In so many parts, it still remains unnoticed and incomprehensible to the general public. Every appointment, committee, party, and person that is brought forward is done only with the permission of power and they are placed in these positions because they willingly submit to the authority of those who placed them. For things to change it is critical for the people to have an awareness of the way in which the intended system is twisted away from benefiting the people for political purposes and against good governance. For people to be aware, someone must be willing to sacrifice their positions and standing, and have the courage, grit and fortitude to step up and make people aware of how the process is working against the interests of liberty on so many levels. Taking these steps sometimes brings consequences; some subtle, some open, and some harsh and detrimental, but that does not negate the responsibility to be honest with the people of this state about where there is a charade of the process and give the people the opportunity to understand what is being done to them and why. If I am not willing to stand in these small moments then really I wouldn't deserve the support I received during my election and I would not be worthy of the position I have been entrusted with, both officially and also for the cause of liberty. For freedom to prevail to the next generation we must have people who are willing to forgo the easy road and be willing to stand for the right things at the right moment for the right reasons; if not, then power simply owns the process; shielded behind men, who appear all to well intentioned; advancing both tyranny and the self-interests of their political masters. Finally, if men and women are not willing to step up and speak about the way the machine has stolen away the liberty and freedom, then we have lost already.

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Others will have their own opinions on all of this and I understand that, but for me, I have to simply say you have my apologies for whatever part I played in perpetuating this fraud on the public. I ask for your forgiveness; your trust in me is something I do not take lightly or flippantly. My hope in bringing this forward to you is that in the future such things will not happen, and you as the public will be more informed and aware of the overreach of power into the official process. In all of this, I must say I have lamented my own actions, even if I am not really sure right now what would have been an alternative course of action in the moment; but for me I must say my actions did not rise to the level of the honor I have been entrusted with and you all have my most humble apologies for whatever part I might have played in assisting in this or perpetuating it.

In His Grip...

todd

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Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 1:49 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Prep this for me to send - if you want to do one more read thru that is fine but have it ready for me to send - I will let Keith know via text before 5pm - I made a couple of little changes in the paragraph after your first bold moment and then in the P.S.S. Thank you Gentlemen for your service...

It's hard at times to know what should and should not be shared with people about the mechanical processes of

official government, nor what is even worth sharing, and how it affects them. As a representative my first duty is of course to God, then to my family, then my home district, and finally to the great people of our state that truly want a voice that is uncompromising in its advocacy for the cause of freedom and liberty. All of this should be done with a sense of decorum and civility that is due the respect of the office with which I have been entrusted.

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This is not at all what happened during our first day as new representatives. The "lottery" was merely a charade; in reality, each of us was handed a card telling us in which seat we were to sit. When each name was drawn, we were instructed to "choose" the seat that had in fact been chosen ahead of time for us. This is clearly contrary to the intent of the law. First steps matter; the steps that are taken on the front end of a process determines where you end up in the weeks, months, and years ahead...

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[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 1:50 PM
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Alright we are ready and waiting your final word.
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 3:27 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I had to change a couple of more words in the second Ps so eye it adjust it to make some good grammar and punctuation and then send it as you can. Lord I just pray that Your will will be done in this and that You would do Your work and Father I ask for You and Your protection, wisdom, judgment, discernment, Your grace, Your mercy, and especially Your blessings in all that comes from it. Amen!

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Here it is...

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[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 3:30 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thanks Todd

Do you have a preferred subject line?
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

3rd and 6th district emails

4 messages

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 8:22 PM
To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>

I know we have been round and round about this but after some revelation that came to me at church on Sunday no less, I would like to come back to what it would take to get the 3rd and 6th district lists added to my nation builder. Let's discuss tomorrow.

Thanks!
Cindy

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 9:23 PM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, team@toddcourser.com

We were supposed to already have this as an item on the task tracker as to data development for primary voters for the state and 3 and 6 and 10 and then we would look at matching it to emails available; this should already be an item on the task tracker and was covered in I think the dec 14th emails or prior.

You all may already have responded to this...

I think it went to Keith's friend and then depending on what he was able to give us then we went to purchasing emails.

Also there was the component of purchasing the names and home addresses for the doctors and chiropractors and dentists for the state and then marching it to emails available.

Maybe we could review this and also the task tracker this week.

todd

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Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 9:25 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We have the data from my friend; now
it's a question of money: both to initially match the emails to the data and then to maintain a much larger nation builder data set... Ultimately, we need to talk about budgeting, as the tech side is 99% completed.
[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 9:37 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I'll share with you all something funny and personal on this - while I was at church this past Sunday during worship time, the committee situation was on my mind and I was praying to get beyond that to what God had planned with it all and suddenly it was clear to me. I actually chuckled out loud when it came to me, we are not

limited by the same things that other Reps are. We do not have to been over and grovel to receive good committee assignments or else, God has equipped us differently for us to be able to do it differently and I wasn't holding tight to that. He has equipped us to have the ability to pressure all committees and chairs and vice chairs, beyond just our scope of those that we are on. He has given us the tools if we would use them to go way beyond committees.

It has been lingering on the sidelines that I should expand my email list, but I have allowed various reasons to keep me from taking this step. Now it is clear to me that I need to pursue this, and I have missed pursuits in the past and don't want to miss this one while it is here and the right time.

Soooo... lets identify the next steps and do what needs to be done to take them.

Thanks!
Cindy
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Nationbuilder follow ups

3 messages

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 10:06 PM
To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>

I know we have developed a process for checking nation builder emails and we have set a response time on emails and calls, yet I have over 100 needs follow up in my nation builder including phone calls from 4 days ago and emails from far beyond that.

Is it me that is missing a step here? Lets add this to be addressed tomorrow.

Thanks!
Cindy

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 11:48 PM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>, team@toddcourser.com

This doesn't sound good

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 28, 2015 at 12:06 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just wanted to update everyone on this. Josh and I went through and caught up on NB followups on the campaign side. I still have a few that I need to deal with but the majority are all handled. Man you guys are popular people. lol

See you all tomorrow!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Action Items from 1/30/15 Staff Meeting

3 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 9:09 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

- Research 527 or 501c3 and the advantages or disadvantages of that- Keith
- Print out CAFA- Josh
- Call Josiah and see if he will meet with Cindy or just we can meet with him.
- Standing meeting to discuss district and constituent stuff- Ben
- Get details for Cindy on the skiing weekend- Josh
- Draft Cindy freedom from location surveillance bill- Keith
- Draft Cindy prohibition on support to federal data collection- Keith
- Draft Cindy drone protection bill- Keith
- List of most egregious appropriations to liberty. – Josh/Keith
- Put on the agenda for Tuesday to talk about life at conception.- Keith
- Write Todd invocation for Tuesday.- Josh
- Blueback MEDC bill- Josh
- Press release on MEDC- Josh
- Blueback three tier bill- Josh
-

–
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 10:14 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, team@cindygamrat.com

Please add:

Schedule standing staff meetings and meetings for K/t/c.
Joshua to add and fill out steps to project tracker on CON project.

Also I am feeling led in my heart to have a focus on tackling the idea of road funding and putting effort forward into an alternate solution and that won't happen in the short time we have without specific and intentional dedication to it and as well as working with others. This could be a great project in which we show that we are willing to and will work with others to get important and meaningful things accomplished for the people of Michigan. If we just grab Bolgers bill that says something different politically. I believe we come out ahead and there are a ton of benefits to going through the hard and difficult process of really rolling up our sleeves and working diligently in this. We will understand the process better, connect with others, gain goodwill within our districts and show that we are willing to do the hard work and make the hard decisions instead of just employing political tactics. I am committed to going to Lansing on some Mondays and Fridays as able to get this done. So please think about as a team what this will take, here are just a few thoughts.

Tasking K/b/j to put some proposed ideas together on road funding. Gather suggestions from Mackinac center and AFP and any others and then our own.
Thinking through who we need to connect with and how? Colbeck is already working on something? Bizon wants to put something together? Connecting with others will take sensitivity and discernment in what we share and how we share it.
Keith schedule a time for team meeting next week in road funding project.
We need a timeline of markers of what needs to be done and when. Also looking ahead and thinking of messaging and how that should look and the timing of it.

Also you guys can meet with Josiah first and see what comes of that.

Let's fill this out better, these were just some thoughts off the top of my head.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 10:48 AM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>

I think it would help us as staff if you and Todd took some time to prioritize these issues by timing and your messaging strategy. Right now on our end, we've got Health Care Freedom, personhood, ending the MEDC, and now road funding all as A-1, top priorities - these are all massive issues and I worry this will muddle messaging on everything, while also affecting our ability to really dig into one topic and do it properly. Could you and Todd perhaps make a list of these by priority so we will have some guidance on which meetings we should book first, how we should plan constituent outreach/research/messaging/legislation, etc?
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - MEDC rollout package

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> [redacted] Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 11:50 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

KBJ - Cindy will have some thoughts on this as well so take mine with a grain of salt and modify as she gives feedback. This should probably be a go for Monday? I would assume we can do a full rollout package on this; Keith this is a "after a long history of abuse and blah blah blah..." Explain what gov is and is not and Then list the failures of the companies that are in the medc and talk about good stewardship and good governance. Guys do you want to try to do this? Maybe rough it out and get the data up - cause this is a big deal on how we indict this organization at this moment and it needs to be totally glaringly obvious and the indictment needs to be crystal clear. And I am not sure if this is in my voice or our voice? So just be aware of that as well.

Thanks! Got to go!

Sent from my iPhone [redacted]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 12:57 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It all sounds great and there is no reason to add my voice in this, let Todd take it and have it all the way and I am happy to cosponsor and push it later when it makes sense.
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 1:25 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Please handle the requests Cindy has made regarding development and pacs first; it's past due on all that and mine is a new fire fight we can handle but her items are higher today and then if you have some thoughts on the medc stuff and want a piece of it thru the weekend then tell me what you have and I will incorporate it into the message; I'll be responsible for getting the message either in my own voice or if Cindy and I can work it out jointly then jointly. I'll prep to the point of final touches and then I'll hand it off to all as staff on this one to let it fly; that being said if you have data or talking point on medc or history it would be helpful for me to do my piece not as red meat piece but with some data and points of reference.

Thanks! Back to skating!!! I am like steve Yezerman! :)

Sent from my iPhone [redacted]

> On Jan 30, 2015, at 11:50 AM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
>
[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 1:35 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> [redacted]
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

By the way it is Steve YZERMAN. How dare you slaughter the name of my favorite Red Wing!!!! LOL.

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: National Day of Prayer Speaker

3 messages

[redacted] <[redacted]> Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 11:37 AM
To: joshuadcline@gmail.com

Hi Josh,

Sorry I got your e-mail wrong the first time. Can you also send a bio for Todd? Thanks!

Brenda

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: [redacted]
Date: Mon, Jan 26, 2015 at 11:31 AM
Subject: National Day of Prayer Speaker
To: courserlaw@gmail.com, joshuadclind@gmail.com

Hi Todd (& Josh),

Attached is a Letter of Invitation/Clarification for speaking in Port Huron on Thursday, May 7th for the National Day of Prayer - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

While we do not have the final details ready yet, attached is the agenda from last year (to give you an idea of how it is set up).

Thank you for being willing to share. This is a wonderful opportunity to address the community leaders in Port Huron/St. Clair County. About 75 - 100 normally attend.

You will be receiving a letter from the Mayor soon. We are excited to have you come!

[redacted]

[redacted]

–
[redacted]
Working Monday and Thursday

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Skubick story on MEDC funding

3 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 10:02 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Video has Todd's interview, but the graphic identifies him as Sen. Mike Kowall.

http://wlns.com/2015/02/04/skubick-filling-budget-hole-causes-legislative-rifts/

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 10:15 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

nice job skubic....lol

On Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 10:02 AM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:
Video has Todd's interview, but the graphic identifies him as Sen. Mike Kowall.

http://wlns.com/2015/02/04/skubick-filling-budget-hole-causes-legislative-rifts/

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 10:39 AM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I feel like he may have cut Todd off and cherrypicked a part where he said the MEDC creates no jobs. Or maybe he did say that? I wish he would say they create very few jobs and the return on investment is very low
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
engraham.mi@gmail.com

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From: Joshua Cline [mailto:joshuadcline@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 5:26 PM
To: Todd Courser
Cc: team@toddcourser.com; Ben Graham
Subject: Re: Senate?

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re: Senate?

7 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 9:27 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Why would we delete the page? Maybe it's required but not sure why we would?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2015, at 8:01 PM, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> wrote:

> Okay great. I have started the process of deleting that page.
>
> Thanks Georgeann!
>
> On Jan 30, 2015 7:57 PM, "Georgeann" <georgeann@toddcourser.com> wrote:
>
> > Done.
> >
> > Thanks!
> >
> > **From:** Ben Graham [mailto:bjamm90@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2015 7:26 PM
> > **To:** Georgeann
> > **Cc:** Todd Courser
> > **Subject:** RE: Senate?
> >
> > Acess doesn't have a password. Whoever has the admin of that page needs to close it or give me admin access. Georgeann you must be an admin so you can give me access.
> >
> > Go to the page. Click settings and page roles and add me as an admin amd I will take it from there.
> >
> > On Jan 30, 2015 7:19 PM, "Georgeann" <georgeann@toddcourser.com> wrote:
> >
> > It's just the same thing as before, Ben. People like the Todd Courser for Senate 2010 page. 2 new likes and 11 new visists.
> >
> > **From:** Ben Graham [mailto:bjamm90@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2015 6:43 PM
> > **To:** Georgeann
> > **Cc:** Todd Courser
> > **Subject:** Re: Senate?

Hmmmm I'm not seeing the image show up?

On Jan 30, 2015 6:41 PM, "Georgeann" <georgeann@toddcourser.com> wrote:

Try redstate2010 Ben. This might cause a problem later if we don't fix it now.

<image001.jpg>

Sincerely,

Georgeann Courser

Legal Assistant

<image002.jpg>

Phone: (810) 245-0813

Fax: (810) 245-0907

Georgeann@ToddCourser.Com

This email message is a transmission from the Law Offices of Todd A. Courser & Associates, PLLC and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). It may contain confidential and privileged information, subject to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC sec. 2510, et seq., the Attorney Work Product Doctrine and/or attorney-client privilege. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution of the contents of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and delete and destroy all copies of the original message and any attachments hereto. Please note that any views and/or opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.

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www.avast.com

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

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Joshua Cline Documents
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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

n Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 12:21 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

We don't want it to be there anymore and we don't really have any use for it. You have another page with many more likes. This one only has like 190.

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 2:52 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yea but posterity and history and I feel like when you doing that sort of thing you are hiding history and you are a government censor who is acting out of some chapter in george orwell's 1984, doesn't it seem wrong to you?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 7:47 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Didn't really think about it that way but I think for consistency we should at least make it hidden. I think we can keep it but not have it be public.

We've eliminated all the old websites from the public so I think of this as the same thing. We couldn't keep 4 websites out there for prosterity so we probably shouldn't keep Facebook pages. In addition it's not so good to

have a Facebook page out there you never post to.

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 5:11 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Hmmm? I appreciate that but it's kind of my call and so how about you show me how we can keep the electronic files up and active on the things you are pulling down and in a working order for legacy and posterity and for our confirming of what I said and when and how on each issue my enemies have now documented and then we can talk about cutting away and hiding and all that, because what I have found is things get taken down and then we can't find them or access them or open them and it's honestly not really hiding that I want and this is about something more than a campaign so give me advice and counsel but please try to avoid telling me what we need to do or have to do; I need your work your effort even your counsel and intervention at ties but not your instruction unless I ask for your instruction and then of course I need it. :)

Just try to remember and it will keeps scathing to a minimum for all of us.

So how about tell me what is where and how to access it and show me we can see and pull up and then we can talk about deactivating....

todd

Sent from my IPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 5:25 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>

That entire "paragraph" was basically one run on sentence!!! Lol. Too funny.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> Mon, Feb 2, 2015 at 11:41 AM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>

Hey guys, sorry for all the extra work on this. I get notifications whenever anyone views or likes the page. Being that it is history, I thought it might cause confusion or a problem and thought it should be addressed. Maybe not but the "enemy" looks for everything.

I sure didn't mean to create such a stir☺

georgeann

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Emailing: The Contract for Liberty (10)

1 message

Todd <todd@toddcourser.com>
To: team@toddcourser.com, [redacted]

Sat, Feb 7, 2015 at 4:54 PM

I have attempted to send this a couple of times now; let me know if you have received it.

Team:

This is a really personal work for Cindy and I and we are not out of time to deal with it; we need you to read it and consider it and then give us your thoughts, but neither of us are really comfortable with it being changed without our approval; this has been a really hard work and took a lot out of us to do; I think I can speak for both of us that it has been God inspired; it does still need the fact check issues dealt with and it needs a couple of quotes found and inserted (see bottom)

---

todd

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

The Contract for Liberty (10)

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

—
This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
http://www.avast.com

The Contract for Liberty (10).docx
505K

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

The Contract for Liberty (10)

2 messages

Todd <todd@toddcourser.com> Sat, Feb 7, 2015 at 4:54 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com, todd@toddcourser.com

avast! be free This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

The Contract for Liberty (10).docx
504K

Todd <todd@toddcourser.com> Sat, Feb 7, 2015 at 4:54 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com, [redacted]@gmail.com

Ok Team:

This has been a really hard road for Cindy and I and it has been nothing short of a challenge to give this the time and attention it deserves; it's become a very personal work; we are really feeling like God is doing some amazing stuff in the middle of this moment; I am passing this along for your review – I don't think Cindy and I really want you to make changes in it, but rather if you find issues or thoughts then please feel free to give us your feedback; and of course grammar and punctuation; we are obviously stuck on time issues with this and this is missing a couple of quote inserts and a few facts that I have asked to have checked; see notes at the bottom.

Need some help on it now, thanks

In Christ Alone...

todd

[Quoted text hidden]

The Contract for Liberty (10).docx
504K

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 legislative and task tracker

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 8, 2015 at 12:23 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Maybe I am not looking in the right spot so send me the titles and how to find the exact copies you are using because what I am seeing doesn't look or appear to be very complete, and not up to date; Again this week I want them both printed out and on my desk for Tuesday; I don't care if it take ten pieces of paper to get it all Layed out correctly and complete and up to date including requests I and Cindy have made along the way that still have not been admined.

This list really should be in motion and printed for us each week so please update it and then figure out how to do it and make sure when I come in on Tuesday I have it.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 8, 2015 at 12:41 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I get the legislative tracker is for thing submitted to lsb so maybe I am not seeing the right things? So where are the things being researched and on back burners? And then finally if this is the task tracker then do you feel this is really what I am asking for? And who's responsible for it? And when is it updated? How do you break out who has the task? And is it official? Or political? Or personal? Research? And where are the items I have asked to have done? And finally how do I know there done?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 Lapeer development corp issue

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Fe[redacted]PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Ok went to county convention and all is well with the party, but dial spoke to me about the Lapeer [redacted] corp people who had a meeting and said I had been invited and that they called 5 or 6 times to both the business and also the official office; mike green was in attendance at this LDC Meeting; I do not have anything on my schedule such as this and didn't know anything about it so not sure they called or sent anything but we need to figure it out and call dial and figure it out and then respond and explain I am glad to meet with them but we received no letter or email or call...or whatever

Also young guy asked about us helping get his bus tour thing to Lansing to see session with mile green?

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 8, 2015 at 9:56 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Guys I would like an acknowledgement that this was received by someone and also an answer on what, if anything, happened with the LDC issue. Did we receive a request either in the official or business offices? and how did we respond? if at all.

thanks [redacted]
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 11:03 AM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

The person from the LDC called late January to our Lansing office to invite Todd to a LDC meeting. The meeting dates they had for Feb, March, and April where speakers will be present all fall on session days except April 2nd. At the time we were also unsure of committee times so we were not able to book for the Feb meeting or any future meetings. We are also weary of the April 2nd meeting because of the speaker being from the MEDC. If you choose to do that date we can call back and book you for that date. We were unaware that anyone called the Lapeer office.

The young person you spoke to is the Lapeer GOP Youth Chair, [redacted], and they are planning a visit of local high school students to the capitol on March 17th. They held a fundraiser to pay for the trip on Sunday January 25th at Applebee's from 7am-10am that you were made aware of. I have been in communication with him as to how the fundraising is going for that trip and any details that can be worked out by our office or Travis from Sen. Green's office. They would like to raise between $500-600 dollars to pay for a bus to bring them to the capitol.

Thanks,

Josh

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

https://mail-attachment.goog
ui=2&ik=9d384a
1KPfZe_tzbjHqw

[redacted]

2 attachments

2015 Speaker Clarification Letter.doc
124K

2014 Prayer Breakfast Agenda.docx
17K

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 8, 2015 at 1:56 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

82 - is this all set to go?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: January 26, 2015 at 11:31:38 AM EST
To: courserlaw@gmail.com, joshuadclind@gmail.com
Subject: National Day of Prayer Speaker

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Hi Todd (& Josh),

Attached is a Letter of Invitation/Clarification for speaking in Port Huron on Thursday, May 7th for the National Day of Prayer - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

While we do not have the final details ready yet, attached is the agenda from last year (to give you an idea of how it is set up).

Thank you for being willing to share. This is a wonderful opportunity to address the community leaders in Port Huron/St. Clair County. About 75 - 100 normally attend.

You will be receiving a letter from the Mayor soon. We are excited to have you come!

[redacted]

2 attachments

2015 Speaker Clarification Letter.doc
124K

2014 Prayer Breakfast Agenda.docx
17K

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 11:56 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yes this is all taken care of with a caveat. [redacted] and [redacted] re aware that you have committee hearings that start at 9am and you may not be able to attend this event depending on schedule of events for their breakfast and what is before your committees.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <[redacted]mail.com>

[redacted]

Prolife email contacts

2 messages

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 30, 2015 at 11:16 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

As far as I am aware I have not had any of the emails of those who have signed the life at conception petition uploaded into my Nationbuilder.
I would like to take whatever the steps are necessary to procure those this week, so that they are in and will get my messaging before the life at conception bill comes out.
Please let me know what the next step is that I need to do for this, I am glad to fill out a purchase agreement and/or pay Todd for the emails as needed.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 5:48 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> [redacted]
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ben, just bringing this to your attention in case it hasn't been completed. Adding to the project tracker.
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

—

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 outside work

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 6:32 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Look I don't want to hear people saying I helped this person or that person when I am not ready to come in or look as if I came in for a side because my staff doesn't know how to keep its pants on politically. If you want to "help" or work in such a way get it approved, then we can decide if it can be done with you after hours as paid staff or if a leave is required.

Guys we have discussed this in really no uncertain terms; unless it is approved, before, it cannot happen; that means meeting to gain outside employment or just volunteering for a side. What you do is attributed to us politically and so it may seem small and totally disconnected from us but it doesn't matter; in the roles you have you and your time and the visual of what you are doing is not your own, it is an extension of us. I will now be dealing with people saying I helped her and I am backing her. And Josh you know damed well it doesn't matter that you did it separate from me, people won't make that distinction, so we spoke about it and Guys it's now happened a couple of times and please commit to being under authority in this direction and making sure we, Cindy and I, are not blindsided by this. Josh you are focused on, "if she pays you," well if working for her is of interest it makes no difference whether she pays you or not it doesn't matter. Now if you want to go and run her ground game that is fine but ask first and then be prepared that it may just require that you take leave to do it.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 5:40 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger, staff is clear on the expectations for any outside work.
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - open process development issue

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 12:04 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I have asked for a few items that have not to my knowledge happened yet and I would like them to be taken care of this week.

I submit this to all 3 of you, but Ben this is your job - please have this done before we meet on Thursday.

1. I need an admin gmail account set up for myself and also for Cindy - admincindy@gmail.com and adm intodd@gmail.com - or some other available possibility.

2. then going forward all emails that go out of our offices for any reason - lsb or lobbyists or constituents or media needs to be blind copied to this respective email for each district.

3. then in the google drive of this admin email for each respective district I want to have the google docs / ss's for each respective district - each should be titled as the respective district and then the cooresponding title

4. then the joint google docs / ss's for the shared components - I will propose that these items be housed in Cindy's newly created admin email

5. then the google docs and ss's for each of our respective districts will be shared with us in our normal email so we can see and review these items in real time when you are all in the office or when you are not available and not responding over the weekends.

6. Then I want the google docs /ss's related to our organizations place din the corresponding drive - meaning 1. process docs 2. the things to be calendared list 3. the tast tracker 4. the lsb tracker 5. the pre lsb submission list to be researched...not sure what else in working docs or process docs...but all

thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 5:17 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay, here is the info on the new accounts.

Cindy:
Email cindydistrict80@gmail.com
Pass[redacted]

Todd:
Email: todddistrict82@gmail.com
Pass:[redacted]

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I have moved all the process docs, meeting requests, project tracker, legislation track, and bill idea tracker into there and shared it with everyone.

I haven't been able to set up email forwarding or BCC yet since that takes some pretty complex work but I will get that done soon.

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80: 2/11 Daily Schedule

2 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 4:44 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Cindy Gamrat Schedule

-

8:00-9:00 Meeting with Rep. Inman about Military and Vets Affairs

9:00-10:00 Executive Budget Meeting with full GOP Caucus
Location: House GOP Caucus Room

11:00-12:30 Joint Appropriations Meeting
Boji Tower, 1st Floor

11:00-12:00 FYI Executive Budget Presentation

1:30-2:15 House Session

3:00-4:00 Appropriations Committee Caucus
Location: Appropriations Room

Full Appropriations: Wednesday's @ 9:00am, Appropriations Room
Chair: Pscholka
GOP Policy:

[redacted]

Agenda:
NO MEETING TODAY (See 9am Caucus)
Bills:

[redacted]

Testimony:

Appropriations Education Meeting @ 10:30, Capitol 426

Chair: Rep. Potvin
GOP Policy:

Agenda:
NO METTING TODAY

Bills:
NO MEETING TODAY

Testimony:
NO MEETING TODAY

House Session:

No Bills being voted on today

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 5:18 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't do 8:00am appointments. It needs to be rescheduled.
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - furniture...

5 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 6, 2015 at 7:40 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I know you think you told me about the furniture and who has what authority, but after the meeting that followed the furniture events and the exposure of the ballot initiative and the fit throwing I did not speak to any of you for 3 weeks; so if you did and I am not saying you didn't but if you did and you briefed me on it and maybe it was an agenda item then where did that happen and when? Also was Cindy present? And who else? Because I have no knowledge of it nor do I recall seeing any documentation regarding it? Soooo maybe you sent an email on it with the documentation or said it in a meeting? In any event I want to be briefed the information you found and see whatever documents you have so I can decide how to proceed; remember it's not your call to decide how to proceed it's mine; you can have your opinion and give your counsel when I fits and I am open to it and asking for it but ultimately it's my call on how to proceed, because it's my responsibility. In this case I don't think I was briefed so let's make that happen, please send me what you have to brief me or that you feel you already briefed me on.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 6, 2015 at 8:44 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

The person who wanted to speak to you regarding the furniture incident was Tim Bowlin; his number is 517-373-6914. Here are the relevant policies regarding offices/furniture

FAC 07.01

Office selections are based on district number, with the exception of certain Leadership offices. Standard office configurations consist of an office for the Representative and an office (office area) for the legislative assistants.

It is the policy of the House that when a Representative and/or staff person relocates to another office, he/she will leave the furniture in the office being vacated and assume the furniture/furnishings in the new office location.

FAC 01.01

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OFFICE SPECIFICATIONS

A. 1. Space assignments (as directed by the Speaker's office)

2. Office selection is based on district numbers with the exception of Leadership offices. Standard office configurations consist of an office for the Representative and an office

area for the legislative assistants.

3. Permanent or moveable walls, doors, file cabinets, or other furniture may not be moved or removed without the explicit consent of the House Business Office and approved changes must be performed by House Facilities.

4. Physical moves for incoming/outgoing Representatives and staff must be performed by House Facilities staff.

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 6, 2015 at 10:29 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Wait wait hold on a minute; we just spoke yesterday about how it is in my authority and that I was right and that I had been briefed as such? So am I delusional or mad or is my staff totally co-opted by the facilities powers of Lansing? :)

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 5:36 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Not sure if this is sarcastic or not, but no, staff has not been co-opted by facilities powers.
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 11:40 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It was sarcasm. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Gary Glenn joins the Hispanic caucus

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 9:33 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I'm not even joking

http://gophouse.org/glenn-invited-join-hispanic-caucus-lansing/

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 10:06 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

That is hilarious, Gary will do anything for a press release:-)
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 13, 2015, at 9:33 PM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:

> I'm not even joking
>
> http://gophouse.org/glenn-invited-join-hispanic-caucus-lansing/

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FYI Dan Lauwers

1 message

Ben Graham <BGraham@house.mi.gov> Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 10:52 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just as an FYI Rep. Lauwers staffer dropped by to let us know that Lauwers will be in Todd's district on Sunday attending a Polish Dinner put on by the knights of Columbus at Bishop Kelly. His mother attended church there for many years so he's making a personal visit. Just wanted to let us know as a curtesy.

Thanks!

Ben Graham

Legislative Assistant

Representative Todd Courser

bgraham@house.mi.gov

517-373-1800

Todd:

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Feb 11, 2015 at 6:10 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thanks! It is starting to take shape; I don't see the project tracker in here yet? Or am I missing it?

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Feb 11, 2015 at 6:25 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

You're missing it. :) Ask cindy. I showed her where it was.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 Heise's bill amendments

7 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 15, 2015 at 10:42 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I am not sure how this process works and if i need these in before the bill comes to committee on Tuesday, but I need 4 amendments; first, require a warrant before conducting the search, second, the department requesting the search must send a letter to the address of the person who owns the phone within 48 hours after the search, third, require the company that is being given the warrant to send a letter to the owner of the phone within 48 hours after the search, fourth, conducting such a search without first acquiring a warrant will be a felony and there will be a 5000 fine.

I need to know we can get these amendments into the system before this comes into the hearing for a hearing.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 1:36 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

An update on the amendments for HB 4006. As far as getting the amendments prepared, finished and ready for tomorrow it would be very unlikely and almost next to impossible at this point. This is mainly due to this being a state holiday and there is no staff or resources to accomplish the amendment before tomorrow's hearing. I was hoping that when we (me and Todd) discussed this bill on Wednesday that any desired amendments would be notified in time for me to have completed on Friday. Due to the holiday and the fact that the criminal justice hearing is first thing tomorrow morning amendments would have had to have been finished by COB Friday. Based on the discussion we had on this bill, I did talk with Ms. [redacted] from the ACLU on Friday and she conveyed that the desires that Todd conveyed to me, and I relayed to her, were given as amendments to Peter Lucido. I was also hoping that any additional informational would have been provided during our scheduled staff meeting last Thursday that we waited around in the office for, but did not have. If there is something I can do to make this happen I will certainly give my best to see if it can happen.

Thanks,

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 2:13 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com

To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Josh figure it out and make it happen today or tell me why it won't be a problem to do it later...or I am going to be irritated...I am stuck in and out of my conference room and I need you to give me more of an answer than that.

Yea this is my first time being on a committee and having staff that decides what I need and don't need and when I need it and when I don't and I don't know how you all prioritize when I am not there, but I need amendments done and entered and I need them today; you are there all week and you all have the responsibility to agenda and prioritize and see what is coming the next week and to make sure things are on track; and maybe I should care about you having a different view of the time commitments we discussed before we started this leg but I don't; I don't know what is and is not in the realm of the possible but damn it I want a staff to see what is coming and see it before hand; right now I have need submission of amendments; do it; or give me the login's and passwords and get out of my way; I don't give a damn that it is a holiday; if you do then let me know and I will make my requests to someone else; or explain to me why I don't need them today and that it won't matter for tomorrow, because if it does then you are not on holiday until its done; I am a little irritated on this and maybe it is because my lack of understanding of the process; I need these amendments and I need them now; so figure it; you had Friday and I don't give a rats behind that it is a holiday; so is it holiday from Thursday to Tuesday? I asked for this last week to have you draft it to show me to send to him; I can Marshall stuff thru but it would help a bunch if you understood what was coming and took steps to be in front of stuff on a Friday before your holiday; given we have another state holiday every other week; now maybe you didn't draft the email and maybe you didn't think about it on Friday and maybe that is my job to do it for you, but don't give me "hey its a holiday," and now I am here; so is it possible to have the damn amendments in now and is it needed and what is that process and what are the implications of now versus tomorrow versus last Friday versus next week? if it is needed and possible then damn it I want you to see it last friday and do your part to make sure it happens; and if that means I need to do it myself then give me the password to do it or get up off your government holiday and do it. You might be on holiday but that only happens if you have your stuff ready before the weekend; I am not on holiday. So help figure it out or get me the passwords and login's I have to get stuff done and need good counsel even on the holidays.

Please figure it out and then get me a better answer in the next 3 hours.

thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 2:54 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: TODD COURSER <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Look I need to know that what I need isn't diluted in some way? So does not acting today cause some sort of loss of ability to do an amendment? Can we submit it today? and if so what does that mean? and if not then what does that mean? so is it possible? is it needed to protect the amendments? is it not possible? and if its possible then how do we do it? and if it is not possible then how do we mitigate the fact that it is not possible?

I get its a holiday and you guys think of this as off time, but if I need an amendment or anything else on a holiday or a weekend then you have to be giving me your best; I am busy working and I need you to know that I have a team that is on when needed and is in front of the game when I am stuck in a hearing or conference room, and understanding that my expectations coming into this was that you would be at no less than 60 hours a week never leaving at 5 and working the weekends until we had this first 6 months down and we had the processes down and my electronic thumb print on all of this was well settled; and I had solid controls on the processes, well that has not happened yet; we are working to it but it has not happened yet; and I think I was pretty clear in my needs and expectations. So I need to know the impact of doing or not doing my amendments today or waiting till tomorrow or later and what is possible and what is simply an inconvenience today and what is impossible today. So as best I can tell your time has been less than 60 and not at all on weekends and now apparently not on holidays from what I can tell so please make sure if I am asking that you do your best to give me your best on a holiday or weekend or late in the evenings or early in the mornings. If I ask and then have to remember to ask you to Roger me and you are not then it says something; if I ask amendments then tell me what we do from this spot on a week where we have a holiday. And better yet lets get it down so I don't think about any of this on the weekends and holidays.

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[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>
Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 4:31 PM

Update: After 2 hours of tracking down someone who can help with amendments I have located my libertarian friend who is the GOP Policy guy for the Criminal Justice committee. He is working on the four amendments that you have requested, but he is doubtful that he can get them to you in time for the 9am possible vote. As I said earlier, I will do my best and am working to do my best.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com
Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 7:22 PM

Unoffical Text of amendments requested.

Search Warrant Amendment:

-Amend page 3, line 2, after "officer" by inserting "only if the request is pursuant to a valid search warrant"

-Amend page 3, line 22, after "both." by inserting "A law enforcement officer who requests, accesses, uses, or discloses device location information obtained under this Act without first obtaining a valid search warrant is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for note more than 1 year and a fine of $5,000.00."

Notice Amendment #1:

-Amend page 3, line 2, after "officer." by inserting "Not more than 48 hours after the wireless carrier provides the device location information to the requesting law enforcement agency, the requesting law enforcement agency shall notify the user of the wireless telecommunications device that the request was made and that the device location information was provided."

Notice Amendment #2:

-Amend page 3, line 2, after "officer." by inserting "Not more than 48 hours after the wireless carrier provides the device location information to the requesting law enforcement agency, the wireless carrier shall notify the user of the wireless telecommunications device that the request was made and that the device location information was provided."

Supervisor's Signature Amendment:

-Amend page 3, line 2, after "officer." by inserting "A request for device location information under this section shall be written and signed by the requesting law enforcement officer's supervisor."

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>
Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 8:02 PM

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Process Development and some other issues...

1 message

Mon, Feb 16, 2015 at 8:00 PM

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I am not sure where to go from here on all this? Guys I need some help on all this and I need some real feedback on where my expectations are off and where we are missing the mark and how do we do all of this better because I can't be the one getting blamed when things are missed and not administered; right now I am really unpleased by staff (its not just one time now) that thinks it's ok to respond to me with a total disregard for my role and with a lack of respect.
See at this point I hear you are all swamped and really busy and maybe you are too busy to administer, but I have no way of knowing for sure given I do not have a staff that is submitted to doing things I ask in the way I am asking for them; so I just don't know and I see a lot of lack of urgency and hanging out and everyone stopping when every friendly comes in and a lot of lack of forward action, and that may be because you are really busy or it may be because you are not administering things in a business like way; until I can see the documentation I assume it is due to a lack of business process implementation and a lack of administration.

I don't really want to hear the excuse one more time how something not being administered is my fault...I lean on you guys to handle a request and to administer it and I let it go out of my mind; ooooor damn it I am still administering it...if it was on your radar or had been on your radar then you had Friday to tell me there was a drop dead date (big warning I CAN'T SEE THAT YOU HAVE A RADAR THAT IS WORKING TO KNOW WHAT IS OUT THERE IN THE AIR - I DON'T SEE YOU GUYS BEING METHODICAL ON WHAT IS AND IS NOT IN PLAY) and I can't really see how that is my doing? You didn't do it nor did you make sure it got done; I am seeing a lot of togetherness and stopping to talk with anyone and everyone but little in the way of urgency and proactive action and process development from this staff as it now sits;

1. I will not work with disrespect towards me and I really shouldn't have to...the idea that I ask for something to be done and it doesn't go on the tracker and it isn't on someone's radar and then it comes to a weekend and I get blamed because of this or that? (It is BS, It is not the spot of staff to speak to me on the best use of my time or in this way nor is it to come to me in a spirit of arrogance or hubris simply because I am asking for it over a weekend; if you feel you work for me it will show, if you feel you work for government and you are bothered by me and my requests then it will show; either you are attentive to me and my needs and my requirements or you are not; you guys have 120 and if our agreement was held 180 hours to administer our requests).

2. When something isn't done and hasn't been administered and I ask I shouldn't be schooled from my staff on where my time should be spent or invested; I am damn sure it is not the role of my staff in Lansing or in Lapeer to give me push back on items that are being administered or not being administered; if I say I want a warrant provision and notifications provisions or adjustments to a bill then you better damn well put that item and any item like it on your radar and calendar it out and your task tracker and your daily activity log (all of which need serious work and some of which are totally unused and not being administered and if you admining something then better know the drop dead date BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW THESE THINGS AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO and then you need to know the time and then make sure we have it submitted before any of your 2 dozen holidays; to then tell me it is because we didn't meet on Thursday it is disrespectful and untrue given you had a full work day on Friday to deal with it and get it in motion and it shows a lack of understanding of what my role is; and what responsibility staff has and who is in charge. I DO NOT KNOW THE AMENDMENT PROCESS NOR SHOULD I HAVE TO...Am I right on this or am I missing something here?

3. Before we started this leg we spoke clearly about this first 6 months being critical for success in this new spot and the really dire importance of these two seats to the cause of liberty; we spoke about this being 60 hours a week; two nights a week for events; and Saturdays.Is that still our understanding?

4. We have spoken repeatedly about my expectations of a system and process development for this role; Rightfully or wrongfully I have felt totally disregarded on this point and have had to continuously continuously fight

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it should say "notify in writing within 48 hours."

thanks

[Quoted text hidden]

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Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: AFT Info

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 8:40 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://www.aft.org/position/community-schools

'Community Schools"...more input from government via paying for services that would bring doctors,dentists, and other medical professionals into the school. They want to keep the schools open all day to provide more and more community services and a holistic curriculum from preK-12 to all after school programs. AKA pro-one size fits all approach and common core.

How do they expect increasing cost to be covered?
What about security concerns of more and more people need to be in schools?

AFT supports patients before profits program for a system, of nationalized healthcare. The claim that 30% of all healthcare costs are not related to healthcare or direct patient care and that needs to change. They claim that this 30% is a travesty to patients all while not claiming the dollars not making it to children is not a travesty. What is the percentage of Michigan funding not making it directly to the classroom? Do they know that answer? The national average is 40 cents on the dollar going to activities and expenditures outside the classroom.

Hope this helps.

josh
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
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Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

quick briefing on HYTA

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 9:23 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://www.avvo.com/legal-guides/ugc/hyta---michigan-holmes-youthful-training-status-for-youthful-offenders

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - chair rough email

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 6:44 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

People keep asking me when I am going to come out with my traditional non endorsement endorsement; a whole hearted endorsement is a really high bar that I rarely offer up; well it has been a really fast and hard week and I just haven't had a chance to weigh in on all things Republican Party convention; it has also been hard to really go thru this idea of electing a new state party chair, this for me is due to my own personal connection to this position and how that run for chair last time changed and affected my own personal life in some really profound ways; God brought me to that moment and thru that moment for His purposes that are still even today being manifested; most know the story sort of but I can tell you it was one of the hardest personal choices and events in my life; I really would like to see good sound solid conservative principled leadership in the chairman's position, but my fight now at this moment is to bring a voice to all things conservative within the state house and I have to make sure I am focused on that task for the conservative cause wholeheartedly and I am; I can only comment on where I would like to see our state party; I know many have lost faith in where our party is headed, but for me my heart and soul still believe the party is the people and that it can be that strong fast bulwark against tyranny and a powerful voice for conservatism; it is with all that in the background that I write this tonightjust to give you my thoughts on the chairmans's race; I have looked at all three of the candidates for state party chair and each has their own set of gifts, talents, accomplishments and deficits; none is that perfect mix of conservative street cred, forging experiences, a true workable plan, and the ability to implement it; I have friends in the cause who are supporting all three candidates for chair and I can't thank each candidate enough for their sacrifice and their contributions of offering their talents to the party; I really respect each candidate for even throwing their hats into this God awful ring to help bring sound leadership to our party; for me there are a couple of things that stand out, first I don't feel a spiritual kindredness or kinsmanship to any of them, this would of course have been a first criteria to consider, so secondly I then look to the other attributes that might give me some insight or ability to discern how the party might look under their leadership, thirdly I looked to their conservative credentials (this is a key component for me but it does not stand alone without the ability to implement and administer a sound plan for the party), also the ability and willingness to message out our core republican values and platform; finally I am left with simply assessing each as to what I know of them, their pasts, their personal qualities to be able to do the job of the chair (it is one hell of a job) that has huge implications for the next election cycles and beyond; my decision did not come easy or lightly, but I am completely convinced that of the choices we are presented with there is no real choice, Ronna Romney McDaniel is the best option and the best choice for our party; I will be casting my vote for her this weekend; all will make their choice this weekend and I respect each for their willingness to be a part of choosing new leadership, my prayers go out to each tonight and that God would bless our efforts to choose not only a new chair but also so many other vital positions for our party; if you are still questioning whom to cast your vote for this weekend I would encourage you to vote for her. God bless and have a great weekend!

PS in I have time tomorrow I may run through some of the other positions and give you my thoughts on each for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Bill 4006 - House Floor Amendments

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 11:24 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Keith Please prepare the other three amendments for whatever is supposed to happen on the house floor now. And I need to know are we voting on this? If so when? And do we have to have the amendments in prior? If so what is the procedure for it and how and when?

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Heise 4006 Bill Amendments...

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 4:42 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I spoke with [redacted] last night and explained the Heise deal, what his bill did, the problems with it, the name on the bill, the mother coming in to testify, the amendments, the rejection of the 3, the next steps in the floor process, the next opportunity for amendments, what it all means, and what we are doing to try and fight it even to the end; she said at the end of all that, you need terrible stories of a policeman illegally using the system to hurt someone illegally. So out of the mouth of babes is there such a beast? Is there a stalking or worse where a rouge officer uses the "ping" system to find someone and then does what a criminal mind does?

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 12:09 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Late Roger, but I have figured out the amendments and they have been digitally submitted to the clerk. I have to deliver the paper copies this afternoon and the process will be complete until we get to the bill being on the floor. I will do some research on the above topic. You can tell [redacted] that she is very qualifiled..lol in her advice.

Josh

On Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 4:42 AM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

> I spoke with [redacted] last night and explained the Heise deal, what his bill did, the problems with it, the name on the bill, the mother coming in to testify, the amendments, the rejection of the 3, the next steps in the floor process, the next opportunity for amendments, what it all means, and what we are doing to try and fight it even to the end; she said at the end of all that, you need terrible stories of a policeman illegally using the system to hurt someone illegally. So out of the mouth of babes is there such a beast? Is there a stalking or worse where a rouge officer uses the "ping" system to find someone and then does what a criminal mind does?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 1:41 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I will let her know :)

I think if we had some showing of abuse where an officer or anyone has abused such access we might be able to

humanize the issue a bit and cause it to get a second look by all on the floor.

todd

[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 1:42 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>

Agreed. Searching for some stuff today.

[Quoted text hidden]

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
Page 135 of 326

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - 2nd chair post...

4 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 2:12 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

KBJ - I need some help - I am finishing up a 2nd post on chair and sending over, can you guys read it for a minute before I post it.

Also I am planning on just saying these are the other folks I would say are good solid picks - please fill in the info and also add any others that make sense...

Any others I should weigh in on? or no?

Wendy Day for?
Matt Maddock for?
Adrian Poulse for?
David Wilkinson for?
Tom McMillan for?

---

thanks

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 2:53 PM
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Wendy is Grassroots Vice-Chair
Matt Maddock is 11th District Chair
Adrian Poullise is 1st district chair
David Wolkinson is Administrative Vice-Chair
Tom McMillin is 8th District Chair

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
Page 136 of 326

I did not see the email you want us to review; so resend or we will standby until it is done for review.
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 3:08 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

If you can do a read thru on this I would appreciate it; this has been a bit mentally and emotionally costly than I would like to this point...

This is just my opinion so take it for what it is worth...My post last night generated a lot of controversy, some hostility and even some who have said that "given that I have sold my soul to the establishment they are praying for me..." I am fine with people who have an opinion and feel led to vent in social media. However, I don't do what I do for the praise of people. I do what I do as best as I can because I sense it is the right thing to do. I check my self interest at the door. To those in the conservative cause, who are convinced that I am establishment, I would ask that you look at what I have been involved in for many years and am now doing. There are reasons for my actions, to do what is best for the party given the options presented to us.

I could do another post explaining in excruciatingly painful detail the personal attributes of the candidates, the personal

actions I have witnessed and the personal knowledge that I have about each candidate. To me that isn't respectful to them, their efforts or the process of the convention. For me, it is enough to say I can't and won't support them and I am supporting what I see as the best candidate in the field presented. We have no solid liberty options in this race and few in the rest of the races in question this weekend.

The two candidates, whom I am not supporting, are in my own district; have had enough back and forth with each to know something about them and I have had a lot of interactions with each on various parts of the process. I can't, and shouldn't, disregard what I know about them and the impediments they face in their pursuit of the role they are seeking. We need to look at a person's conservative credibility, but also we need to be honest about a person's abilities, experiences and personal shortcomings and then decide if they can do the job; all of this needs to be done with discernment, good judgment, and thoughtful consideration. I made my decision based on what I know. If you think my opinion is based on me being politically sold out, then make your decision accordingly. However, if you think my opinion is based on a well reasoned discernment of the information I have and what is best for the party, then use it in your effort to make the correct choice for you.

In the past, in general, I have explained the actions of the machine in the background to help all of us rise to the challenges we face in the cause of liberty. I have in the past explained the different plays in elections past to thwart the cause of liberty; even going as far as explaining how one candidate was totally embedded in the establishment and yet was totally backed by the cause as the "conservative champion," because he was the supposed challenger; not to mention had not met the required standards. We need to yes look at the persons conservative credentials, but we also should be honest about whatever significant or even insurmountable personal attributes a person has that may inhibit a strong voice for the cause, or are even antithetical to advancing the cause of liberty; these challenges can be in their lives, pasts and associations, or are just planted in a demeanor that is so caustic that they will not be an effective leader or administrator of the party structure. We need to move past these desperation challenges to have a "conservative champion," that isn't really equipped for the position they are approaching, and that isn't going to be an effective challenger, let alone an effective conservative principled leader if they were to assume the role they seek; we need to be very careful in who we promote and back and not promote those who do not in anyway possess the attributes that would be crucial to winning let alone to being successful if they won.

I like many of you, try to wait on the Lord, attempt to put all these things before Him and then with all the knowledge I have both public and private make my decisions. Some, like this one, are harder and more public, some are quieter and behind the scenes, but all are done with thought, care and concern for moving the conservative cause, the state, the country, and the party forward. I personally thank all of you for your efforts to make informed decisions..

In Christ Alone...

[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 3:19 PM
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Do you want this to be emailed? Or just a Facebook post? Personally I feel that you're post yesterday says enough and the belly achers will whine today but they'll be back on our side for the next battle because their ideology is just schizophrenic at this point; basically just trying to say that if you want to send I totally understand but at the same time not necessary to appease the radical Facebook users typing fervently in their moms' basements. Does that make sense? :) no strong preference either way though so take my opinion with a grain if salt and I'll await marching orders.
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: Criminal Justice Committee

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 3:07 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

There are two bills coming for presentation on the criminal justice committee for Tuesday. The bill links are listed below. Both are reforms that Joe Haveman introduced last year.

HB 4137
http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(u50ieyqpp1xcyl3qyhq1kcxm))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectName=2015-HJ-02-05-011

HB 4138
http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(droctat0ix2j12zfdqhv4twt))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectName=2015-HJ-02-05-011

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
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p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - data and a fb page

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 11:31 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

We need to review the data stuff and make sure it's on the project tracker appropriately, along with other open projects issues, and also I think Cindy and I will need a new fb page, nothing fancy, not sure it this is political or official stuff? But we need a update in this area this week. Also what if any projects are still left for bj in my business office to deal with and when will they be done?

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 7:56 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

A new Facebook page? For what purpose? What will it be called? If you are worried about mixing political/ official we are in the clear on that. The house policy says we can use the same page for both as long as we create it outside the office (done) and only post official related stuff during work hours. We will probably need a bit more discussion on data etc so I know what you are thinking.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - yes and no...

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 10:42 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Cindy may want it to be different or not, but When I vote yes I need a post done to say what the bill is and why it's a yes and when I vote no I need a vote done to say why I voted no; it needs to happen the same day I can't keep up with it and say why one is different than another so when I walk across to vote you should already have it written to say why and put it up by close of session.

Also need a Google doc in the vault that says what I have sponsored and co sponsored and for Cindy as well.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Please also do the same for me on posting the votes and the bills I've sponsored and co-sponsored.

Thanks!
Cindy
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 1:13 AM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger on the vote explanations and the sponsor/co-sponsor spreadsheet.

For quick reference, that information can always be found very easily at the following link: http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(jiksufotbhjstkrqfvgd2qpm))/mileg.aspx?page=SponsorSearch

[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 11:33 AM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

There is a spreadsheet added to the Google Drive entitled "Floor Votes and Explanations." I have written suggested votes and yes/no explanations for every bill receiving a second reading (and potentially third) for this week. The items that are flagged in yellow with "DISCUSS" are bills where the ideology/practicality are not clear; we can discuss those bills during our standing Tuesday meetings going forward. Let me know if you have any issues accessing it.
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 11:56 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

The Bolger plan has been submitted to LSB for reintroduction. The versions requested were the links provided by Keith in this email stream and the ones that we (Keith and I) examined on Friday. I will give feedback on timeline of return the moment it becomes available.

Let us know what else you want regarding your plans for this operation and we will get it done.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - data and a fb page

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 11:31 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

We need to review the data stuff and make sure it's on the project tracker appropriately, along with other open projects issues, and also I think Cindy and I will need a new fb page, nothing fancy, not sure it this is political or official stuff? But we need a update in this area this week. Also what if any projects are still left for bj in my business office to deal with and when will they be done?

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 7:56 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

A new Facebook page? For what purpose? What will it be called? If you are worried about mixing political/ official we are in the clear on that. The house policy says we can use the same page for both as long as we create it outside the office (done) and only post official related stuff during work hours. We will probably need a bit more discussion on data etc so I know what you are thinking.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Bolger plan now or as soon as now can be...

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 10:37 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Kbj - I need the original Bolger plan in to lsb tomorrow and I want it back to me really right now; so what does that take? Is it one or two or what? And do I need to priority it to have it back now? It's already been done so not sure what the protocol is to have it in my hand and blue backed with a number but I need it.

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 1:08 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd - the "Bolger plan" is two bills.

The first changes the tax structure on gasoline from the flat 19 cent/gallon rate to a wholesale tax starting at 7.5% and increasing to 13.5% over a six year period. Here is a link to the version of that bill as passed by the house on December 4th (before it got mucked up and became the monstrosity tied to the May 5th ballot proposal): http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ctdfoosxh1fzcmdefjxufga2))/documents/2013-2014/billcurrentversion/House/PDF/2014-HCVBH-5477-16161.PDF

The House passed concurrently a bill that would phase out the sales tax on gasoline over that same six year period. This has the effect of placing funds that would go into the School Aid Fund (the sales tax revenue) into the Michigan Transportation Fund. Obviously, the school districts vehemently objected, so an amendment was added that would suspend the phase-out of the sales tax on gasoline in any year which the School Aid Fund would have an amount lower than the previous year. The education lobby still strenuously objected because they want a guarantee that those funds will grow, not remain neutral.

A copy of that second bill is located here: http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ctdfoosxh1fzcmdefjxufga2))/documents/2013-2014/billcurrentversion/House/PDF/2013-HCVBH-4539-16159.PDF

You get a limited amount of bill priorities through your entire session. We can update you tomorrow with a realistic timeline of how quickly we can get these bills once we talk to LSB first thing in the morning.
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 7:48 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

If we are going to stick with the original Bolger plan then we will need to get with Josiah and rework a few numbers in the bill to ensure it is gas tax/ revenue neutral. When I spoke with him on it a few weeks back he said those numbers worked last year but may need to be adjusted because of changes in gas prices etc...

Not sure if he mentioned this the other day since we told him we wanted to throw out the bill and start with cuts so I wanted to let you guys know.

See you soon!

[Quoted text hidden]

addressed. It may contain information that is proprietary, privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any viewing, copying, disclosure or distribution of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and destroy all electronic and hard copies of the communication, including attachments.

2 attachments

Final CSG Report.pdf
1073K

CSG Presentation.pdf
1586K

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FW: House Criminal Justice Committee - 2/24

1 message

Todd Courser <TCourser@house.mi.gov> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 4:27 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

INFO for Todd for tomorrow's Criminal Justice hearing

From: Hassan Beydoun
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 4:24 PM
To: Brian Mills; Brock Swartzle; Hassan Beydoun; Jeremy Hendges; Joelle Demand; Joshua Cline; Kari Bearman; Ken Osborne; Krista Jones; Kurt Heise; Lindsay Vogelsberg; Martin Howrylak; Michael Webber; Peter Lucido; Robin Naeyaert; Sue Brams; Todd Courser; Valerie Knol
Subject: House Criminal Justice Committee - 2/24

All:

Attached you will find the final report and a related PowerPoint presentation released by the Council of State Governments last year, which calls for various reforms to Michigan's criminal sentencing system. This was the basis for a package of bills sponsored by former Representative Haveman, which passed the House but failed to move in the Senate last term (click here for a related news article). Two of the primary bills in that package have been reintroduced this term as HBs 4137-38 (Howrylak/Heise).

The Committee will hear testimony tomorrow from former Representative Haveman on what are commonly referred to as the "CSG reforms," which is intended to provide some background to HBs 4137-38 moving forward.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Hassan Beydoun

Deputy Legal Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor

Republican Caucus

Michigan House of Representatives
Office: (517) 373-0935
[redacted]

This email, including any attachments, contains information intended for the exclusive use of the person(s) to whom it has been

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: 82 - My next email on warrantless wireless wiretapping...

6 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:23 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Keith I need a quick turn around on this so it can go out now; Jill was unable to proof it last night; can you get right on this? If not I need to know.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Todd A. Courser" <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Date: February 23, 2015 at 8:19:43 PM EST
To: Jill Courser [redacted], "Daniel A. Courser & Jill M. Elzerman" [redacted]
Subject: 82 - My next email on warrantless wireless wiretapping...
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com

Jill can you run thru this for me? Its kind of a quick one; the dark side is bringing it to a vote this week. :(

There are so many areas in which I can write and explain the way our liberties are being stolen by the willing compromisers with tyranny, it is amazing to watch people simply wash away their concerns as they vote for things that in no way are in keeping with good governance or with fiscal conservatism; many allow themselves to be led astray from liberty by the "compromisers," who say we just need to give a little on this and that and eventually we will make our stand for liberty; unfortunately that day of standing always seems to be left for another day...

Only a few times do you get a bill that will let you see cleanly if the person is up for defending our rights under the Constitution; this HB 4006 is one such time.

We have at present a number of issues facing the legislature: the bloated budget that needed to be axed (which should never should have been as big as it was in the first place), the next budget due in a few months that our governor is planning on raising again, the corporate pork machine, the amazing colossal request for billions in more taxes annually by the governor to fund roads when we now have road taxes collected that are siphoned off to fund every manner of spending but the roads! Then of course there is the vastly expanded Medicaid program that now has a quarter of a million more in it than was projected only a yr and a half ago. And oh yes there is that bill number HB 4006 which is coming to the floor of the house for a vote and will be the next step in unfettered government surveillance without any way for citizens to know that government has used [redacted] to viorre in thru their cell phone provider and locate them even if there is no warrant!

HB 4006 – Orwellian.....! I am calling this "warrantless wireless wiretapping," its tapping a cell phone location without a warrant and without disclosing it to the person who is being located in the emergency.

This week, the war for liberty will turn to one of our Constitutional Protections in the Fourth Amendment being stripped away by well meaning men and women who are doing so under the guise of "protecting us," and our protection against electronic warrantless searches will be gone forever! At present we in this bill we are no longer forcing the government to get a warrant to use our cell phone information, as long as they feel it is an "emergency to protect someone," and there is no requirement of any disclosure even after the government has been used in an "emergency to protect someone."

It is unconscionable to me that my own party is putting forward this travesty! How can these men and women who took an oath to defend the Constitution in any way think this is a good bill to pass into law? I understand that we need to be able to find people who are lost or stolen or are imperiled, but we shouldn't do it without some protections of our rights against tyrannical and secretive government! Yes we need to allow the police to find people who are in an emergency, but we shouldn't gut the Constitutional Protections to do it! At least the Federal Government set up a series of sham courts to disguise its warrantless wiretapping operation! This bill isn't even doing that!

Bill HB4006 This is an incredible infringement on our Constitutional rights and it is being advanced by the Republican leadership and there seems to be no objection from the ACLU! This bill runs directly into the face of the Founder's intent of the Fourth Amendment protection against the awesome power of government being unleashed on a person without the protections of a warrant and without any disclosure to the public, the bill which will probably pass the state house, unless you let your representatives know how you feel; it has no requirement that law enforcement to get a warrant to "ping" your phone to find out where you are! Nor do they have to disclose they did it! The power of government now has been dramatically increased by the amazing technologies that are now available; we do need to be able to employ these technologies, but we shouldn't shred the Constitutional protections as we do it! This is an awesome increase in the expansion of the power and scope of the authority of the police; I offered several amendments to the committee to give Constitutional Protections and to force law enforcement to get a warrant before there is a search request made to the cell phone carrier but these amendments were rejected.

I really want to urge you to call and let your representatives know how you feel about this issue. This will become law unless you let your representatives know how you feel...

In Christ Alone...

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:25 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I'm on it
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:33 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thanks; I have just texted josh to get on it as well; it's short timeframe and we need a dramatic plea that goes even above what I have said so Matt it to the floor hard. Do we need a graphic for fb? If we can let's roll this out a bit better? But the email and fb need to be put and put it down heavy.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:45 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Include the bill as an attach or something and maybe quote it in the email...?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2015, at 9:25 AM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 9:47 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay Keith is working on it.

But we gotta say, it looks very odd for you to go hard after 4006 after voting for it in committee. If you are going to go after it you at least need to offer an explanation of what happened and why you voted for it in committee. We can explain it or come up with another explanation but people are going to be very confused and conflicted if you go hard and don't explain your committee vote.

Maybe this is something Cindy would like to go after? Privacy is something she has mentioned several times and seems to be an issue she really cares about so perhaps she could send an email on it?
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 10:16 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

There are so many areas in which I can write and explain the way our liberties are being stolen by the willing compromisers with tyranny, it is amazing to watch people simply wash away their concerns as they vote for things that in no way are in keeping with good governance or with fiscal conservatism; many allow themselves to be led astray from liberty by the "compromisers," who say we just need to give a little on this and that and eventually we will make our stand for liberty; unfortunately that day of standing always seems to be left for another day.

Only a few times do you get a bill that will let you see cleanly if the person is up for defending our rights under the Constitution, a bill before the House of Representatives this week, HB 4006, is one of those lines in the sand.

Many important issues presently face legislators: the bloated budget that continues to grow with no resistance from the political establishment, the corporate welfare pork machine, the grab bag request for billions in more taxes annually that are siphoned off to buy off special interest groups with the meager promise to hardworking taxpayers that some of this money might go to the roads this time. However, HB 4006 cuts deeper than poor fiscal management; this bill is an unfettered trampling of our Constitutional rights to due process guaranteed by the 4th Amendment. This bill is the next step towards unfettered government surveillance; it allows government to use its power to locate citizens through their cell phone providers ***without a warrant and with no accountability for the cell phone provider.***

This "warrantless wireless wiretapping" is unconstitutional and Orwellian in its. Like other abasements of our Constitutional rights that have come before it, HB 4006 is sold as a necessary remedy to be used only in emergencies, but as Benjamin Franklin famously proclaimed, "those that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither."

This week, the war for liberty will turn to one of our Constitutional Protections in the Fourth Amendment being stripped away by well-meaning men and women who are doing so under the guise of "protecting us," and our God-given, constitutionally protected right to be free from warrantless searches will be gone forever!

It is unconscionable that the Republican party is putting forward this travesty – if our party is to survive and gain a truly enduring majority, we must be the defenders of civil liberties and the Constitution. The legislator is full of men and women who took an oath to defend the Constitution – why will they willingly violate this oath to pass a bill that clearly violates our founding document? I understand that we need to be able to find people who are lost, stolen, or imperiled, but we shouldn't do it without protecting of our rights against tyrannical and secretive government! Yes we need to allow the police to find people who are in an emergency, but we shouldn't gut the Constitutional Protections to do it! At least the Federal Government set up a series of sham courts to disguise its warrantless wiretapping operation! This bill isn't even doing that!

This is an incredible infringement on our Constitutional rights and it is being advanced by the Republican leadership and there seems to be no objection from the ACLU! This bill runs directly into the face of the Founder's intent of the Fourth Amendment protection against the awesome power of government being unleashed on a person without the protections of a warrant and without any disclosure to the public, the bill which will probably pass the state house, unless you let your representatives know how you feel; it has no requirement that law enforcement to get a warrant to "ping" your phone to find out where you are! Nor do they have to disclose they did it! The power of government now has been dramatically increased by the amazing technologies that are now available; we do need to be able to employ these technologies, but we shouldn't shred the Constitutional

protections as we do it! This is an awesome increase in the expansion of the power and scope of the authority of the police; I offered several amendments to the committee to give Constitutional protections and to force law enforcement to get a warrant before there is a search request made to the cell phone carrier but these amendments were rejected.

I really want to urge you to call and let your representatives know how you feel about this issue. This will become law unless you let your representatives know how you feel...

In Christ Alone...

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - it's Friday

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 27, 2015 at 8:14 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Kbj - it's Friday - I would suggest that you take some time today and run down and update and reform and prepare the docs/ss's/newly developed steps and make sure all are updated. You have my list and nb updating keeps getting missed and also I feel we are not implementing the special congrats project from the newspaper and we need to figure out a "big constituent" services process and program so we are doing a proper well thought out response to such a call or email or letter. Finally I have asked for an in district constituent plan and I have given my requests to this end as well.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Feb 27, 2015 at 11:09 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger, will make these priorities.
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 1, 2015 at 12:34 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I know end of the week went sideways so get it back on track and get back this week as well; agenda; and do the updates; and we need to know what the hell is hot on the other teams plate and what we need to do to counter it; so eye it and figure out what and if and how we change the course; I assume it's the 4006 but not sure; we need to be in motion to find the hot spots that will be hot and ehT do we need to do to push back; Ee can't figure it out Tuesday afternoon and think we can hold them off each week; Also it will help to have a daily rundown from each on what your doing; and maybe we can make those surface things work; also Ben you got the ads to work for the business but its billing into my cte account; also check and confirm we are up to speed on nb; then we need to have these newspaper things in motion each week because we get new ones each week; also review the list I gave on the google docs and ss's. Finally we should have some bills back and does Cindy's con carry do what Kansas and wv just did? If not then we need to decide if we need it in motion in lsb NOW? And then we need to have the Kansas dismemberment deal in motion with rtl pronto or we just do it and drop it in now.

And also remember I need my registration bill back and an update on the Bolger deal; and is straight ticket back and ready to roll? I can't remember.

And what is blue and back and not entered? Do I have any that are ready?

And I think I have some options on fixing 4006 so what is the best way to deal with this before we get to caucus and how do we handle it to get set tone and rhythm on the week.

Thanks

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 1, 2015 at 9:24 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Also I know we spoke on this and it should now be being implemented; we voted on stuff last week so our posts on fb and I think website as well should include our voting and reasoning where appropriate.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
—
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 9:23 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I have no problem with it being a hour; whatever Hassan gives or doesn't give it goes out in am as a email to the whole legislature and filed; drop dead is probably 1030 unless we get some indication from Hassan that waiting isn't jeopardizing the amendments ability to be heard in caucus.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re: FW: HB 4006 Amendment

4 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 7:47 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

KBJ - A big deal - I need to know what is the drop dead time and procedure on this amendment and any other changes I need....Please mother this thing and get this to Hassan and ask him to reform this into a amendment to the 4006 - it needs a little work at the end. Also once its done I need to then send it to the rest of the reps - dem and republican.

"Except as otherwise provided in this act, a law enforcement agency shall not request, access, use or disclose device location information from a wireless carrier without consent of the user unless pursuant to a valid search warrant issued under 1966 PA 189, MCL 780.651 to 780.659; **in exigent circumstances of imminent bodily harm or death judiciary will provide, within 30 minutes, an answer whether or not the requested warrant meets the probably cause standard to validate the warrant, if not then the requested warrant fails and the requested search is not allowed."**

On Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 4:53 PM, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:

Floor amendment (stronger on warrant language) that we had name removed from - either Cindy or Todd can offer this.

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Joshua Cline** <JCline@house.mi.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 12:26 PM
Subject: FW: HB 4006 Amendment
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

From: Hassan Beydoun
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2015 11:13 AM
To: Emily Jones
Cc: Joshua Cline; Todd Courser
Subject: HB 4006 Amendment

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
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Emily:

Please prepare a floor amendment to HB 4006 H-1 for Rep Courser that would insert a new Section 2 into the bill that reads:

- "Except as otherwise provided in this act, a law enforcement agency shall not request, access, use or disclose device location information from a wireless carrier without consent of the user unless pursuant to a valid search warrant issued under 1966 PA 189, MCL 780.651 to 780.659, or in exigent circumstances that preclude obtaining a search warrant so long as there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed."

If you think that there is an alternative but equally effective way of amending the bill, then you have editorial discretion to draft the amendment accordingly. Please note that the bill is scheduled to be taken up this week on the floor, so time is of the essence.

Thanks!

Hassan Beydoun

Deputy Legal Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor

Republican Caucus

Michigan House of Representatives
Office: (517) 373-0935

[redacted]

This email, including any attachments, contains information intended for the exclusive use of the person(s) to whom it has been addressed. It may contain information that is proprietary, privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any viewing, copying, disclosure or distribution of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and destroy all electronic and hard copies of the communication, including attachments.

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 8:25 PM
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We're going to send to Hassan right now. Hard to know what the drop dead time is but we will ring the alarm starting first thing tomorrow morning and pull any strings we can to try out best to get this thing ready to go by session tomorrow. Will keep you abreast of any updates or news we here as we push this thing through the wringer.
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 8:34 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

It is in Hassan's hands and I will let you know the moment he responds. I have let him know that whatever assistance he needs from our team we are eager to make things happen. When we get to the day of a possible 2nd reading it becomes tight to make sure everything happens smoothly. We are on trying to make sure that this makes it to the floor without hiccups. Good thing the the Lord has blessed us with Mr. Allard and a fellow libertarian in Hassan!!

Question: Is there a reason that the time frame for a warrant could be 60 minutes instead of 30 minutes? We do want the best outcome in a emergency situation and our civil liberties protected and is 30 minutes for a response a little quick?

Thanks,

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - i'm step issues spunky homeschool mom

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 7:03 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Check out her Facebook post where she tags me in concerning the MDE and M step and issues with the implementation of common core I'm not exactly sure what she speaking about it we probably should find out and also post back on that I would think or someplace else and tag her in

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - 4006 amendment

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 9:46 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Please proof and attach the amendment language and send out to all reps...

4006 - I am offering this amendment to address the fourth amendment and civil liberty concerns surrounding HB 4006. As many of you know this bill defines how and when law enforcement can "ping" a phone to find the location of the owner; as I see it at this moment there are three options, the first is to allow law enforcement to access such information without a warrant being required, second to allow access to such information with a warrant only, the third option is to require a warrant with some modification for imminent serious bodily harm or risk of death. I believe the third option is the best option; how the modification is crafted seems to be the issue. In this third option, like all the other options, someone has to bare the burden; we can put the weight of whether or not to allow the info either the telecoms, the person imperiled, the public, or government.

In this bill we are exempting the telecoms and I think that is appropriate and will bare no burden of whether or not to allow the information to flow to the government, the person imperiled is in no position to grant the access or permission, the public, by way of its elected officials, can give up its expectation of Constitutional protections and allow law enforcement to operate on an honor system without a warrant, or we can put the expectation on law enforcement and judiciary to develop a set of procedures that minimizes the warrant process in a most expeditious manner when exigent circumstances exist. I believe this last option is the right modification to he legislation, it will protect the public from fourth amendment violations from occurring by law enforcement and it requires and ensuring judicial oversight. It is with all of this in mind that I am putting forward this amendment, please take a minute to read and consider.

Thank You

todd

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Keith draft of HB 4006 amendment email from TC Rep 80

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 10:29 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I am offering the below amendment to address the fourth amendment and civil liberty concerns surrounding HB 4006. This bill defines how and when law enforcement can "ping" a phone to find the location of the owner; this creates constitutional concerns and I see three options moving forward: the first is to allow law enforcement to access such information without a warrant being required, the second is to allow access to such information with a warrant only, the third is to require a warrant with some modification in situations of imminent bodily harm or risk of death. I believe the third option is the best. Regardless of which option we choose, someone must bear the burden of scrutiny: we can put this weight on either the telecoms, the person imperiled, the public, or government.

Currently, this bill exempts the telecom companies from legal repercussions, which is appropriate since the burden of proof is on law enforcement and the wireless users. However, we should not expect the public, by virtue of its elected officials and public employees, to give up their expectation of Constitutional protections by allowing law enforcement to operate on an honor system without a warrant. My amendment codifies the expectation that law enforcement agencies, working in conjunction with the judiciary, are tasked with developing a set of procedures that ensure the warrant process acts in an expeditious manner when exigent circumstances exist. I believe amendment is the proper modification to the legislation to ensure constitutional protections and civil liberties of Michigan citizens, while simultaneously ensuring judicial oversight. It is with this in mind that I am putting forward this amendment; please take a minute to read and consider.

Thank You

todd

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

HB 4006 - amendment 5?

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 10:15 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

"Exception - law enforcement has evidence that is genuinely believed, by the requesting officers, to meet the probable cause standard to procure the warrant, and has articulated such facts in the requested warrant, but law enforcement believes that by waiting for approval of such warrant the person in jeopardy will be detrimentally effected then law enforcement is relieved from the warrant requirement. All information related to requested warrant and the request to the telecom company to procure said information must be delivered to the owner of the phone."

Let's get this in motion as a backup

todd

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 10:40 AM
To: jcline@house.mi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - proof for me so I can repost in fb

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:10 AM
To: team@toddcourser.com

I have the pleasure and the responsibility of sitting on the education committee for our state legislature; to me first and foremost we separated the education into data and knowledge and left behind character and godliness; not to mention we removed prayer from schools; in my opinion the quality of our educations in this state have done nothing but decline; you can look back on what our Founder's learned and knew at the age of 12 or 15 and there is absolutely no comparison to today's standards and goals; gov has to keep watering down the standards to give the impression that things are improving; in 1964 our state enacted a Constitutional Amendment to create the State Department of Education and began to take control little by little and big by big the various parts of education in this state and began to create the industrial education complex; with no real goal of improving education in this state; as it did this and removed much of the true education process and separated education from character qualities and godliness education quality decreased as did the quality of our society.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:12 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

You already posted it on Facebook?

[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:23 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I have both the pleasure and the responsibility of sitting on the education committee for our state legislature. When thinking about education, I see the foremost problem being that we separated the education into data and knowledge and left behind character and godliness, not to mention we removed prayer from schools. In my opinion, the quality of our educations in this state have done nothing but decline; you can look back on what our Founder's learned and knew at the age of 12 or 15 and there is no comparison to today's standards and goals.

Government has to keep watering down it's imposed standards to give the impression that things are improving: in 1964 our state enacted a Constitutional Amendment to create the State Department of Education and began to take control of the various parts of education in this state, eventually creating the industrial education complex with no real goal of improving education in this state. By precluding much of the true education process and separating education from character qualities and godliness education, quality decreased as did the quality of our society.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re: Declined: Rep 80/82: Meeting with Brian Mills and Hassan about 4006 @ Thu Mar 5, 2015 3:15pm - 3:45pm (Todd A. Courser)

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 9:54 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, team@toddcourser.com

This is probably a key meeting on 4006...not sure if Cindy wants to chat on it with us or not? I am glad to meet with them and would appreciate their perspective on it all; both on the down low have wanted to chat.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 5:28 PM, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> wrote:

Cindy Rep has declined this invitation.

Rep 80/82: Meeting with Brian Mills and Hassan about 4006

When	Thu Mar 5, 2015 3:15pm – 3:45pm Eastern Time
Where	*Todd's Office (map)*
Calendar	Todd A. Courser
Who	• Todd A. Courser - organizer • Joshua Cline - creator • Cindy Rep

[redacted]

Tip: You can create and attach event invitations right inside Gmail. Learn more

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email at the account courserlaw@gmail.com because you are subscribed for invitation replies on calendar Todd A. Courser.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to https://www.google.com/calendar/ and change your notification settings for this calendar.

<mime-attachment.ics>

<invite.ics>

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FW: Keller/Shattuck info

2 messages

Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 6:05 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Todd Wanted me to send this to the team☺

Thanks,

Georgeann

From: Georgeann [mailto:georgeann@toddcourser.com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 2:45 PM
To: 'Ben Graham'
Subject: Keller/Shattuck info

[redacted]

Just say NO ☺

From: Barney Keller [mailto:[redacted]com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 11:50 AM
To: lawoffice@toddcourser.com
Subject: Time to talk?

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
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Mr. Courser,

I'm a conservative political consultant and TV ad maker based in Washington, DC. I previously worked the last four years at the group Club for Growth. I hear that you might be a good candidate to replace Congresswoman Miller and I'd love to talk to you about a potential race for Congress. What's the best phone # to reach you at to discuss? Thank you!

Best,

Barney Keller

Barney Keller

Executive Vice-President

Jamestown Associates, LLC

Direct: [redacted]

Twitter: @barneykeller

avast! be free This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:20 PM
To: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't see a huge inbound but there will be some, Cindy two are listed below that I think we need to have a chat with this week, one is set for Friday but would do Thursday in Lansing if needed and the other I am not, but Keith said he knows him; I would say even if Keith know them I would like to at the very least do a call unless they are a total complete waste of time.

Keith and all I will need Cindy to take the lead on initial calls back out to these congressional connections; she will need all of your input on what any of you know about each. KBJ - also I would ask you each to make yourself available where possible to do what is needed in setting these things in motion but make damn sure we are not doing these steps on state property and time; I don't want anyone to get tagged on this.

I want to handle these a little differently; my main goal in these early steps is to procure new relationship capital from these inbound interests into my possibly running for congress; so please take the call and lets treat this like a statewide cause speaking or meeting request; with front point being Cindy, mom or whomever take the call, find out who they are and get all correct contact info and gentlemen please please please for the love of God make sure you spell their names and their phones and their emails correctly before you send the info along; Names, Phones, and Emails; it is incredibly unprofessional for me to get a text asking me to call someone and the name listed is wrong or both the name of the person is wrong and the persons phone number is wrong, so get the correct info and email it out as a team email with "Alert RCMP" in the subject; Cindy will then call them back and do an intro and decide if she wants to be in on the front end of it and if so what does the meeting look like and how does the person or organization fit; before she calls if anyone has any info on the person or group, Keith being chief in this regard then please make her aware of it before she calls them back, she will then decide if and how the meeting will happen and if she will attend or if it is in Lansing or Lapeer or Washington or Detroit or Grand Rapids another location and if anyone else will be needed in attendance. Ben these contacts and people must be put into nation builder with their emails phones and names.

Thanks

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - transparency bills and

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 11:08 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

And make it illegal for certain state agencies to enforce federal laws and regs? Maybe that would be helpful? Or already tried perhaps?

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 11:03 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I already thought that was the case but I could be mistaken... as I remember the big push by iCaucus six years back was to ALLOW state agencies to enforce federal immigration laws because they were barred by statute from enforcing federal laws. But we can research to be 100% certain.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - the blue back cart

6 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:30 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I asked josh earlier today if the blue back cart came and whether we got the Bolger deal but he hasn't responded yet so not sure if he got my text so does anyone know and if so can someone fill me in - yea or nay? And what if anything came i today?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:35 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

I totally missed his text, my apologies. No, bluebacks did not come in and I had someone call Gray's office and they did not get their's either. So it is on for Monday.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:35 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:41 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Dude I wish I could be there in the front row to see you And mike Goshka run across the Capitol lawn fighting it out for poll position! Bumping all the way to the enrolling clerk! :)

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:46 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

OMG...i am laughing soon hard right now. Everyone grab the popcorn because it is going to be a show.

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:58 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Dude wear your fast shoes! Knee and elbow pads And bring your brass nuckles and your helmet! Don't let him give you any flack about you being slow and a spicy dresser! You just cold cock him and yell he is attacking me and make a dash for it! :)

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - we need a constituent services review

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:38 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I have received some feedback saying we are not responding or I am not responding? So do we send a letter to constituents who call in and email in? And if so is it happening consistently and if so can I see the letters? And the files and be walked thru the process?

Also I was supposed to have a in district constituent plan to review this past week so not sure if you got it done and I just didn't see it due to the Candice stuff? Or not?

And I'll be doing a bit of a mental review of admin processes implemented and not yet implemented so be available for me if I have questions on this or that. And it you can be available then I'll try to not send hot scathing emails 5000 word emails. No in all seriousness just be available if I call it will be about getting into it all or *understanding what is and isn't.*

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:41 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yes I have had a few people say they have had a hard time getting a response back and getting scheduled, and we also missed a call from the speakers office, so....

We have talked a LOT about a call log but I don't think we have one yet so Starting Monday I would like to have a spreadsheet call log where each call is logged, to make it easier for lobbyists and in house calls we can use initials or some abbreviations or something to make it easier.
It should have date, time, caller, request (we can have a key code for this), initials of who took the call and action taken on the call (we can develop a key for this too
).

I am willing to consider adjustments and tweaks but we need some sort of log in the calls coming in.

Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 11:05 AM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

There are constituent services plans on the google drive. One thing I've noticed is that some constituents will say things like "I e-mailed 50 times and nobody responded" or "I've called and called but not gotten through" and it's really just hyperbole when in actuality they're being dramatic, we did respond and they didn't get the response they wanted, or they're simply calling the wrong number. Ben will implement a call log and we'll figure this out.
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 11:23 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, team@toddcourser.com, "todd@toddcourser.com"
<todd@toddcourser.com>

I know, it made me laugh too. You should have seen the email Todd sent me last night. I died laughing.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - deregulation bill?

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 2:40 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://blogs.detroitnews.com/politics/2015/03/06/end-michigans-electricity-monopoly/

Is there one entered? And if not should we? And if so do we have any good examples to run off of?

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - another pro life one

6 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:27 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2015/03/west-virginia-becomes-the-eleventh-state-to-protect-pain-capable-children-as-legislature-overrides-governor-tomblins-veto/#.VPphsz29LCR

Get it on the list and probably need to get it entered if we want it; Cindy it's your first if you so desire...

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 9:30 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Roger.

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:33 PM
: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd thank you for the share. I think I am going to have my hands full with the conception bill and this would be good for Todd to maybe pick up, if I am to the far right on the conception bill maybe this will be more palatable and Todd can get this bill passed which would be good for his profile right now considering.

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 10:09 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just a thought but I think it is important to make darn sure our first steps in these core areas are covered; what I mean is if it is if it is life, guns, entitlements, privacy, waste or taxes - and it is a hot issue then we have to move quickly to decide if it is useful and then step out in front; leave no space for these folks to go around us; so in the life area - we see the bill around the nation then lets lean to file pronto so we can freeze out the space around us where those hooligan's play.Guns same thing...
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 10:37 AM
: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger. And your phrasing made me laugh. These establishments hooligans...
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - public notice of transgender access bill

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 9:37 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2015/03/midland_lawmaker_planet_fitnes.html

A bill might be in order to deal with this; maybe it reads on the bathroom door, "it is the policy of company x to not discriminate based on sexual orientation and as such we have made it a matter of policy to allow those who have a firmly held believe regarding their sexual orientation, regardless of their physical attributes, to use whatever bathroom they feel is appropriate; as such you are likely to encounter individuals of the opposite sex in this restroom, this is a company policy and not a matter of state law."

Or something like it.

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - another bill idea...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 8, 2015 at 12:38 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://thefreethoughtproject.com/state-passes-law-legalize-self-defense-police/#SJv77EmiBEKdMEmo.01

Not sure where or how it might fit?

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re: 82 - Josh goes MMA...

7 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 9:41 AM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>

Josh make sure you ice and stretch all the important parts we don't want you pulling anything on this run; make sure all ready to run; watch the Rockies all of them right now to be ready to do it; ice then stretch Ice then stretch; do a hard bump on him in the elevator with a flying kick to e head and then coldcock him and then make your fastest dash across the capital lawn screaming he's attacking me! :)

No in all seriousness if you can get an edge on him and all the rest then stalk the cart guy and make sure it is in our hands and to the enrolling clerk first and if that means a guy up on 12 monitoring the situation or outside the cart guys office then do it. Let me know how it goes.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2015, at 11:23 AM, Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> wrote:

> *I know, it made me laugh too. You should have seen the email Todd sent me last night. I died laughing.*
>
> On Mar 7, 2015 10:37 AM, "Keith Allard" <keithjallard@gmail.com> wrote:
> Roger. And your phrasing made me laugh. These establishments hooligans...
>
> On Sat, Mar 7, 2015 at 10:09 AM, Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
> Just a thought but I think it is important to make darn sure our first steps in these core areas are covered; what I mean is if it is if it is life, guns, entitlements, privacy, waste or taxes - and it is a hot issue then we have to move quickly to decide if it is useful and then step out in front; leave no space for these folks to go around us; so in the life area - we see the bill around the nation then lets lean to file pronto so we can freeze out the space around us where those hooligan's play.Guns same thing...
>
> On Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 10:33 PM, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> wrote:
> Todd thank you for the share. I think I am going to have my hands full with the conception bill and this would be good for Todd to maybe pick up, if I am to the far right on the conception bill maybe this will be more palatable and Todd can get this bill passed which would be good for his profile right now considering.
>
> Cindy
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Mar 6, 2015, at 9:27 PM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2015/03/west-virginia-becomes-the-eleventh-state-to-protect-pain-capable-children-as-legislature-overrides-governor-tomblins-veto/#.VPphsz29LCR

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Get it on the list and probably need to get it entered if we want it; Cindy it's your first if you so desire...

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 9:46 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>

Will do. Stretching now and got my sweat band, elbow pads, knee pads, knee brace, and brass knuckles ready. FYI: the cart guys from LSB don't head over until after 10:30-11:00am, but I will be on the lookout.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 10:31 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

RUNNING TO THE CLERKS NOW!!!!!!!

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 10:33 AM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

GO JOSHUA GO!!!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 10:54 AM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Boommmm goes the dynamite. Get ready to message out boys and girls. FYI: If Gary submits his before tomorrow's session and the wording is the same the speaker can decide which bills get submitted and forwarded on to committee, but for now we are first in line!!!!!

Fireball shots all around (except for Todd. He will have to drink a Mt. Dew).

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 abortion health notification

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 10:37 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://www.lifenews.com/2013/03/04/abortion-helps-cause-90-increase-in-breast-cancers-in-33-years/

Hmmm? Had a thought when I saw this one; Not sure but a bill to highlight and force a sign off on the increase in risk of cancer might be a way to expose this part of the health cost to the mother of abortion? It would probably get some attention?

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 10:38 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

There was a bill that passed last session that required notification of women with high breast tissue density that they were at a higher risk for certain cancers, so there is recent precedent in Michigan for such a bill.
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Draft: Roads plan e-mail from Todd

2 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 10:11 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We are nine weeks away from a vote that could take billions of dollars out of the pocketbooks every Michigander. Family after family will have to work harder and longer to pay for the sham that is the May 5th vote on Proposal 1. We all agree that our roads need to be fixed, but they need to be a priority and legislators in Lansing are leveraging the terrible condition of our roads to raid our bank accounts to pad the state coffers and hang more ornaments on the special interest Christmas tree. Politician after politician dither about, refusing the necessary work and hard choices to prioritize spending to fix our crumbling roads. With a $52 billion budget that continues to grow and grow and a constitutional requirement to provide for infrastructure we must make roads a priority. I will not sit idly by and watch as the Lansing political machine uses roads to hold the taxpayers hostage and that is why I have enrolled the Bolger Roads plan of last legislative session. We should value hard-earned taxpayer money by spending it wisely and efficiently; we can fix our roads without raising taxes and the plan that Representative Gamrat and I have re-introduced will make the big step towards prioritizing current spending for infrastructure without raising taxes.

The Governor and the Lansing establishment won't like it being reintroduced, but today the buck stops here. We do not need to hold you hostage for road money and you can safely vote no on May 5th because there is a plan that won't raise your taxes, ***the Courser/Gamrat/Bolger Plan***. We don't need a new tax; we need leaders who will prioritize the taxes they take so that the core functions of government are funded efficiently and effectively!

A Roads Plan without raising taxes – We really can do better than the Governor's plan to increase the sales tax and give very little of it to the potholes that line our commutes. With all of the focus of our Governor and many "principalities" in high places on passing on this massive new tax increase; I thought it best to reintroduce what has been called, "The Bolger Plan," which in its original form didn't raise taxes and yet raised enough money to deal with the road issues we now face. I have reintroduced this plan as HB 4317 and HB 4318; a great many have warned me to not do this given that it will undermine the Governor's plan and again put me at odds with him and I simply let these folks know I don't work for the Governor and he didn't elect me. I work for the people of the state of Michigan and I was elected by the great people of my home county of Lapeer. My job is to be a fiscal hawk and to offer up solutions that will make the best use of the hard earned dollars that government takes from the mouths of our citizens. The reintroduction of the Bolger plan (we now call it Courser/Gamrat/Bolger Roads Plan) a plan to raise the money for roads by ensuring every tax dollar spent at the pump is dedicated to infrastructure, but it does not offer a reprioritization of spending within state government. I believe it is our duty to spend your tax dollars in the most useful way possible, which is why we are to offering up our own cuts to government and also promote some of our colleague's suggestions. We have been told time and time again by politicians in Lansing that there just isn't the money or the savings, but don't believe the rhetoric: there is plenty o money out there to spend on the roads. We just have to have leaders who will make the structural changes and quit wasting the funds we already have. Here is a short list, which if done then there will be plenty of road money in addition to HB 4317 and HB 4318.

1. Ensure that every tax dollar that is collected at the gas pump actually goes towards infrastructure maintenance and repair.
2. End the funding to the MEDC (HB 4194)– savings $300 million annually – This is the main vehicle for corporate pork and welfare in our state and to me it is awful to think our citizens can't have the roads, schools and emergency services they need because we are giving away the people's treasury to corporations.
3. End Prevailing Wage Gap in Michigan (SB 1) - this alone will save our state 300 million that can be

spent on the roads. I applaud Speaker Cotter and Senate Majority Leader Meekhoff for making this a priority of the GOP Action Plan, but the governor has refused to make this change and so our state pays exorbitant costs on all sorts of construction projects at well above the market rates, this is highway robbery of the treasury of the people by organized labor and it really needs to end.

4. End statutory revenue sharing- savings of over 400 million. This money should be prioritized to fixing county, township and city roads instead of blank check. Simply reforming revenue sharing to stop certain counties from benefiting at the expense of the rest of the counties would move hundreds of *millions to local roads.*

5. End the subsidies for Amtrak-saving of of 40 million. These trains should be paid for through the user fees of the people actually riding them and not balancing their books through government subsidies. Taxpayers who never use these trains and are located hours away from the nearest stop are paying for those who utilize the trains regularly, just those riders can have cheaper tickets to the tune of 40 million dollars every year.

6. End Defined Benefit Retirement for new incoming public school teachers. – this will cost a bit up front to get it right, but the savings if we pass this will be huge down the road! Right now we have billions and billions in unfunded liabilities that leaves our state exposed to financial difficulties for decades of we don't tackle the problem. We need to stop making more liabilities and give the new employees the chance to have a 401k or something similar and not put the citizens on the hook for liabilities for a pension and then continue to never set aside the money to pay for the liability.

7. Amend the state constitution to reallocate money from the DNR Trust Fund. Currently, our state uses the revenue it obtains from leasing mineral and gas rights to purchase land at a precipitous rate. The state continues to purchase more and more land every year, which then it must be maintained and patrolled at the taxpayer dime. The trust fund's spending requirements should be amended to stop future land purchases and ensure that future mineral revenues go to at least partially toward infrastructure maintenance and repair.

It is time we have leaders in Lansing make the hard choices and do their jobs and prioritize spending in the budget to pay for roads and bridges. As you can see from the Courser/Gamrat/Bolger plan we can come up with billions of dollars in the budget to pay for our roads, it just takes leadership with grit and fortitude to do the hard tasks that get us the best outcomes for the taxpayers.

Please call your representatives and hold me in your thoughts and prayers as Representative Gamrat and I stand against the machine to protect your hard-earned tax dollars, keep government out of your wallet, and fight for the liberties and freedoms you deserve from reckless perpetual spending, government overreach, and fiscal and moral tyranny.

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 10:21 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

THE FONT IS MESSED UP!!!! LAST PARAGRAPH IS BIGGER THAN THE REST! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING OVER THERE!

I CAN"T BELIEVE YOU CAN"T EVEN ADMINISTER AN EMAIL!

CHECK THE FONT! CHECK THE FONT! CHECK THE FONT! CHECK THE FONT! CHECK THE FONT! CHECK THE FONT!

LOL ;)
[Quoted text hidden]
–
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies

Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - need to speak to someone...

6 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 7:32 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok no hostility tonight, but I would like to speak to the person who is responsible for posting the votes, updating the nb, and posting the news articles on the website, in twitter, and on our fb pages? Someone is responsible for each of these tasks so who is it? Keith I do not want to hear it is you unless it is you who is supposed to be doing it. So whoever is responsible for these its not to do these tasks only occasionally or when I mention it or when you feel like catching up, no it is to do them in real time, day to day, and week to week. So who is responsible for mine and who is responsible for Cindy's? To me it is the same person on each task but maybe not? and to me you have to have a person responsible or no one is responsible.

So I guess I want to know who is the one I am supposed to look at when its not done

thanks

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 7:55 PM
To: "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We don't really have a process for deciding what to post (we do have a process/protocol for how and where we post things after a decision) and have been treating it as an art rather than a science... so we can put some brainpower to bear tomorrow on locking down a process, presenting it to you and Cindy and making sure everyone is on the same page because the actual act of posting this stuff is easy and can be done from anywhere, but the discernment of what to post and what you two want may require some finesse and clarity that we can figure out.
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 8:02 P
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

What NB are you referring to?
I update the constituent NBs constantly. Probably 80% or more of my time is spent updating the constituent NBs. I also monitor Cindy's political NB emails on a daily basis.

As far as the other stuff I would echo Keiths sentiment. I generally post articles when directed to by Keith. As far as vote explanations I haven't really been involved in those discussions since legislation isn't really my area so I couldn't really say whose responsibility that is.

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Joshua Cline Documents

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 8:54 P
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Lol guys I am quite aware we don't have a process that is being implemented or maybe better to say consistently implemented; so how about I'll give you mine and you can do it until you come up with one that works better? If the article isn't painting me in a bad light, fair is fine, but if it isn't in a bad light then it needs to be first put on a ss, then on the website, then on fb, then out on Twitter. First on a ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter.

First on a ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter. First on a ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter. First on a ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter.

My other nb files matter and I don't want to get pissy about but I have said and said and said those are many times my constituents and my supporters and they have written checks to provide support and they make the calls in where I ask and they deserve having a response back to them not every few weeks but in the same week they call. These other nb' matter; they matter. These other nb' matter; they matter. These other nb' matter; they matter. These other nb' matter; they matter.

Finally I made a commitment to my district to post my votes and my reasoning. So on the ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter. So on the ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter.So on the ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter.So on the ss then on the website then on fb then on Twitter.

So on each of these there should be a point person and these should be done and caught up at the end of each week and I shouldn't have to ask. So decide who is responsible and I don't want to hear all of us because it means none of you.

If you come up with a better process then I am glad to hear it and we can adjust but until you do maybe use these processes?

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 9:26 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thank you Todd! I'm not going to try and reinvent the wheel so can you please do the same for me as Todd laid out:-)

Thank you!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 10:10 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

My process isn't full proof I just came up ruin it and you all can probably add to it or develop it better but the key on each process is to have a plan a process then implement it with a person who is responsible to do the tasks and then a person who is to make sure it got done. You have the person in charge who decides the process then the doer of each process and then the checker who checks the process; if you lack any of three the process breaks down and it doesn't work.

So feel free to modify my process or even throw it out but make sure you have a better one to replace it and then make sure you implement it and have a plan to confirm it each week.

If you have a better one then do that but until then maybe try mine

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

I am now removing my BSPPDTOEE (Bill submission personal protection destroy the opposition equipment) and getting back to our regularly schedule programming.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

20150309_104729.jpg
2173K

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 10:58 AM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Lol, good to hear and glad you had fun with it too:-)

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

<20150309_104729.jpg>

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 12:21 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "todd@toddcourser.com" <todd@toddcourser.com>

Lol; great job! just got out of the conference room and saw this! Nice job! Now we prepare to go out with it and we wait...again nice job! :)

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Roads plan rollout

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 11:32 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I get that much of this is confusing; probably much of it is me; i apologize for the texts and the heat on it; not angry at you all just disappointed in a moment where I feel I missed the call and fell short on what was needed; I am not sure how to convey my sense of urgency and need for immediacy that will be totally consuming for me and to convey it in a way to you all so we don't miss the moments of significance. I had in my mind how this operation would go and the key was the messaging moments post filing so i am disappointed that at the end Gary got the jump on me and they went out with him being the lead on the Bolger plan re-entry; it will be what it is and it will all be fine, but i don't get to let myself off when come out late or come up short, and I only get so many critical moments and I have to make the most of them. I know none of you really like getting texts like those, i honestly don't like writing them and wouldn't like it in reverse; I would ask your forgiveness on any personal heat you felt. I haven't figured out how to first create the system and process environment to admin and marshall the mundane while at the same time bringing all force to bare on the mega mega moments; you don't deserve getting these texts so I need your help in getting down how this all happens and happens well so we get it right on the front end with less friction and how do I convey it when we have missed it so it doesn't come as a heated attack that cuts to your spirit or heart; you guys do a good job much of the time and great job many times and it has and is getting better each day and now it's not the rule that things are being dropped, but it's these areas where it gets dropped that always catch my heat; each of you has a really tender heart and I am sorry to attack you all in your heart this morning in the heat of this; I am sure in no way are you trying to drop the ball or slow walk stuff, so I am not sure how to handle things when I have a huge unstoppable burden that creates a sense of urgency and immediacy that mostly I am convinced comes from the Holy Spirit and that creates in me a huge flashing bright light that is a requirement that I am to be ready to roll out on it hard. So I don't have an answer on how to do it better, but I know you all get how important these steps are and that you share the urgency I have, but it is critical that we convert that understanding to action that completes the moment and understand what is the end of the moment. I want you all to know I appreciate you all and love you, Keith you won't get this because we don't have the years behind us so I'll get that you probably don't have enough past with me to sense when something rises to mission critical for me and that it is absolutely a priority; Ben and Josh in the past we had a easier time of rolling thru these types of moments because I could just come up the stairs and get on the same page to make it a priority but now that isn't the case, I am here but not able to give my mind or time and when I am not here I am not. Again I don't have a solution and I don't know how to better convey things so you can prioritize my sense of burden and urgency into your daily tasks and I am glad to have your thoughts on it if you have something that would help from your end or mine to keep things from going sideways or to get them back on track once they have gone sideways.

In Christ Alone

todd

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 liquor control fb post

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 12:56 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I posted this so if you can do a run over it and make sure it's not off and just quick buff then I can repost it. Thanks!

I am honestly asking this, and any thoughts on this would be appreciated, but we have a government that is in the liquor business, is this really the proper role for government? I know the harm that alcohol abuse can have, but I see no evidence that this is the proper role of government and I fear the loss of freedom from meddling government far far more than I fear a free market for liquor and most any other product. Soooo in my role today I am listening to The Liquor Control Commission Make it's case as to why the state is in the liquor business, why all "spirits" have to be first sold from the producer to the state and then the state marks up the price a bunch and then collects a bunch of fees and then the state levels a bunch of additional taxes and finally then it "sells" the liquor to the retailers who then sells it to the public? I can see why the idea of liquor control came into being in the post prohibition era, but do we really need to have state government in the liquor business or other businesses competing against the private sector? I mean I don't drink and never have, but I see t as a liberty issue and I, as a "Liberty defender" defend others right to self determination; I have personally seen the harm that alcohol abuse can bring, but there is a huge harm in giving government a monopoly as a huge affront to the free markets; we still have alcohol abuse with the liquor control commission scraping away at the back of the free market; not sure who is served by government intruding into the marketplace here or most anywhere? Any thoughts would be appreciated...

Sent from my iPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 1:00 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Buffed up a little:

I am honestly asking this, and any thoughts on this would be appreciated, but we have a government that is in the liquor business, is this really the proper role for government? I know the harm that alcohol abuse can have, but I see no evidence that this is the proper role of government and I fear the loss of freedom from meddling government far more than I fear a free market for liquor and most any other product. Soooo in my role today I am listening to the state[s Liquor Control Commission make its case as to why the state is in the liquor business, why all "spirits" have to be first sold from the producer to the state and then the state marks up the price a bunch and then collects a bunch of fees and then the state levels a bunch of additional taxes and finally then it "sells" the liquor to the retailers who then sells it to the public? I can see why the idea of liquor control came into being in the post-Prohibition era, but do we really need to have state government in the liquor business or other businesses competing against the private sector? I don't drink and I never have, but I see this as a liberty issue and I feel obligated to defend others' rights to self-determination; I have personally seen the harm that alcohol abuse can bring, but there is a bigger harm in giving government a monopoly that serves as an affront to free markets; we still have alcohol abuse with the liquor control commission scraping away at the back of the free market; not sure who is served by government intruding into the marketplace here or most anywhere? Any thoughts would be appreciated...

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 1:15 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Awesome! You totally crush my post and beef up the argument - Love it!

Cindy

On Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 12:56 PM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 end gov involve in marriage...

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 4:05 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://reason.com/blog/2015/03/11/oklahoma-bill-would-legalize-gay-marriag

Let's put this on the list. Thanks

Sent from my IPhone

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 4:06 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

This is shockingly eerie: Josh just turned to me seconds ago and said put that on the legislative tracker and showed me the article. Josh and Todd's brains are melding.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - 20%...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 2:35 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Nope Keith I luv ya, but this would be a new adventure for us; so Ill just tell you when I have a sense on things and you can roll it around and we can go from there; and I am not at all saying that such an adventure would be a prudent use of my and our kinetic energy, but I have a sense whatever this might be would be different than any of us can see now from out past experiences; I just can see it that it's a different prism and that God has on occasion given me quite a bottle of lightening that He unleashes in such situations, it's what they say is that "x" factor they or they call me a "momentum candidate," it's not any of that it is simply the moving of the Holy Spirit and nothing at all that I do or could do; so yea I think I can safely tell you or at-least be pretty sure that from what I have done in my head I can get to and hold on to 20% of the number without much money; it's just to me not that big a number; 20% of 65 is 13k, and josh's nose thinks 20 wins it? So just give me some grace on this tonight if you think I am whacked :) I can't remember what we got in the senate thing we did? And maybe that has no bearing? yea it would be a "b" of a mind bend to do it and then again to keep it, but I think I can do it without much cash, because of the five elements we do have; yea some cash required but not massive amounts; it's mostly my mind and a few other minds and the five parts on that part; time and space and messaging and infrastructure and the "momentum" issue; so just saying from where we sit I think We can convert all five into solid political cash not at all saying it makes sense to use any kinetic energy in this way and not saying it means anything in a decision discussion and I don't know what the blabber of polling has it at but We do have five elements in abundance that can be converted political capital that would make a floor number and I think it would hold against the names or groups most likely thought to be in play on this.

Just for edification on this for now...

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 Congress stuff

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 3:16 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Cash requirements for such and operation and how would I get there? And who would be involved in it? And what would be their involvement? And now the rest of my late night questions? I need some answers; maybe off site tomorrow in afternoon?

1. I need to know the filing requirements - when and how and how much? I need a binder...

2. Is there a signature requirement? If so how many? Who? And when? If you can gather now then I need the sheets to gather.

3. I need to know what makes sense and is legal or not in advertising in social media to either directly run for congress or to build in district likes and identifications?

4. As rep how am I legally bound and restricted or not? yes or no? SOs issues? As a non candidate for congress bound or restricted? If so how? Or as a candidate? If so how?

5. Do we need a new nb? If yes or no? And what to make of this?

6. Do we need to showcase certain areas of bills to be putting forward? If so what and how and when?

7. What are the steps to deal with the outside groups issues? Club for growth? And who are the others?

8. What to do with the people wanting time with me? Who are these folks and what is their game or angle? What can be gained or lost in meeting with them? Who are the most important to meet with?

9. Opposition research? Who is who? And who aligns with whom?

10. What does a calendar look like in this operation? It would be now 17 months away?

11. What does fundraising look like in such an operation? Would I need someone? Who does this work? Who would do it in this case? Do I need to have some conversations with these folks? If so whom?

12. Biggest players in congressional business? Who does it? What do they charge? And do I need to have some conversations with these folks? If so whom?

13. Ben where are we on the 10th data steps? When will we be live?

14. What to do to deal with current website? And fb? And new stuff?

15. Polling infrastructure steps? What makes sense and how? And do we poll? And do we push now?

16. Do we do identification work via polling or fb? Now or not yet? Or when?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 10:09 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Cash requirements for such and operation and how would I get there? And who would be involved in it? And what would be their involvement? And now the rest of my late night questions? I need some answers; maybe off sitetomorrow in afternoon?

1. I need to know the filing requirements - when and how and how much?
-25 years of age, U.S. citizen for 7 years, and a resident of the state of Michigan on the day you are elected. There is *no filing fee*.

2. Is there a signature requirement? If so how many? Who? And when? If you can gather now then I need the sheets to gather.
-You must turn in 1000 valid signatures. You may collect up to 2000. YOU SHOULD COUNT ON GETTING NEARLY 2000. It takes longer than one would think. You can not begin collecting them until 180 days prior to the day they are turned in. Last year, the date was April 22nd; this was three weeks prior to what it had been in 2012. This created all sorts of problems, as the 2014 winter ran long and really infringed on the time to collect signatures. You need to have separate qualifying petitions for each county (i.e. someone who lives in Macomb could not sign a signature petition that says "Lapeer" at the top). This means that if you were collecting petition signatures at say, a 10th Congressional District Committee meeting, you should bring qualifying petitions printed with every county in the district.

5. Do we need a new nb? If yes or no? And what to make of this?
You do not need a new Nation Builder. You are allowed to use the contacts you have previously formed for future offices.

6. Do we need to showcase certain areas of bills to be putting forward? If so what and how and when?
Yes; I think opposition groups

7. What are the steps to deal with the outside groups issues? Club for growth? And who are the others?
I've already had discussions with my friends at the Club. If they support you, it will come out of nowhere. They keep their cards exceedingly close to the chest and do not respond well to browbeating or auditioning. AFP could be a factor in the state depending on what their mission is going forward in a Hagerstrom-less cycle. Matty Maroun could be an extremely valuable ally.

8. What to do with the people wanting time with me? Who are these folks and what is their game or angle? What can be gained or lost in meeting with them? Who are the most important to meet with?
They want money. Plain and simple. They really don't care about conservative issues or the movement; they just want to do client development.

9. Opposition research? Who is who? And who aligns with whom?
Right now, opposition research on policy issues. This helps us with outreach to outside groups and donors. For example, Brandenburg voted to ban fracking in municipalities over 70,000 residents. This helps us reach out to the energy industry types. LaFontaine voted for Medicaid expansion and the Detr bailout - that type of crap is anathema to the Club for Growth and free market groups.

10. What does a calendar look like in this operation? It would be now 17 months away?
Fundraising and identification polling *on issues* for the rest of 2015. Very little marketing until then.

11. What does fundraising look like in such an operation? Would I need someone? Who does this work? Who would do it in this case? Do I need to have some conversations with these folks? If so whom?
It's an uphill slog. Plan on devoting two full days a week to it from now until next June. Then there's als donor maintenance: for every big donor, you're also gaining an unwelcome advisor, critic, and member of the inner circle. They want to know what's going on with the campaign, and they want to hear it from either the candidate or someone very close to them. A little pampering and attention goes a long way. We will have to do some national prospecting pieces on direct mail to liberty/Ron Paul/Ted Cruz types. Some may not break even. Hopefully most will.

12. Biggest players in congressional business? Who does it? What do they charge? And do I need to have some conversations with these folks? If so whom?
There's tons. Imagine the various sects of Michigan consultants (Sandler, Yob, Mitchell, Josh/Ben etc etc..) and increase it exponentially. There are a ton of parasites surrounding congressional politics, and

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all are more expensive than the benefits they provide. There are also media buyers, lawyers, compliance experts, campaign finance, fundraisers etc all looking for their own graft. Run it lean and mean; these guys mostly just pimp conventional wisdom and charge way too much for it. You know what you need to do to win - use the best data, raise enough money to market, and push the right message. TV is one crucial factor as well but even this game has changed - the whole game is in cable and the consultants will all insist on broadcast because a.) it's more expensive, and b.) they're all paid by a percentage of the buy. Their advice is slanted (as is the fundraisers) because they work on commission.

13. Ben where are we on the 10th data steps? When will we be live?
Working swiftly and intentionally. Hopefully all good to go by middle of next week.

14. What to do to deal with current website? And fb? And new stuff?
I'd advise completely locking down the wall on your personal Facebook, disabling people's ability to tag you in posts pictures or comments, and establishing a robust process for determining what is posted to your political social media accounts. Except in exceptionally rare circumstances, nothing should be posted to your social media or external sites without a 24-hour buffer between conception and posting.

15. Polling infrastructure steps? What makes sense and how? And do we poll? And do we push now?
Name ID polling and push polling would be of little use now. Issue polling is of paramount importance.

16. Do we do identification work via polling or fb? Now or not yet? Or when?
Issue polling on what issues strongly motivate people emotionally should be polled on starting now. I'm not concerned about ballot tests or name ID polling; those will change dramatically once a campaign actually starts in the 2nd quarter of 2016. It's better to peak late.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - messaging protocols?

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 1:24 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I can't remember what the process is its been almost 48 hours since we had our very Layed back relaxed and friendly last conversation on this subject? Is it always or never or just occasionally or when you feel like it or only if you want to or just when I remember for you and remind you????

Beeeeeecause maybe we should just amend the process so we only do the messaging protocols if you all remember and decide you are supposed to do it? That will make it a hell of a lot less work for me and I can just stop worrying about it and just assume it only really matters to me that we do it the same every time.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 1:52 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

In regards to the roads email from yesterday. It's probably my fault that didn't get fully message protocoled. I wasn't part of the drafting or sending of the email so it didn't occur to me that it needed to be posted as well. Probably would be best if I showed everyone else how to post as well so we have multiple people who can do it. Done and taken care of now.

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 1:54 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Aaaaaand the votes as well; i am thinking you guys must have adjusted they process to post votes at the end of every month or every year or maybe even cycle?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 1:56 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

The votes are in there - they're just set to the date/time you made them on. So for example, I'd set yesterday's votes to post at 3/11/2015 at 2:00pm so navigate there and you should see them.
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Twitter Log In

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 2:09 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

In order to make our messaging process a bit more efficient I'm linking the Facebook page's with Twitter so whatever we post on Facebook will also be automatically posted to twitter.

I have this done for Todd but I don't have Cindy's Twitter log in to set that one up.

Cindy could you send over your Twitter password for me?

Thanks!

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: 3/13/2015 Daily Schedule

5 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 5:01 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

6:30am-6:45am Live radio Interview with Michael Patrick Shields

Location: Phone; Call [redacted] just before 6:30
They go live at 6:33

7:30am-8:00am Live Radio Interview with Stan Grabitz

Location; Call the studio line [redacted]. He should place the call at 7:35am. Allow the phone to ring as in some cases I am not able to answer immediately and there is no audible ring on that line so I have note that the light is flashing.

8:00am-8:30am Radio Interview with Frank Beckman of WJR

Location: Phone; [redacted]

Back-up line: Producer Terri Leib Cell: [redacted]

10:00-11:00 Reading to School Children at Chatfield Elementary

Location: Chatfield School

1:00-2:30 Interview with Nancy Derringer of Bridge Magazine

Location: Todd Courser Law Office

First in a series of interviews for a full profile piece

for the Magazine

3:00-5:00 Meeting with Brad Shattuck of a National Conservative Org.

Location:Todd Courser Law Office

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies [redacted]
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

This stuff isn't on my goog[redacted]ed to be or am I mistaken?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 6:14 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

It all is on the Google Calander. Just another layer of notification.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

[redacted]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 6:20 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Nope

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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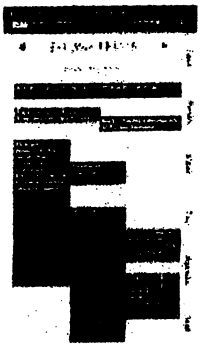
Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 6:24 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Here is the screen shot of your calander for tomorrow. Not sure why can't see it.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]



Screenshot_2015-03-12-18-20-25.png
325K

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

MIRS and my house video?

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 6:15 PM

82 - ok so what is the protocol on getting an article put thru the messaging protocols? Do I tell you or does someone else say it or do you just decide no or yes when you have time and feel like it? And isn't there a video from the house video people that I did or was that just for archiving and we are not posting it on YouTube and not making it available? What is the lead time on reposting articles and also such things as videos I have done?

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - a couple of changes...PDD

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:28 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Each day by the end of the day I need a email from each of you to know what you have done so I can get a feel on what is happening and not happening; if it's constituents or research or lobbyists or media or messaging or whatever but need to know what is and is happening each day; and if meetings are being held then I need to know with whom and for what and a bit of summary of each and if it's a research project then it should be noted and we should have an ongoing summary in our google drive as that research is done; if it's a "campaign" for a particular piece of legislation we are working then it should be noted; if it's a required meeting then I need to know; and so on;

Finally Ben I need to have a call log in place and I don't want to hear nation builder again - I want a call log with constituents noted and a letter on my desk to sign on Tuesday mornings, so for last week we had constituents call and supporters and they need letters back and these will be signed by me on Tuesday am's.

And I'll be looking for an email from each of you at the end of the day tomorrow and each day thereafter so I can be in the loop on what is and is not happening around there.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 9:49 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Also I will want between 5 and 10
Letters each week from the newspaper probably mostly congratulatory in nature and more limited on this front is fine but it should be from both the county press and the Tri city times. These should be in hand on Tuesday am as well. It will vary depending on the number of things to congratulate but pick the 5 to 10 and do the letters; not all.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - outgoing process of communications

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 12:33 PM

We are now in our 3 month...so some things are still not being consistently executed and implemented. That needs to change...this part should be in our constituent contact plan? Is it? And if so is it being implemented and executed? And if so how many have received letters back out signed by me? Very very very few...

I have asked that a letter of response be done for each constituent and supporter that calls in to our office; I still want it done and from what I can tell it's not being done or isn't being done in any method I can comprehend. Or is it? If it is then I just need to be brought up to speed on it.

In my mind such a process would mean or look like - That would mean a person calls in or letters in or emails in; there info would be logged in a call log; then in nb (right now it is said this goes into nb but from what to can tell not much of the day to day goes in where outgoing letters are concerned so I have to assume we are not doing letters back out to constituents or if we are we are not doing them consistently; so what do I need to do to make damn sure this is being implemented by staff? I should be signing letters each week for a stack of people who are calling in who are constituents and supporters; sooooo how do I know that this is being carried out? Well I would know because I would get a stack of letters thanking them for their call To me and for their concern on issue x and that I will be keeping a watchful eye on such legislation as it makes its way to the house for a vote.

So if you have a process in place then show me and if you have a point person who is actually responsible then tell me who it is and if that person is doing these tasks then I would like to see it and if we have a call log of inbound communications and outbound communications then I would like to see it and if we have a list of constituents and supporters who have called in and are getting letters then I would like to sign them and then I would like a note in whatever process or database to say what was sent and when.

So until you get a process down then I would suggest you use mine and each week get me a list of consistent and supporters who have called on and with that list a stack of outgoing letters to them.

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: 3/17/2015 Daily Schedule

3 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 1:34 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Representative Todd Courser

-

9:00-10:30 Criminal Justice Committee

11:00-11:45 Legislation Overview with Keith

11:45-1:00 Lunch

1:00pm-1:30 House GOP Caucus

1:30-3:00 House Session

3:00-4:30 Mackinaw Center and Rep. Gary Glenn Meeting

Location: 428 of the Capitol Building

Criminal Justice: Tuesday's @ 9:00am, Room HOB 327

Chair: Heise

GOP Policy: Hassan Beydoun, 373-0935, [redacted]

-

Agenda:

Voter on HB 4015 (Kelly) Allow event re-sale of tickets at higher or lower costs.

HB 4187 Crimes; Malicious destruction; vandalizing, desecrating, or intentionally destroying certain public property on a highway, freeway, interstate road; prohibit and provide penalties.

Bills:

Vote YES HB 4015 (Kelly) Allow event re-sale of tickets at higher or lower costs.

Testimony:

See Above

—
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

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Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:21 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I am not intending to meet with gary on anything so please cancel that one for me. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:24 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

s an FYI it you want to meet with the Mackinaw Center....it just happens to be that Gary is rounding up people to attend. You are not required to attend, but only if you wanted to. Based on the above email I will assume that you will not be going..lol.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Re: Tentative House Session Agenda for this week.

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 4:02 PM

Someone needs to read thru these and see if there are any liberty objections and if so we need a plan to attack them now; we can't wait till session each time and miss use our caucus moment to stop or thwart such efforts.

I get that we will know how we will vote but we also need to get in the groove to stop some or three items.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 16, 2015, at 3:24 PM, Joelle Demand <jdemand@house.mi.gov> wrote:
>
> Dear Republican Caucus Members,
>
> Good afternoon! I have attached the tentative agenda for this week. I send this to you in order to assist you in preparation for discussions in caucus tomorrow; the House Republican Policy Office analyses for the bills can be found on the session site, for your convenience.
>
> As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers below.
>
>
> Sincerely,
> Joelle
>
>
> Joelle Demand
> Office of Majority Floor Leader Aric Nesbitt
>
> [redacted]
> <LatestAgendaAmendments 3.16.15 for caucus.docx>

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

No votes for this week Rep 80/82

3 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 8:42 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I hear what you guys are saying on being prepared for caucus and the way they bring these bills up to minimize the tumult for the establishment side so we will move forward to prepare.

However, I don't know if the liberty bills this week really are egregious in the way the Heise bill was. Here are the no votes below; they lack the emotional/constitutional pull to really psyche up the grassroots over. Perhaps you may feel differently, but that's what I thought.

If I may venture a suggestion..the messaging moment this week could be about Cindy's drone regulation bill. If the drone hunting bill comes up, we could drop that and talk about how we need to put some real regulations forward on drones, not some piecemeal approach. Runestead has also made rumblings about doing drone legislation so we could cut him off at the pass if we move forward. Just my two cents..

The "No" votes for this week are summarized below:

SB 42	No	I voted NO on SB 42. This bill makes several varying changes to the Michigan Vehicle Code. Though I agree with some of these changes, most notably the change to Graduated Drivers License which does not hold new drivers at fault on their probation for accidents they did not cause, I have concerns about some of the new information sharing that is mandated by the law as it pertains to due process rights, and I am concerned about the potential infringement of 1st Amendment rights that could result from the language allowing bureaucrats to determine whether or not a vanity license plate carries an "offensive connotation."
HB 4038	No	I voted NO on HB 4038. This bill would allow eviction notices to be delivered via 'electronic transmission' if the lease allows for such communication and the transmission has been postively affirmed by the tenant in prior agreement. Though I support efforts to make business transactions more relevant to the 21st century economy, including allowing levity in using new electronic methods, this bill is too broad as written. 'Electronic transmission' is poorly defined and could theoretically encompass tweets, snapchats, or Facebook messages.
SB 12	No	I voted NO on SB 12. This bill allows individuals who retired from the Michigan civil service to continue receiving retirement benefits if they work as contractors in the Attorney General's office (i.e. 'double dipping'). This bill violates the spirit of the civil service pension reforms that prohibit civil servants from simultaneous receiving a state paycheck and a state retirement check. This bill places no limitations on the retiree for the amount of time they can "double dip" or the total amount of benefits they can simultaneously receive. I believe the office of the Attorney General should pursue other options before this bill is given consideration.

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 8:43 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

And to reiterate, I'm not saying we should ignore a caucus PDD or amendments or anything - I think you're dead on and we should be prepared. Just saying I'm not sure if this weeks no votes are the best illustrators.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Caucus Agenda Process Steps - PDD

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 8:28 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok so caucus agenda comes on Monday afternoon - the absolutely most critical thing is to identify immediately the bills up for second readings that have liberty issues and to immediately request an immediate amendment to the bill; a quick fb post out to let the team know to ask their reps where they stand, then an email to the legislators on the issues. The seconds being read on Tuesday are theee most critical and then of course all the rest of the seconds and the thirds. Keith in your update going forward it should have the problem bills and the amendment request you or josh have made and the clarification on the fb post for that night (which should be short).

Ben / Josh it's 830 and I don't have a daily email update? I want one each day; it's not optional.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: Cline Daily Report for 3/16/15

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 9:31 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Forward Cindy's Phones

Intake of mail at Cindy's office

Checked VM messages for both office and Ben logged into Serving Lapeer NB

Went through all legislation for committees for both Todd and Cindy

Printed all GOP Policy analysis, House Fiscal analysis, and bills for both committees.

Prepare committee binders for both Todd and Cindy

Prepared daily schedule brief, emailed and printed copy left on Cindy's desk. Printed copy with Todd's committee binder on the counter in Todd's office.

Attended GOP All-Staff meeting where they went over the bills for the week, the role of the MEDC and MHSDA.

Discussed with Keith on the legislation for both of Todd and Cindy committee

Discussed with Keith the floor votes and posted the Yes/No on the floor vote explanations

Added CON research to the Certificate of Need Whitepaper Google Doc

Added CON research to the Certificate of Need Research links

Added eliminate abortion by webcam to Legislative Priorities Google Doc

Reviewed MIOpenCarry white paper on an upcoming bill from the Senate that would allow concealed carry in schools, but not open carry. They are opposed to such a bill. Printed copy available tomorrow at the office.

Brought down children's coloring books from Cindy's office to Todd so they can be prepped for the couple hundred students from Cindy's district that are coming tomorrow.

Cleared out all email boxes and emails that needed responding to were entered into NB.

Attended a local DHC, SOS, and DOC workers meeting that they invited Sen. Green's office and Rep. Courser's office to attend the meting where they were discussing the new software program for the case worker and payment side of DHS. As it turns out we may have our very own Helathcare.gov here in Michigan. Under rules of Obamacare and Medicare expansion case worker certain information would be shared between the states through this software program. In addition, this program was supposed to streamline the case files to make the job easier for DHS case workers. Instead the system is full of bugs and it now takes case workers 8-12 hours to do their task that used to take 1-2 hours. There are reports of whole case files disappearing while working on an open file. In January the Detroit Free Press ran a story on the software program. You can learn more about this 71 million dollar software program here:

detroit free press:
Computer problems plaguing child welfare system
The SACWIS system, which started six months late and has cost $13 million more than budgeted, is a key tool in getting the Department of Human Services out from federal oversight. The system tracks more data, but workers

say it also takes more time, time they spend protecting kids from abuse.

http://on.freep.com/1BOklvs

–
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - email

6 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 4:06 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

It's going on 5 so I need a email round up from each of you before you leave so I can get an idea of what was accomplished today and where the focus was.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 4:10 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

My day does not end 5 today and I will a report after I attend the meeting in Lapeer tonight on your behalf.

Thanks bossman,

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 7:23 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't think you understand you're not doing it on my behalf your doing it as your responsibility for your job understanding no way was I made aware of the DHS meeting nor did I approve it and said specifically said that I would not be doing appointments of any kind on Monday so it's not a favor to me it's a part of your responsibility; if you don't see it as part of your responsibility then I don't know what to tell you that

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 9:45 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd,

If there is any confusion here I would like to offer my apologies. First off it was assumed that you would not be able to attend, but we wanted to check with G'Ann today to make sure it wasn't a possibility before I left to head to the meeting. You can see that from the communication with the group that invited you at the bottom of the

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 9:08 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Aaaaah ok I don't know the bills or the issues so I am in kill mode tonight wanting to head hunt. Ok I will take you word for it and we can chat tomorrow on them. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline Documents
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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - I think I have one bill left?

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 9:27 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2015/03/north-dakota-house-passes-measure-to-reject-federal-acts-61-30/ [redacted]

Cindy may already have a bill or planning a bill that does this if so then no problem; and maybe I am conflating nullification and not using state resources to assist in enforcing Federal statutes so I need some clarification but I want to stop our state from using resources to enforce fed statutes.

There are a few out there but I think the spirit is nullification or to stop allowing state resources to enforce federal statutes.

Ooooor I do a warrant bill but I think stopping fed overreach by stopping our resources to assist them is a better step for my next bill.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: Cline 3/17 Daily Report

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Called [redacted] to get further information on the March 30th prison tours in Muskegon for March 30th

Called Colbeck's schedule to get the information about the prison tour in Muskegon.

Went through all legislation for committees for both Todd and Cindy for Wednesday committees.

Printed all GOP Policy analysis, House Fiscal analysis, and bills for all of the Wednesday committees.

Prepared committee binders for both Todd and Cindy.

Read the bills for tomorrow's committees.

Prepared daily schedule brief. Emailed for proofing with Keith. Emailed and printed copy left on Cindy's desk. Printed copy with Todd's committee binder on the counter in Todd's office.

Attended Meeting with Mackinaw Center where discussion related to education reforms regarding 3rd grade reading and a comparison study between Michigan and Florida students after Florida implemented the 3rd Grade reading program. MPSERS teacher pension plan and its total liabilities stands at 24 billion plus 8% per year, so the actual liabilities stands a 60 billion plus. Their lawyer talked about ligation related to Right to Work laws and teachers.

Discussed with Keith on the legislation for both of Todd and Cindy committee

Discussed with Keith a refinement of the schedule briefing process to prevent errors or possible missed meetings.

Added CON research to the Certificate of Need Whitepaper Google Doc

Added CON research to the Certificate of Need Research links Google Doc

Added CON research to the Certificate of Need Notes Google Doc

Added CON research to the Healthcare/CON Campaign Outline Google Doc

Added 10th Amendment/Nullification bill to the Legislative Priorities tracker

Cleared and responded to NB follow ups.

Cleared out all email boxes and emails that needed responding to were entered into NB.

Worked with [redacted] on showing him how to access and maneuver around the Session sight to get access to the floor, bills and committee information.

Worked with [redacted] on calling the right schools for March is reading month from Cindy's district.

Reviewed memo from the Governor's office on occupational licensing reforms and guidelines on when an occupational license should be eliminated.

Called [redacted] to get a meeting set up with him and finally got a meeting set for April 20th.

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Daily Report 3/13/15

3 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 8:22 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

3/16/2015

- Folded and sent Happy notes from last week
- Voicemail messages for Todd
- Cindy Constit call from [redacted]
- Emailed Allegan DHS for [redacted]
- Calendared Graves reception
- Called around to get coloring books for tours tomorrow
- Called to check on getting Lapeer Yr's recongnized on the floor
- Received coloring books from rep. Calton's office
- Ordered more coloring books
- Call from [redacted] from GCSI on scheduling U of M meeting
- Emailed Keith on U of M Meeting
- Spoke ot Keith on Phone on U of M meeting

Conference call with Keith

Scheduled time for "Healthcare Campaign Meeting"

Created form letter for office contact response

Serving Lapeer Email responses

ServingAllegan Email Responses

Stickers on coloring books for Cindy's school groups tomorrow.

–
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 9:01 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thank you; not sure about the idea of recognition from the floor but I am sure you can tell me what that is about.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, [redacted]
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Whenever school groups come to Lansing to watch session it is custom for you to recognize them from the floor. Cindy did this last week with her school groups.
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fwd: Intro: DYCE Communications

2 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 4:25 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

This guy called the law office and they forwarded him to me.

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: "Alfredo Rodriguez" <[redacted]com>
Date: Mar 10, 2015 3:01 PM
Subject: Intro: DYCE Communications
To: <toddcourser@toddcourser.com>
Cc: <bengraham.mi@gmail.com>

Rep. Courser / Ben:

Hope this email finds you both well. Ben, I appreciate talking with you briefly this afternoon. Thanks for your time and the contact info.

Allow me to offer a quick introduction. . . I run a political media consulting firm - DYCE COMMUNICATIONS. We produce and place television, radio, and digital advertising for Republican candidates and independent expenditure campaigns. DYCE is a national firm. I've written and produced more than 250 television and radio ads, and have 15 years of experience in campaign politics.

I was excited to see a conservative with your deep roots and experience mentioned as a potential candidate. Congress needs more conservative voices and leadership. I'd like to schedule a time for us to talk and visit. I'd be happy to visit with you in Lapeer or Lansing.

Here are some links for more background on me and my firm:

DYCE Television Reel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zk-SZ7ldtY

DYCE Website: http://dycecommunications.com

I look forward to talking with you soon. thanks

[redacted]

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Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 2:28 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Thanks; are there any more who have called or reached out in regards to the congressional thing or no?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

email. It was not an appointment, but an invitation to a bi-monthly meeting of local DHS, DOC, and SOS workers.

I think there is some mis-communication on semantics here. When events come up it is my responsibility to cover them unless absolutely not feasible, but whatever I do, whatever I attend, whatever I say is on your behalf. It is on the behalf of the direction of Todd Courser and your plan for the 82nd district. I assume that we would be on the same page there and that you would have already been aware that I viewed that as the case. I had no ounce of snarkiness or disrespect at all in my response, but maybe it did not some across that way. My apologies if you took it as such and again I was already planning on attending, but if you were able to make it for any reason that would have been preferred since people want to hear from you and not a staffer.

Ben's response to the meeting invite (this was also in the Google Calender description of the event).

Roy Holman emailed on this. I said I have tentatively placed this on Todd's calendar but as you can imagine his schedule is always changing so if he is unable to attend for some unforeseen reason his legislative director Josh Cline will attend.

Representative Courser,

We would like to invite you to our 3/16/15, UAW Local 6000 District Meeting in Lapeer, Michigan.

The Department of Human Services caseworkers we represent would like to discuss with you the software programs at DHS.

Tedd's Sports Bar 770 West Lapeer Street. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm on the 16th.

The members in your district we represent want to find solutions and improve the DHS software. They requested that I contact you and set this important meeting up.

Ray Holman
UAW Local 6000
Legislative Liaison
[redacted]
[redacted]mailto:[redacted]
[redacted]<mailto[redacted]
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 11:21 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I didn't know the details and I am not hostile tonight at you or any of you so rest easy all of you; the emails tonight have zero heat on them; in this case my comment is off of your comment and I am probably reading too much into it; but try to remember or remember you aren't doing me favors it's your job or your profession. So if you weren't saying that then i apologize; it's not a favor to do this for me it's your job or your profession.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 3:12 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Having trouble sleeping so I figured I would just say we are 9n the same exact page on this one. See u in the morning!

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Weekly committee and legislative overview 3/16/2015 Rep 80/82

5 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 1:09 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Every week henceforth, I'm going to send a summary of the votes T/C have in their committees, as well as an overview of notable votes in other House and Senate committees. This way, we can birddog legislation that may threaten liberty coming in other committees in order to more easily offer amendments or prepare in a timely basis.

Cindy

1. **SB 18, SB 19** *(Appropriations, 3/18/15)* - These are the property and property tax conveyance bills we discussed last week dealing with the unintentional consequences of some property in Calhoun County that had been seized by the federal government under the now-expired Swamp Act. The private property owners have been paying property taxes though the deed for the property still remains technically in the hands of the state. These two bills correct this longstanding oversight. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: Yes.**
2. There is a **LARA Appropriations committee caucus** on Tuesday, 3/17/15 at 4pm immediately following the meeting of the LARA appropriations subcommittee.

Todd

1. **HB 4015** *(Criminal Justice, 3/17/15)* - This is Tim Kelly's ticket scalping bill. I think we are in agreement that it is a proper move towards free market principles. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: Yes**
2. **HB 4187** *(Criminal Justice, 3/17/15)* - This is a Dem-sponsored bill that crim[redacted] for vandalizing, removing, or defacing a [redacted] or other [redacted] local government for the purpose of regulating vehicle traffic. **THIS IS JUST TESTIMONY, NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN.** Possible questions: *Why do you feel a new law is needed for this specific offense? Are these offenses currently covered by other parts of the criminal code? What do you see as the advantages of adding a new section of criminal code pertaining specifically to these offenses?*
3. **HB 4017** *(Agriculture 3/18/15)* - This bill removes criminal liability for restaurants or similar entities that donate excess food to a food bank or food pantry should the food spoil or otherwise contaminate. There was already a law passed over twenty years ago removing civil liability; by also removing criminal liability, it encourages more donations to food banks and also moves the system in a more free market oriented direction. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: Yes.**

Notable votes in other committees

- No other votes scheduled in House committees.
- Some of the Appropriations sub-committees will continue to hear testimony on FY 15-16 budget bills. Though votes in some committees may be possible (General Government, School Aid, and Community Colleges), it is extremely improbable that any will occur. Even if a vote is taken, they will only report to the Appropriations Committee in full where amendments are still possible before reporting to the full House floor.

Senate Committee Activity

1. **SB 206** *(Senate Natural Resources 3/18/15)* - This bill would make changes to the land conveyance and land procurement sections of the DNR Land Trust Fund. It does not make the constitutional changes Cindy's joint resolution makes and instead deals solely with the process by which land is acquired and the

requirements for how it can be conveyed back to local municipalities at less than fair market value. It does not seem to be free market oriented and in fact appears to double down on the problems we see in the DNR Land Trust Fund. Will continue to track its progress.

2. **SB 68** *(Senate Health Policy 3/17/15)* - This is the Shirkey bill that was very contentious last session expanding the scope and practice of Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Nurse Practitioners. Free market principles would seemingly dictate that trained nurse practitioners be allowed to assume some of the scope and responsibilities for anesthesia activities; physicians obviously oppose because it cuts them out of profits.

Notable Executive Activity

1. The ***Certificate of Need Commission*** will be meeting 3/18/15 from 9:30a to 1:30pm with a short break at 11:30a on the 1st floor conference room of the Capitol View building, 201 Townsend St. The tentative agenda for this meeting is located here: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Agenda_-_TENTATIVE_3_18_15_483532_7.pdf

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 2:57 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Two more committee votes for Todd tomorrow in MVA that were just announced:

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1. **HB 4060** *(Military/Veterans Affairs 3/18/15)* - This is the Holly Hughes bill requiring colleges to provide veterans with the information that education or training they received in the military may be eligible for transfer credits. I would vote no for constitutional reasons: the Michigan constitution clearly puts ultimate administrative and curriculum planning in the regents duly elected by the public at large. Usurping this authority in any way violates the letter and spirit of the Michigan constitution and can set dangerous precedent for legislative oversight of higher education curriculums. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: No**
2. **HB 4238** *(Military/Veterans Affairs 3/18/15)* - This bill would expand the current property tax exemption for unremarried spouses of disabled veterans to include the unremarried surviving spouse of a service member who died from service connected causes while serving in the armed forces. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: Yes**

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 6:07 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok sounds good but I think I am disagreeing with you on hb 4060; So I'll need some good clarifications on this one in am; see my sense is they still have administrative and curricular authority but the bill says they have to tell the military personnel that they may be entitled to credit not that they have give them credit or how much but that they may be entitled to credit; essentially to me it looked like transparency so I need a bit more clarification on it.

And then in Ed it sounded to me like we are voting on some stuff or am I off base? If it's the Melanie stuff then josh I need to know my best arguments on this and what the bill say and don't say and what will be the implications of the bills.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Testimony only in education on the STEM certification. That is what Melanie emailed on and her arguments are on why the STEM certification is unproven, unnecessary, and will be a certification based on faulty curriculum and standards.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]

—
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 6:15 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok thanks that helps!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

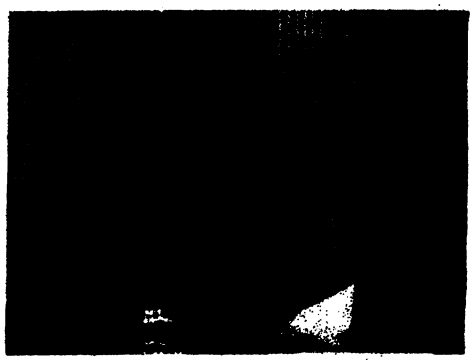
80 - Pics of Cindy during invocation.

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2015 at 1:51 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



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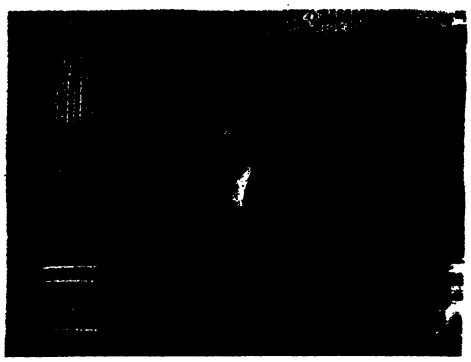

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Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

[redacted]

Daily Report 3/19/15

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 5:23 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

3/19/2015

- 8am All GOP Staff meeting
- Voicemails
- Serving Allegan emails
- Deleted Committee's etc from spring break weeks on calendar
- Finalized details on Cindy Speaking West Michigan Lakeshore Association of Realtors Spring Legislative Luncheon
- Spoke to [redacted] on his UIA issue
- Follow up on ICT emminent domain issue
- Emailed Dept of Ed on [redacted] Constit issue
- Called [redacted] on Tax issue and left message
- Emailed [redacted] to cancel Friday interview
- Spoke to Caroline at dept of Ed on [redacted] issue
- Took call from [redacted]

on melamona awareness proclaimation

Spoke to [redacted] at Trinity on vans for TeenPact

Meeting with Keith on a few scheduling things

Staff Meeting

–
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: Cline 3/19/2015 Daily Report

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 9:36 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Researched some data on the elimination of straight party voting.

Sent email with research on elimination of straight party voting to all staffs.

Wrote the proclamation about Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month that constituent [redacted] requested

Called LSB, LSB Research, Clerk's and Policy to get the process for submission on the proclamation.

Submitted the proclamation/resolution to the resolution clerk for approval.

Review of legislation priorities and got bill request ideas ready to present

Reviewed legislative tracker and LSB status of all draft requested bills

Staff meeting

Got to Lapeer GOP meeting and it was already wrapping up so no speaking at this meeting (because they were leaving and not because they did not allow me to speak)

—
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Posting bill answers today

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 12:59 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Hooker looked up the sections that she looks like that it takes away the authority of the Secretary of State to determine what's offensive by striking that language so if you guys can just make sure that the reason he we put in there for no vote really comports with trying to protect the Constitution I would appreciate that thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - issues to deal with

6 messages

[redacted]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 11:15 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Good Morning:

Josh I need some idea on what the deal is for tonight and for tomorrow?

RNC National Committeewoman...need to get a game plan on this and I need to know who is in and what part you are handling...

Look no offense on this to any of you, but if she does this it affects us all...Josh when you ran for state board of ed it was a reflection on your quality adn the way you did it and said it and ran it was a reflection on you and on me when I endorsed you... What I am saying is that this all goes to my reputation and each of our reputations....and to each of our own personal integrity...we need to look like we know what the hell we are doing in everything we do and that we do it our best and that we don't miss stuff and are on it, not just appear to be on it, but are on it....and we need to do whatever we do in an efficient well oiled machine like fashion...right now it looks like a bunch of half donkeyed partially thought thru facebook pokers who have no game...I can't have that happening around me like that....or better put right now it looks like we are a monkey screwing a football...so get together a plan on what and who and when and how....

1. we need the state committee list now or last week or as soon as possible..
2. josh/ben we need to know from past data mining which are hard either way,
3. we need to know what is the opposition doing,
4. and what is the roll out package supposed to look like on this
5. and how do we get it in motion,
6. because right now it looks like it isn't in motion.
7. I believe you all said you were in to do this so if so what does that mean?
8. is it being there to take credit for it or is it putting it in motion?
9. is that a facebook page?
10. is it a graphic to add adds
11. and likes?
12. is it a logo?
13. is it stickers?
14. is it tee shirts?
15. is it a flyer?
16. at the event what does it look like?
17. or is there any mail?

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theeeeeeen please deal with these...

1. post the rest of the votes explanations
2. post the articles we were quoted in this week - these should be going to our website and our fb page
3. modify the bill entry process to include a press release / a fb post / website / we need to put our steps in motion to put more pressure on our offensive game
4. deal with the data request further - get me the contract Josh quoted to me in the email - data development takes time, it doesn't happen in a flash so we have to get the contract, then request the data and then they will get us the data and then we will have to pare it down and then we will need to match the data and then we will need to upload the data and then we will need to begin to introduce the identification in emails and on fb. to do it properly it takes months and so I am feeling a bit behind the 8 ball now on this. so please get me the contract to sign the first of the week.
5. Ben give feedback on the vendor stuff where it is relevant.

6. correct the paystub issue or get me the log in info so i can do it myself.
7. we need the state committee list today.

thanks

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 11:59 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

DO NOT FORWARD THIS, BUT READ THE BOLDED PART. SOMEONE PLEASE GIVE ME A REASON WHY I SHOULD NOT QUIT RIGHT NOW.
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 1:15 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Macomb GOP Lincoln Dinner Agenda:

4:15-4:30 Leave your office

5:30 Arrive at Macomb GOP Lincoln Dinner
Location: 54660 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp. MI
VIP Private Reception starts at 5:30
6:30-9:30 Dinner
Keynote Speaker: Gov. Chris Christie

Lapeer Lincoln Dinner Agenda

5:30 VIP Reception
6:30 Dinner
Speaking within the first 60 minutes or so.
Ends at 9:00pm

Eagle Scout Ceremony

7:00-8:00pm Jacob Ervin Eagle scout tribute presentation
Location: Metamora Lions Club 3490 North Oak Street, Metamora, MI 48455

Due to Lapeer GOP conflict Josh is prepared to present the tribute to Jacob Ervin,. IF YOU ARE DONE SPEAKING and out the door by 7:00pm then you can speed down to Metamora and present the award yourself. Either way I will be there.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 1:28 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

thanks

I am still a bit torn on some of this for tonight and tomorrow?

I am not sure why I would put the Lapeer GOP before the Eagle presentation? So could you get some clarification on the tribute timing and the Lapeer Speaking timing? and we can go from there? or maybe you have already?

then on tonight are you going or no? I am still considering going but I may just go and press the flesh till they sit down to do speeches and then leave?

any thoughts on that?

Thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 1:49 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

The optics and the media that would come from you not showing, not speaking when a former, yet possible challenger extended her hand to let you speak is pretty bad. That is FAR worse than the small, positive media you would get from the tribute presentation. I know he is a family friend and they are near and dear to your heart, but you not showing and speaking is a bad idea, really bad. I have struggled with this idea as well since the [redacted] family is so important to you and us homeschoolers, but separating out emotion of it it is clear that the Lapeer GOP is a must happen.

As far as Macomb, the important part is mingling in the VIP and before/ during the dinner. Once the speeches are in full swing me and Ben may even leave, but I do want to see Chris Christie, but I still fell like poop so I will see how long I make it.

The optics of you going and trying to make connections and hint at the Congressional consideration are huge so I would advise going and going early.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 3:22 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I hate the optics card you keep pulling; :) I'll head down to the MaComb deal: but you didn't tell me when dinner is served?

Gmail by Google

Letter/Email of Resignation

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: It is finished

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 10:05 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

There is a printed copy on Todd's desk.

Dear Representative Courser,

It has been a wild ride for the last two and half years and I can remember the exact moment it started. It was a divinely inspired January day at Tim Horton's where the Holy Spirit moved in such a way that I knew I was going to follow you on a journey that seemed absolutely crazy and daunting. How would it end and when would it end nobody knew, but we did know we were called to do it and to do it for the glory of His kingdom. Those five weeks we ran the chair race were one of the most defining of my professional, personal, and spiritual life and it was then that I knew, through the guidance of our Lord, that I would have walked through a wall for you. For the last few years, I had absolute confidence that the Lord would direct our steps and that we would follow, with your leadership, as a team. That journey has stretched me in ways that I could have never understood and allowed me to learn how to balance my professional life with my family, seek out options, be more strategic and tactical, and start and run a business. All of these things, and many more, were made possible because of your friendship and mentorship. I am so grateful f having had the opportunity to be apart of this team that at times was a beacon of light for the gospel and advancement of liberty and conservatism.

Unfortunately, the last four to five months have lost any resemblance of being a team and any sense of being guided by the Holy Spirit to advance the movement in the cause of liberty. I do not know when and where we lost the confidence and respect of each other's leadership and professionalism, but it's there, interwoven, in email after email sent to the team. It has now moved from persistent assaults on our ability to be perfect in the performance of our daily work tasks to personally attacking my integrity and character. After tolerating months of emails that were disrespectful, unprofessional and demeaning, the email sent to me and the entire staff on March 27th, with the subject of 82-issues to deal with, was offensive, ungrateful, and beyond

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reproach. To attack my personal integrity because of my State Board of Education race for how it looks and appears to YOU is arrogance of the highest degree and shows a complete lack of respect for me as a person and the sacrifices I made to ensure that you were elected as State Representative. I am sure, then, that you would have welcomed me campaigning around the state for my election while GLEP was personally attacking you and your business to ensure your defeat in the primary election? Of course we both know that is ludicrous and it would have showed a lack of respect to you as a person, friend, mentor, and to the conservative movement, to place my desires to win my own campaign ahead of yours. The relentless barrage of emails, text messages, etc.. dealing with actions regarding official and political tasks is one thing, but that email took it to another level entirely. Like the many other unprofessional communications of the last few months, I have tried to sweep it under the rug and move along to keep the peace, but it only highlights your true feelings toward me and your staff that you feel the need to say such things with no regret and remorse. It is quite apparent that you have lost all confidence in my ability to perform, guide, and consult on matters of legislative and political importance, and that I "don't have the chops" or "lack the commitment necessary" to achieve your goals.

As such, with deep regret and prayerful consideration , I hereby offer my resignation, effective today, April 14th, 2015. There are seasons in which the Lord has brought us together to further His will and seasons in which that will happen with us on different trajectories, and now is that time. It is disappointing that we couldn't continue on this journey together and see it through to the end of the term.

God Bless,

Joshua Cline

–
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Gentlemen...

5 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 3:17 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

We are not really sure how to go forward from this point; We now completely no longer are trusting your intentions and that your actions as being in line with our responsibilities as a reps and as the leaders; We feel that our trust and confidence has been violated and are now questioning the honor and intentions of the men who are supposed to be here to help steward this office forward; this has been with Todd now for two weeks and has caused him to not want to meet or even speak to the three of you; for Cindy it is now coming full circle; and has now come to a head for both of us;

See when Josh came into todd's office and confirmed that We wanted to focus on the life issue first and to have Ben work on the life page I explained that I wanted it done and that in no way was anything else to interfere with that; this was due to the lateness of your understanding that this would be our first action and also due to the lack of ability to take care of so many admin items to this point; josh made it clear that we were not going against the sales tax increase and I explained we would deal with it after the new year; he in no way mentioned that you all were going ahead with a sales tax fight and intentionally it now seems did not inform me of that or the actions related to that since then; in my mind it was clear; in absolutely no way was there ever a conversation about the 3 of you then moving to take that issue with a landing page and a pac and off the record and separate messaging about raising 10 million dollars to fight it. None of these actions were done with any pre notice or permission or even an awareness of the effort happening; to me this is in no way something I can or will tolerate from my staff not my team and certainly it wouldn't happen from my friends; I found out about all of it after the fact in the press, then from Cindy and then from outside sources; this is absolutely offensive to me in my role and it totally dismissing my role and any chain of command not to mention it has left nothing short of a feeling of deception betrayal and of course conflict of interest issues. And it was all happening while I was being told that it's not appropriate to do political messaging during the holidays and my stuff isn't being done; apparently lots of stuff was being done just not my stuff. All of this would probably have been viewed differently if it was handled in the other way on the front end and a request was made to do it and if any sort of confidence was at that point in place on admining the items you all had been tasked with and if my requests during the moments of the dec 2 and 14 th emails had been dealt with or the life page had not been dismissed because you didn't think political messaging should be done during the holidays; now it appears that only political messaging shouldn't be done if it's me and us and if it's to fight sales tax then it fits fine. No all of this was done without any regard for my role or Cindy's role and it was intentionally kept from us. At this point you all need to decide who you work for and understand the responsibilities we have and how this is a total slap in the face to me and to Cindy and our confidence that you have our backs and are fighting to advance these this stage of our fight for the cause; clear conflict of intention, intellectual energy and finally time constraints; my clear unconfusing remembrance was that there would be no outside anything while you worked for us and that our expectations would be 60 hours a week and that hasn't happened nor has our executive committee meetings been dealt with nor our tea party meetings? Not to mention the project tracker or housing of the Google docs in my name and Cindy's name. My confidence in all of you is gone and my faith as well and I cannot believe that any of you would think that these actions were not in conflict and didn't need to be signed off before proceeding.

There is so much violation on so many levels it cannot be put in an email.

Sent from my iPhone

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Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 4:49 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I'll help clarify some of where I am at on this. Today I saw Keith's Off the Record interview after finding out about it from another rep in just the last few days. Listening to Keith's interview was the first time hearing that he had

formed a new PAC with plans to raise 10 million dollars with focus on the next 5 months being the ballot proposal. I was stunned that this had not been brought to my attention for discussion before now. This hurt to say the least and I felt completely blindsided. A discussion about something like this would have been appropriate and is absolutely necessary for many reasons and in many levels.
I now have a ton of questions in my mind and really not sure that we are all on the same page with what the first 6 months of this term should look like. And as far as confidences and sharing and the team approach on projects and messaging, it is obvious that we are far apart in those areas as well.
I understand and completely support and love someone with ambition, passion, initiative, and the dedication it takes to see a project through. But at times projects can be mutually exclusive and not line up on timing or availability of resources or have conflict of interest implications. As far as this goes, we were never given the opportunity to have those discussions because this project and its scope has intentionally been held from us. There's obviously a reason for that which I think goes to deeper matters of the heart. The decision was made for us and did not include us that this kind of focused, statewide, multi million dollar , media laden, legislative issue would be fine for our staff to spearhead unbeknownst to us.
I think we need an open and honest discussion together about all of this and about where we go from here. I get the feeling that maybe Josh and Ben are involved as well but as I haven't been told do not know to what extent. We now have our committee assignments and will need to focus on the office work that needs to be done on Tuesday. This needs to be cleared up before then so we aren't taking Tuesday, a work day, to have to deal with this. I'll check my schedule and Todds to see what works best between now and Monday night for an emergency staff meeting and let you know.
These offices and positions are a HUGE deal to us personally and to all those we represent. We have put everything we have on the line for this and poured everything in. So how we do these things and what we do is extremely important to us, so this a big deal.

I will be in prayer about it all as I hope you all will too.

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 5:41 PM
To: [redacted]

Never share, but I am not sure how much more I can take.

[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, May 29, 2015 at 1:15 PM
To: Joshua <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>

Memories... some great juicy quotes in here to use later.
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, May 29, 2015 at 1:17 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Josh Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Man why you bring up these horrible memories! ? Lol

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Speaker calls Courser budget plan "a lazy approach" in Gongwer

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Thu, Apr 30, 2015 at 8:58 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

PROP 1: With the vote on Proposal 15-1 coming in the next week, Mr. Cotter said he is not focusing on polling numbers.

"I am going to be looking at the poll that is released on the evening of May 5th when people cast their ballot," he said.

He said he does not have a "Plan B" if the proposal fails, but he said road funding will remain a priority until the problem is solved.

Mr. Cotter said he wouldn't take anything off the table on what would be discussed if Proposal 1 fails, including new revenue. But, he said, finding $1.2 billion in the current budget for roads would be difficult.

"To reallocate $1.2 billion in General Fund money would be incredibly painful to a lot of people," he said. "What I mean by that is the public often tosses around the number of $52 billion in the budget. But what we have control over, the General Fund dollars, is very limited."

Mr. Cotter also called a proposal from Rep. Todd Courser (R-Silverwood) to simply make a 10 percent cut across the board a "lazy approach."

"I think it's a bit reckless to do across-the-board cuts across the whole General Fund," he said. "Unless you have analyzed each and every item in that budget, I don't think you can comprehend what the impact would be. I want to be far more calculated and careful."

Mr. Cotter said he will spend the upcoming days before the vote speaking on the proposal wherever he can. He said certain aspects of the proposal are not talked about often but are well-received once people learn they included.

He also said the paying down debt portion of the plan, warranties and competitive bidding are often forgotten about but are viewed positively.

"There are a lot of pieces that aren't getting a lot of attention because the sales tax vote is getting most of the attention," he said. "But this is a very good plan."

- See more at: http://www.gongwer.com/programming/news.cfm?article_ID=540860106#sthash.ozSxFBY9.dpuf

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Summary of today's amendments

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Individual amendments for each of the following:

Ag:
Migrant Labor Housing - (p4) GF $1,049,700, decrease $1,300 Cut - $1,049,700
Horse Race Programs - (p5) SR $3,167,300 Cut - $1,000,000

DCH
Base Medicaid (p8) - Current Spending GF $2,515,995,000 increase passed of GF $19,430,000 Cut $19, 430,000
Community Mental Health non medicaid GF $97,050,400, increase of GF $20,000,000 Cut $10,000,000
Reinstate Public Health and Wellness Reductions GF $36,475,400, increase GF $3,000,000 Cut $3,000,000
Healthy Kids Dental Service - New Program (p13) GF $7,500,000 Cut $7,500,000

Dept. of Education
Child Development and Care (CDC) (p23) GF $36,588,800 Cut $$6,5888,800
State Aid to Libraries (p24) GF $8,876,000, increase $1,000,000 Cut $1,000,000
Renaissance Zone Reimbursement to Libraries (p24) GF $4,700,000 increase GF $600,000 Cut $600,000

General Government
Legislature - Legislature Operations (p38) GF $127,420,700, increase $3,815,700 Cut $3,815,700

Dept. of Technology, Management, and Budget
State Building Authority (p42) GF $236,770,600, increase GF $17,800,000 Cut $17,800,000
Capital Outlay (p42) GF $18,000,000 increase $10,000,000 Cut $10,000,000
Information Technology Investment Fund (p43) GF $60,500,000, increase $7,500,000 Cut $7,500,000
Motor Vehicle Fleet (p43) IDG $67,669,300, increase $6,515,500 Cut $6,515,500
Legal Services New (p43) GF $1,000,500 Cut $1,000,500
Homeland Security/ Cyber Security (p43) GF $8,068,200, increase $1,000,000 Cut $1,000,000
Procurement Improvement Plan (p44) GF $5,107,100, increase $479,100 Cut $479,100

Dept. of Treasury
Business Attraction and Community Revitalization (p52) GF $99,000,000, decrease of GF ($8,900,000) Cut $99,000,000
Entrepreneurship EcoSystem (p52) SR $17,200,000, increase $7,800,000
Cut $7,800,000

DHS
Healthy Mi Plan Call Center (p59) GF $3,465,600, increase $1,446,900 Cut $1,446,900

DNR - Decreased GF by ($8,815,700)
Shooting Range Enhancements (p77) GF increase $250,000 Cut $250,000

Transportation - Decreased GF by ($145,126,800)
Transit Capital and Rail Infrastructure (p91) GF $10,000,000, increase $15,000,000 Cut $15,000,000

An amendment to cut general fund spending across the board by 10%

The following two amendments (under Todd's name):

Bar state funds to go to any organization or facility that performs elective abortions.

Bar any actions by the state to administer any federal money that goes to any organization or facility that performs abortions.

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Michael Patrick Shields Show?

3 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 3:39 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd, Michael Patrick Shields Show would like to have you on tomorrow morning at 630 for 8-10min to talk on your email this morning and caucus stuff.

Let me know and I will set it up.

[redacted]

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 5:50 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com> [redacted]

Sure sounds fine just let me know if it's confirmed

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 6:21 PM [redacted]
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Alright you're confirmed for 630 tomorrow morning. Details below.

call in at 6:30AM (segment begins at 6:33) Studio Hotline: [redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Daily Report 4/13-4/17/15

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 20, 2015 at 10:50 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Last week was kind of a crazy week so hadn't been able to send over my daily reports as of yet.

Here they are all compiled:

4/13/2015 [redacted]

- Serving Allegan Emails
- Email to Cindy on two week update
- Email on a few daily updates from last week
- Email address for prison fellowship invite
- Email on [redacted] constituent issue
- Emailed Keith on Radio interview request
- Emailed on [redacted] constit issue
- Call from Andy from MI manufacturers
- Voicemails
- Email on [redacted] Constit issue
- Spoke To [redacted] on constit issue
- Spoke to [redacted] on cinstit issue
- Called Cathy at insurance department on [redacted]

constit issue

Spoke to [redacted] on LLC constit issue

Called G-Ann to make sure Todd was going to Lapeer Dev meeting

Spoke to Cathy at insurance department again on [redacted] issue

Called [redacted] to confirm constit issue closed

Spoke to LARA on [redacted] Constit issue

Serving Lapeer EMails

Calll from [redacted] on constit issue

All GOP Staff meeting

Tribute for Allegan Co Health Department

Spoke to [redacted] on Ohio police constituent issue

Proessed a couple of returned happy notes

Formatted and uploaded list of WMU deans list happy notes

Scheduled [redacted] Eagle scout ceremony

Spoke to Hassan in policy on [redacted] constit issue

4/14/2015

	Tribute for allegan health department printed	
	Tribute signed	
	Tribute financial ops for signed	
	Tribute over to Schuitmaker	
	Cindy Mail	
	Todd Mail	
	Spoke to Andy such on scheduling meeting with Keith	[redacted]
	Cindy voicemails	
	Todd Voicemails	[redacted]
	Went through some wordpress messages Cindy	[redacted]
	Spoke to [redacted] on her LLC issue	
	Daily schedule briefs	
4/15/2015		
	Picked up Cindy tribute from Govs office	[redacted]
	Cindy Tribute framed	
	May 2 library tribute signed and delivered to Yonkers office	
	Cancelled Channel 3 appearance for Cindy	
	Spoke with Keith on stuff for today and the week	[redacted]
	Cindy Mail	
	Roads rally and pictures	
	Posting tribute	

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pic to Facebook

Emailed [redacted] on public health week pics

Follow up on a few of Steve's calls from today

Printed new Constit and Policy directories

Confirmed Port Huron mayors prayer breakfast

Courtsey email to muxlow office on Port huron prayer breakfast

Referred [redacted] constit issue to Rep Smiley

Called [redacted] on Township officials meeting

Left message for [redacted] in SOS on [redacted] constit issue

Call from [redacted] on township officals meeting

Confirmed Todd township officials meeting for tomorrow

Confirmed [redacted] constit meeting tomorrow

Serving Allegan Emails

Received blueback for Amtrack bill

Serving Lapeer Emails

Constit call on

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

mental health issue

3/16/2015

Appropriations Committee drop off cindy binder

Drop off Todd binder

Set meeting with MEA

Set meeting with McAlvey Merchant on no fault

Spoke to criminal ombudsman on constit issue

Serving ALlegan emails

Confirmed chamber breakfast on Monday for Cindy

Left a message for [redacted]s

Talk with cindy and Todd on [redacted] meeting and twp officials meeting

Meeting with [redacted]

Meeting with [redacted] and others

Work on Cindy caucus statement

4/17/2015

Call brett in policy on [redacted] constit issue

Emailed ombudsmans office on [redacted] constit issue

Left message for [redacted] at Allegan mental health

Left message

for [redacted] at Allegan Mental health on [redacted] constituent issue

Scheduled constit service meeting with central staff

Spoke to [redacted] constit issue

Printed Cindy papers for thomas moore center meeting

Posted on FB for Juke Van Oss show

Posed NAGR photo to Cindy Facebook

Texted G-Ann Green # for scheduling

Confirmed day for Fennville Daily farm tour

Constit call from [redacted]s on Radio and Caucus issue

Sent Todd happy notes and letters

Serving Allegan Emails

Printed Todd Committee notices

Serving Lapeer Emails

Emailed Cody to follow up on lapeer game area staffing issue

Saved [redacted] documents

Called and left

another message for Steve over in vet affairs

Meeting and work on Caucus issues

[redacted]

[redacted]

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Fw: Co-sponsorship opportunity - Michigan Strategic Fund transparency

1 message

Keith Allard <KAllard@house.mi.gov> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 9:57 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

We should co-sponsor this. Ben, please remind me in the morning about this if I forget.

From: Martin Howrylak
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 9:36 PM
To: Rep. Martin Howrylak (District 41)
Subject: Co-sponsorship opportunity - Michigan Strategic Fund transparency

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All House Colleagues

From: Representative Martin Howrylak

Date: April 15, 2015

Subject: Co-Sponsorship Opportunity

Tomorrow and next week I will have a blueback at my desk and I welcome your sponsorship.

This bill would amend the Michigan Strategic Fund Act to declare that all money and assets of the fund are public money and assets and shall be disbursed only as provided by law in an appropriation (by the legislature).

Currently, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation receives certain revenues from tribal casinos (almost $63 million in 2013) as well as revenue generated from the repayment of loans and other similar sources that are categorized as "corporate revenues." The distribution of these revenues currently is not subject to legislative appropriations. My legislation would require an appropriation of the legislature to distribute these "corporate revenues."

This bill is a re-introduction of HB 5832 from the last legislative session.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have.

I welcome your co-sponsorship.

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Autism bill?

4 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 9:53 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd, this is the only autism-related bill that we voted on this session. It was in the spreadsheet, and Cindy also voted on it in her Appropriations committee:

SB 137	Yes	I voted YES on SB 137, which allowed funds from the restricted autism fund coverage revenues to be expended for university autism programs that previously utilized revenue from the general fund. I support any and all efforts to fully review our restricted funds, and find places where general fund spending may be applicable to what is currently restricted revenues. Some of our restricted funds run large surpluses, while related expenditures are made from our cash-strapped general fund. Fiscally conservative governance requires looking at the entire budget holistically.	X	62-48	Cindy voted for in committee

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:09 AM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Keith/Ben I need to be able to cut and paste the autism explanation and can't seem to? Is it because it's in a ss?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:18 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

I was able to copy it. Here you go.

I voted YES on SB 137, which allowed funds from the restricted autism fund coverage revenues to be expended for university autism programs that previously utilized revenue from the general fund. I support any and all efforts to fully review our restricted funds, and find places where general fund spending may be applicable to what is currently restricted revenues. Some of our restricted funds run large surpluses, while related expenditures are made from our cash-strapped general fund. Fiscally conservative governance requires looking at the entire budget holistically.

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:37 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

Got it. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Session today (Rep 80/82)

1 message

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 11:04 AM

There are no bills up for third reading or a vote today. Bills up for 2nd reading are the same ones that were on the docket before break.

There is a caucus at 1:00p.

The following resolutions are on the resolution calendar:

HCR 0007	Rep. Hughes	A concurrent resolution to urge the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Congress to create a pilot program in Michigan instituting a flexible Veterans Choice Card system structured similar to a traditional health care program for all veterans in Michigan.	View Full Text	
HCR 0008	Rep. Townsend	A concurrent resolution to memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive, sustainable, and workable approach that allows states to tax remote purchases made by consumers of their state.	View Full Text	
HR 0051	Rep. Pagan	A resolution to declare April 14, 2015, as Pay Equity Day in the state of	View Full Text	

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		Michigan.	
HR 0052	Rep. Townsend	A resolution to memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive, sustainable, and workable approach that allows states to tax remote purchases made by consumers of their state.	View Full Text
HR 0053	Rep. Runestad	A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the President's recent executive actions regarding the non-enforcement of our nation's immigration laws and take all necessary corrective actions.	

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - The Contract for Liberty Project Part 2

1 message

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 9:30 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok Guys: Back in the saddle this morning...

Cindy and I have been working on a little outline of sorts to summarize jointly our efforts as seen thru "The Contract"

I think we will be doing a intro of a couple of paragraphs to explain what the outline is and is not and then the outline should summarize what we have - 1. sponsored 2. co-sponsored 3. voted for or against 4. stopped or advanced - essentially a ss of sorts or maybe its just an outline.

we need some help today filling out this and organizing it a bit better to showcase our liberty efforts.

---

here is what we have so far - please add to it and fill it in and organize it better so we can have it ready for the time she and i will have to put the topping on it.

I would maybe preface this with bills we've sponsored, co-sponsored, are working on or have stopped? or something like that maybe? Then you can address individual ones specifically if you feel led. The pink doesn't mean anything and can be swept away to be all black for now. Some can have further notes and explanations and we do not have to cover all votes in this at all but for the liberty votes that are the highest showcase items -

also a further side note - I need the info on that autism stuff pronto!!!!

thanks!

The Freedom to be Born –

1. Life @ conception – bill entered – co sponsored
2. Dismemberment abortion bill – bill being drafted
3. Pain abortions – bill being drafted
4. 14 weeks in hospital requirement (Born Alive Protection) – co-sponsored
5. Webcam abortions – bill being drafted
6. Ending funding for planned parenthood – If it is in the budget then I will vote against the budget even if the budget cuts spending
7. Heartbeat bill - co-sponsor

8. Resolution on Life

The Freedom to Defend Ourselves

1. constitutional carry – bill being drafted

2. open carry issues – support protecting the right to open carry

3. hand gun registrations – bill entered

4. gun free zones – support an end to gun free zones

5. permit less carry – support an end to requiring a permit to carry – we have the 2nd Amendment which is our permit to carry

Freedom to Worship

1. voted to allow faith based group adoptions

2. Religious Liberty & Conscience Protection Bill

3. Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Healthcare Freedom

1. CON – Certificate of Need

2. Vaccines

3. transparency in costs - posting costs of services,

Freedom from Government Intrusion

1. Warrantless Wireless Wiretapping bill 4006

2. protection from warrantless searches of our electronic personal affects

3. increasing police powers

4. limiting use of drones

5. bill to prohibit state from issuing contracts with companies that participate in electronic data collection and metadata of individuals

6. Hailstorm / Stingray Issue

Freedom from Economic Intrusion

1. three tier – sponsored a bill to end the three tier liquor system in our state

2. medc – sponsored a bill to end the MEDC - 9 billion plus in corporate welfare that has been granted to corporate welfare recipients who are politically connected at the expense of other businesses

3. mbt – co sponsored a bill to end the MBT

4. film subsidies - voted to end the film subsidies
5. auto sales on Sunday's – to be drafted
6. raw milk – to be drafted
7. tesla – to be drafted
8. ticket sales – voted to end the law against second hand ticket sales
9. eliminating the liquor control commission – co sponsored

Freedom from Unjust taxation

1. Sales Tax Increase from 6 to 7 percent - fighting the governor's plan to take increased taxes thru the *Constitutional Amendment to increase sales tax to 7 percent and not dedicate it to the roads*
2. Courser/Gamrat Roads Bill – This bill was a re-entry of the house bill from the lamb duck to show there is another way to do it. But I then did an email out to explain the cuts that we can do to fund the roads without a tax increase – Sponsored
3. Ending the income tax bill

Freedom to Own Property

1. Free from DNR intrusion onto private land
2. Freedom from the use of drones intrusions
3. Defunding DNR enforcement
4. Limiting DEQ jurisdiction to only public lands
5. DNR Trust Funds Bill - voted no to allow for purchase of private lands
6. Constitutional bill to eliminate n=mandatory state purchasing of land

Freedom from Regulatory Tyranny

1. Licensing issues for veterans
2. Against further deq power to increase fines and more power
3. Eliminate barriers to entry
4. Total energy monopoly fight – new fight - (fighting against bill to give DTE and consumers a monopoly and have asked for drafting on a free markets energy bill)

Free and Independent State

1. Voting against any increase in federal spending within our state
2. Proposing end to Medicaid expansion
3. End of Medicaid
4. End prevailing wage

5. DNR funding increased land purchases

6. Fighting Further appropriations increases

. Federal Medicaid Hanout "Fix" - Fighting against this new federal handout to fix our budget hole created by Medicaid Expansion a year and a half ago. which is required to now fund the 1 out of 5 who In our state who are now on Medicaid due to the Medicaid expansion bill passed last year - they are hiding this additional 380 million of fed handout money in next years budget /

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 80/82: Communication Issues

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 10, 2015 at 9:49 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

It has become apparent this morning that I am not receiving some or all text messages and some of my text messages that I have sent are not going through. On our way to work this morning Ben showed me Todd's text from this morning about the radio interview and I never received it from Todd. In addition, [redacted] just stopped by and wonder why I did not respond to his text messages yesterday and my wife said she never got my reminder that the Dish Network guy was coming this morning and she got woken up by him.

Yesterday, I sent sent a text to Todd "Hey not sure of the DC schedule tomorrow, but do you want to still do the recurring radio interview for tomorrow morning?". I am going to assume that like my other text communications, Todd did not receive that message because I never got a response back and his response to us through text eluded to him being in the dark. As such, I erred on the side of caution that it looks better to cancel/reschedule then have the radio show promote that you were going to be on and have you not show up. I emailed [redacted] that you were going to be unavailable and then updated the Google calendar to say POSTPONED and sent an update to that Google calender event. This appears that it is my error in not making sure I got a response from you to 100% verify what was going to be possible.

Thanks,

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FW: Pregnancy Resource Banquet

2 messages

Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 5:10 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

What about this banquet?

Georgeann

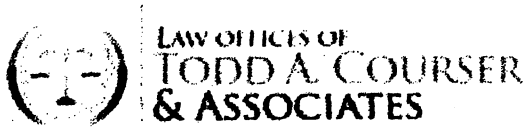
From: Georgeann [mailto:georgeann@toddcourser.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:45 PM
To: 'Ben Graham'; 'Joshua Cline'
Subject: Pregnancy Resource Banquet

Check this out!

Sincerely,

Georgeann Courser

Legal Assistant



Phone: (810) 245-0813

Fax: (810) 245-0907

Georgeann@ToddCourser.Com

This email message is a transmission from the Law Offices of Todd A. Courser & Associates, PLLC and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). It may contain confidential and privileged information, subject to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC sec. 2510, et seq., the Attorney Work Product Doctrine and/or attorney-client privilege. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution of the contents of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and delete and destroy all copies of the original message and any attachments hereto. Please note that any views and/or opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.

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avast! be free This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

2 attachments

LAW OFFICES OF TODD A. COURSER & ASSOCIATES **Image001.jpg** 912K

Pregnancy Resource Banquet 2015.pdf 137K

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 8, 2015 at 9:12 AM
To: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I would say go to it but not really my call. I'll put it on the calendar as an FYI.

We also received a paper invitation at the office.

Georgeann can you ask Todd if he want's to go? It looks like they want reservations.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
—
Ben Graham

Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FW: Facebook message in job refferal?

3 messages

Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com> Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 5:09 PM
To: team@toddcourser.com

Please confirm.

Georgeann

From: Georgeann [mailto:georgeann@toddcourser.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2015 11:14 AM
To: 'Ben Graham'
Subject: RE: Facebook message in job refferal?

Ben, confirm you responded to [redacted] please☺

Georgeann

From: Ben Graham [mailto:bjamm90@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 7:29 PM
To: georgeann@toddcourser.com
Subject: Facebook message in job refferal?

Hey Georgeann, Todd's public figure page got this message from [redacted] Idk who she is but maybe you do? What should I do with this?

"Hello, Todd! I hope all is going well with you, your family, and your new position. The last time we talked, you told me to let you know if there was anything you could do to help with my job hunt. Well, I have applied for a position that seems like the perfect fit for me, and I was wondering if you could put in a good word for me, if you know anyone there. It's for the Lapeer area Chamber of Commerce administrative assistant position. I feel this would be an amazing fit for me for many reasons - I have great organization, communication, and general office skills, I LOVE the Lapeer community, plus I have a passion for helping - that goes for people, businesses, organizations, etc. and this would allow me to be a part of the many awesome community events offered in Lapeer. Thank you in advance."

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

avast! be free www.avast.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 11:05 PM
To: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Unless there is some other issue; I think she can use my name as a reference and mom if you want to call for put in a good word with ninna for her that might help her.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 8, 2015 at 9:06 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Georgeann <georgeann@toddcourser.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yep I messaged her back to say she could have you as a reference.

Thanks!
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Texts from today...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 3, 2015 at 6:17 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

KBJ - Good morning; Happy Easter! please run the rest of the messaging protocols this morning; today I would like to add both the official public and official private and our tenth district admin email you created to use as the funnel or collection point; I want to add them to my phone today. If this is possible to do technically then please pass along the email addresses and the passwords so I can attempt to add them. I'll let you know if I have trouble; I assume I will. I will also need some passwords for the surface stuff I need to access in a bit. Also it has been over a week since I received a daily update from Keith and josh apparently it's not a priority for me to know what is and has happened in the day for staff and the district; i have received some intermittently from Ben. Ben I sent you specifically some emails a week ago and haven't reviewed feedback on all; if you can review these and look at giving me some feedback on the rest that would be helpful; a few yes but still some waiting; Josh i need some updates on tea party is it a go? It sounded like a just show up or is there more to it? And of course still waiting on the tenth district data list? On the data list if it is a go to do please ask him if he has the same sort of deal for the 6th district. Finally do I have any final languages back on bills if so please follow the protocol to pass these along.

Kbj - I don't want to do it but I am rubbing up against blow up email so please stop and take a deep breath and hear what I am asking for and do what I am asking and take seriously what I am meaning; this Muskegon thing has not set well and I am having a lot of trouble now moving past it; I have way way too much on my plate to deal with staff that is not attentive and doing what I am asking for as I ask for it; I ask you respond or I have to find other staff; i am having trouble now with staff that doesn't respond to my requests nor see what I am asking for as critically important; I have asked for some things and expect to get them; I love you all but my requests are not optional; I ask for it and you give it and you respond to me and tell me you have my request and you give me the answer and put it on the task tracker and wherever else it needs to be and you do it; I ask for a daily update I get a daily update or I have to find new staff to take care of my requests; I have far far to much on my plate to babysit and stroke you boys so figure it out reeeeally quickly so I can rest easy and do tax junk and cause junk all weekend while you hang with your families. thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Daily Report 4/3/2015

3 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 3, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

4/3/2015

- Sent email on setting up Todd paystub account
- Spoke with Keith about various items
- Printed office contact letters for Cindy
- Constit call from [redacted]
- Mail sorting
- Confirmed Dunaskis Meeting for 21st
- Spoke to [redacted] on Cindy coffee hours
- Emailed constit on drivers training question
- Fixed email theme issue for Cindy
- Constit call from [redacted] on Dental coverage issue
- Called DHS and DCH on [redacted] constit issue
- Followed up with Cindy Coms person on office hours release

[redacted]

[redacted]

Emailed Keith and Josh on Cindy townhall

Spoke to Legal on Cindy Prop 1 townhall

Called and Emailed township clerks about cindy giving update on May 4th

Forwarded 14th district email request.

Worked two different CC'd lists into uploadable format

Created 67 letter respones to medicaid choice waiver postcards for Cindy

Reading through a bunch of papers for happy notes

Serving Lapeer Emails

Called [redacted] her UIA constit issue

Serving Allegan Emails

Email and work on Allegan Library retirement tribute

Called DCH on [redacted]

Constit issue again

Set up forwarding for official todd emails

Replied to a few Todd emails from last week.

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Apr 4, 2015 at 5:28 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ben I NEED YOU TO GIVE ME WHAT I AM ASKING FOR NOW OR TELL ME WHY YOU ARE NOT RESPONDING TO MY MULTIPLE REQUESTS ON THIS; I am getting tired of asking so please respond and give me what I am asking for or give me a damed good reason why not; I am tired of asking for this; I still need the emails and passwords for the official and private state house emails and also for the admin email so I can get it in my phone this weekend; I have asked a couple of time; I AM ASKING AGAIN; I need them so I can attempt to get them loaded into my phone; also I need the password and log in for toddservinglapeer as well what I am remembering isn't working.

Please respond and either give me the info or tell me why not, but GIVE ME WHAT I AM ASKING FOR NOW...

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Apr 4, 2015 at 5:44 PM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Aaaaah forget it you sent it back and now I think I understand it's toddcourser82...thanks! [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Forwarding of Official Emails

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 3, 2015 at 4:38 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd, I couldn't read your texts because they were all scrambled earlier but Keith got them alright and emailed them so I was finally able to figure out what you wanted.

I have set rules to auto forward official emails and official personal emails to the todddistrict82@gmail.com email.

I'm not sure what you mean by, "...and tenth district admin email you created to use as the funnel or collection point"? I guess you mean forward to the todddistrict82@gmail.com email? So that's what I did.

I'm not sure how you get your email on your phone so here are two links you can use to set up receiving email from the admin gmail account.

If you use the Gmail app for Iphone:
https://support.google.com/mail/answer/3114694?hl=en

If you use the default email app for your iphone:
http://lifehacker.com/5859854/how-to-set-up-gmail-google-calendar-and-google-contacts-on-ios

Login info:
Email: todddistrict82@gmail.com
Password: [redacted]

Let me know if you have any issues getting this set up.

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

[redacted]

Fwd: I WILL BE SURPRISED IF I GET 3 RETURNS,

4 messages

Plainwell Patriots <plainwellpatriots@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 11:11 AM
To: team@cindygamrat.com

Ben can you make sure these are put in my Nationbuilder.
Thanks!
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: March 26, 2015 at 12:14:15 AM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: I WILL BE SURPRISED IF I GET 3 RETURNS,

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: March 25, 2015 at 10:28:34 PM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: I WILL BE SURPRISED IF I GET 3 RETURNS,

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]m>
Date: March 23, 2015 at 7:21:28 PM EDT
Subject: FW: I WILL BE SURPRISED IF I GET 3 RETURNS,

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

I know there
are some of

you that are Democratic, and love Obama, but this is for Christians first, politics later. I do pray that it doesn't offend anybody with the truth of the message, but it has to be sent. If you love your Lord first and your politics later, then you will appreciate this message.

If you don't, I'm sorry I judged you wrong.

When we get 100,000,000, that's one hundred million willing Christians to BOND together, voice their concerns and vote, we can take back America with God's help. Become one

of the One hundred million... Then let's get 200 million. It can be done just by sending this email to your friends. Do the math. It only takes a single willing heart and a fed up SOUL.

God Bless America and Shine your light on Her!

In 1952 President Truman Established one day a year as a "National Day of Prayer."

In 1988 President Reagan Designated the first Thursday in May of each year as The National Day of Prayer.

In June 2007 (then)

Presidential Candidate Barack Obama Declared that the USA "Was no longer a Christian nation.

In 2009 President Obama Canceled the 21st annual National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House under the ruse of "not wanting to offend anyone"

HOWEVER... On September 25, 2009 From 4 AM until 7 PM, A National Day of Prayer FOR THE MUSLIM RELIGION Was Held on Capitol Hill, inside the White House. There were over 50,000 Muslims In D.C. that

day.
PRESIDENT
OBAMA
PRAYS
WITH THE
MUSLIMS!

I guess it
doesn't
matter if
"Christians"
were
offended by
this event -
We obviously
don't count
as "anyone"
anymore.

Now
President
Obama is
encouraging
schools to
teach the
Quran for
extra credit,
while at the
same time,
they cannot
even talk
about the
Bible, God,
pray, or
salute the
American
Flag.

The direction
this country
is headed
should strike
fear in the
heart of
every

Christian , especially knowing that the Muslim religion believes that if Christians cannot be converted, they should be annihilated.

Send this to ten people, or even one hundred and ten! And, send it the person who Sent it to you!.. To let them know that indeed, it was sent out to many more.

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:29 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

82/80 - Ben we need a plan on this sort of step; is there a way to handle this sort of thing in an automatic way? I have tried to forward it to the nb email but it doesn't seem to grab the other exposed emails? If Cindy is ok with it I would like any that Cindy is forwarding added to the big list on my side as well. And what is the best set of steps so we know it's done? I have in the past sent over emails that have a "cc" on them but they haven't made it to the big list. So how do we know you have it and that the task has been completed? So need some clarification on this part.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 1:07 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>

Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger.

Unfortunately there isn't really a way we can automatically enter these types of emails. If emails are CC'd into NB they are automatically entered but that doesn't work if you forward that from another account.

Best way to get it done is just to forward it to me like Cindy did above. I'll roger it and when I get it done I will reply back.

Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 3, 2015 at 1:54 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I also have these emails ready for upload.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/Legal - State of Mi Paystubs?

4 messages

[redacted]

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 10:39 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com [redacted]
To: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

G-ann/TracyP/Ben

Are these being sent somewhere? if so where? and how do we get them sent to my todd@toddcourser.com? and does the state have a time limit on downloading? if so how long do these stay available on line without special request? I just want to confirm where these are being sent and who is dealing with them? I haven't seen one yet, not that I care but where are they going? Tracy also I want to eye my withholding are correct (I should be rolling in heavy on withholding so I don't get tagged) and what is the process of downloading them? If we can just have them sent to my normal todd@toddcourser.com that would probably deal with it so I can eye them and then we can go from there.

todd

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 10:58 AM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

As was discussed in your orientation your state of Michigan paystubs are available online via a link in housenet to an outside service. In order to use that service to obtain your paystubs you will need to use a unique ID code sent to you via mail to register an account via the 800 number provided along with the unique ID. If you don't have this you can contact HR to get the code and phone number to register the account. As far as I know there isn't a time limit on obtaining the paystubs. Also I'm not sure if you can have them emailed as I haven't set up my paystubs account yet either.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 12:18 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Great so why don't you walk thru the process for your own account and then walk g-ann thru it; so we have a password and log in on it on the spreadsheet. I am pretty sure I sent each letter along to you or to G-ann so please go thru those steps and get it set up so I can have access. If it is a unique ID to access the info then it would have been in a letter? which would have ended up either here in Lapeer or in Lansing?

thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 3, 2015 at 10:02 AM

To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Okay. To set up MI HR Self Service account:

Note: They asked me to verify who I was with my name, DOB, and address. So I think this will have to be done by Todd?

1. Cal[redacted]
2. Follow prompts for MI HR self service
3. Select current state employee.
4. Enter employee number [redacted]
5. Wait for customer service rep.
6. Verify name, DOB, and address.
7. Ask to set up Self Serve account.
8. They will send an email to Todd's house account.
9. Let me know and I will check for that email and forward it to you.
10. Follow the instructions in the email to set up account.
11. Record password and login into the PW file.

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Emails and what not...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 4:05 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I obviously am not a happy camper today; I am sure I'll settle down but this was totally low class; and confirmed zero admin of any process; and zero fail safes in place and no calendaring of even reminders or confirmations; it was a hell of a ride to then find out it was canceled several days prior and that the cancelation was sent to me but to what is being called my "private" email; apparently even though I have been told by the entire team I don't have to worry about it I have to worry about it; you guys should be running a diagnostic every day to confirm up to date information and on Friday you should be having a meeting with an agenda and you should have a check list; you all sat in front of me and said you confirm it the day before "BY CALLING THE REPS OFFICE THAT SET IT UP." Whatever process you have it didn't and doesn't work; it takes a checklist and someone governing the checklist and a calendar event to confirm every damn item on the calendar the day before; you should have if you have a process been settling up a calendar event to call and confirm the event is still happening and it has to happen the day before; confirm it by email and a call 48 hours before and by phone call the day before; that means every damned event on the calendar should be called the day before; my legal office sends a letter to the client when the appointment is made, it is put on the calendar, an email is sent to the person; and a letter; then a reminder call is made the day before; those that are not confirmed the day before are called that day up to the appointment time. If you put an event on my calendar you should be putting that same event on your calendar to confirm both 48 and 24 hours before the event. YOU SHOULD HAVE AM OFFICE ADMIN CALENDAR IN PLACE TO HAVE SCHEDULED FOLLOWUPS FOR ITEMS IN PLAY...This should happen for all appointments and events both that we are setting up and that they are setting up.

Now I need to know what email addresses now are flowing into the official office and also thru political emails and I need a list of them and I need to know which can be forwarded to my cell phone and I need that set up the next time I am in the office; then I also need the admin email set up on to my cell phone as well and I needl be able to see the office calendar showing you have reminders and have scheduled in reminders to do appointment and event pre confirmations and who owns the event responsibility.

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - I m forwarding this for todd to have sent out

1 message

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Thu, Apr 2, 2015 at 1:30 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Prep and Send this out for todd; the subject is "He was pierced for our transgressions..."

Send either tonight after 7 or tomorrow before 9 am...preferred tonight.

message starts here...feel free to read it and fix but not adjust..send a proof of it - thanks

---

He is Risen! He is Risen from the Dead! And He is coming Again! The world hates Him but He loves you more than anyone....

to my friends who love Jesus:

to those who don't:

to the tolerant:

to the intolerant:

to my friends who are gay:

to my friends who are straight:

to my friends who are liberal:

to my friends who are Jewish::

to my Muslim friends:

to my big government conservative friends:

to my liberty friends:

to my union friends:

to my tweeting friends:

to my clueless friends:

to my veteran friends:

to my animal rights friends:

to my animal eating friends:

to my alternative energy friends:

to my carbon loving friends:

to my redneck friends:

to my Facebook pontificating friends:

to my Democrat friends:

to my Republican friends:

to my totalitarian friends:

to my media loving friends:

to my friends who love Barack Obama and those who hate him:

to my friends who love Rand Paul:

to my friends who love Ted Cruz:

to my friends who love Jeb Bush (not sure why?)

to my friends who love Scott Walker:

to my friends who are winners:

to my friends who are losers:

to my friends who are chain smokers:

to my friends who are boozers

to my political friends: (with and without convictions)

to my friends who live off the system - corporately or personally:

to my friends who wake up everyday and work their tails off so others can live off the system:

to my friends who love the 2nd amendment:

to my friends who love common core:

to my friends who are free marketers:

And to my non-aligned and unaffiliated friends:

To all of you and the rest I missed; in the Spirit of Easter; in the Love of Jesus Christ: I love you, and much more importantly God loves you!

Easter is about the loving redemptive power of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ! It is about His beauty, His majesty, His grace, His mercy, and His awesome unstoppable love! It is about His power and might; His role as the true giver of liberty and freedom for us, allowing us the opportunity to choose or deny Him! And it is about a loving relationship with Him and living a life that is modeled on His life as a sacrifice to Him and for others.

True followers of Christ (not the easy believers who do not follow the Lord), live lives as living sacrifices—sometimes totally messed up lives but still lives given over as living sacrifices to the Lord - there is no requirement to clean up your life before you come to the cross!. Their lives are offered up to serve the one true God. And the expression of

living a life as a true sacrifice is to live a life of service to others and to Christ as a testimony of His love and kindness in one's own life. A life in Christ in no way makes one perfect, Lord knows I am not, but it is an acknowledgement that Christ has to do the redemptive steps in our lives and that we are completely incapable of anything of value in eternity unless we first turning over to His leading in our lives. Yes, we will still fail and fall short, but it is acknowledging that we are completely incapable of saving ourselves from our sins and the grave.

Whether you acknowledge Him or not, honor Him or not, hate Him or not, He sent His one and only son to die on the cross for you to redeem you from your sins! For you!

Many are offended by my continued acknowledgement of Christ and Him Crucified and that He rose again. Many don't like it that as an elected official I continue to proclaim that Jesus is my Lord and Savior; they are fine with the mention of God but despise the name of Jesus Christ. They scream or vent all the political correctness of "separation of church and state." But the fact is: God has done a redemptive work in me and He is the real reason I do what I do in life; it isn't fame or fortune or some ego driven venture; no, it is simply my feeble attempt to live out a life of service to Him and to proclaim who He is and what He has done for me and for all of us! It is my small attempt to proclaim that God loves us enough to give us the right to live free; to choose Him or not; I hear it from some who say they are Christians and in the church and those who are in the world, they simply want His name to never be spoken again; but if I stop proclaiming Christ may all calamity come upon me! He is, quite simply put, "the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!" And He died on the cross for you and for me!

Jesus is the reason for Easter; He took on himself all the weight of the sin of the world; was beaten and bruised to such an extent that He was unrecognizable as a man; then He was crucified, conquered death and on the third day He rose again! And He now sits at the Mighty Right Hand of the Father and very soon He is coming again!

Easter is about Christ Jesus and how God sent His son to be the Savior of the world! It is about not just His crucifixion for us on the cross and His resurrection, but for the awesome redemption of us from our sins. The world has moved so far away from the gospel that most do not even know the story of Easter and of the resurrection and the power of Christ in our lives; never bowing their knee and giving their lives over to the transforming power of Jesus Christ; they have no idea what God did to His son on the cross and what that means for us if we will just simply believe on Him as the Only Begotten son of the Father.

Easter is nothing short of God's powerful limitless unabounding love story for us; His awesome unbelievable gift of grace and mercy and true salvation for all who believe! I have been really impressed to simply write this and say God loves you! He loves you! And I love you and I want to see the fullness of God's love moving in your life! He loves you and it doesn't matter what you have done or where you have come from—He loves you! And He sent His son to die on the cross for you and me as the price for our sins! Nothing more and nothing less! His son paid the price and He is the awesome gift of God's love for you!

May God bless you today and may He make His face to shine upon you and may He grant you His peace!

Happy Easter and may the God of Heaven grant you His peace and mercy and His Holy Spirit!

No politics today...

todd

P.S. I did a short email so you saved some time today...please go and love on your family! :)

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sins; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed..." Isaiah 53:5

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

VIP Constituent call back?

1 message

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 1, 2015 at 11:54 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Hey Todd, [redacted] called again. He and I spoke awhile back but he called again on a different issue. Regarding the state sending so much money to Detroit and Detroit giving a raise to the City Council of 2.5% in 2017.

He asked to talk to you so he may be someone you should call back.

His number is [redacted]

Thanks!

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Last week stuff and some updates...

2 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 6:02 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I should still be getting daily update emails; I am not seeing them; also some votes from last week I think were missed.

thanks

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Apr 1, 2015 at 11:29 AM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger. Daily update later today. Keith already posted votes

On Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 6:02 PM, Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
> I should still be getting daily update emails; I am not seeing them; also some votes from last week I think were missed.
>
> thanks

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Lapeer Tea Party Issue

2 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 7:59 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Josh
I am snippy tonight not pissed so read this with snippiness not pissededness...just please get it figured out on these two items tomorrow for me. thanks

Are you in contact with him or not? I asked very specifically to have you call him the first of last week and give me some idea was it a go or no? and if so what the deal was looking like. he is saying you have not but that can be just him saying it and it isn't true which is a bridge we have crossed before.

At this point it sounds like [redacted] has not been contacted back by you this past week? Now I am making plans so get it on your to do list and your project tracker and please someone follow josh around and get it figured out tomorrow so I know if the day is freed up or not for me. If it is a go or no then please let me know so I can get my stuff in motion in another direction.

thanks

Finally what the hell does a man have to do to get some data?

I need the contract on this data purchase now...no i mean now like tomorrow or Tuesday. Like I have been waiting for 3 months and I seriously need it now! So please get me the contract tomorrow or Tuesday or get me the number for the person and Ill make the call myself to get it.

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 12:53 PM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

After playing phone tag these are the details:

If you do not speak Pavlov will have the entire agenda to himself to speak.

If you do come you will get half and Phil will get half. The the two of you will stay on stage at the end to take any questions (geared to legislation).

If we get an answer by the end of the day today it will give them time to get the press release in the paper with both you and Phil on it.

Thanks,

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p:[redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

RNC Campaign

2 messages

Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 11:53 PM
To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>

Unless I missed something I didn't see any response back from my request for assistance on the RNC race, and being that it has to be worked on off Lansing hours and we are now going into the workweek and Monday morning, and also that there is only about a month to throw it together, a lack of a response to my email and text over the last two days in itself is a response.

So I just wanted you to know you can rest easy from having involvement in it, I have found someone who will be helping me on it.

Thanks anyway,
Cindy

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 1:44 AM
To: Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I am in to do whatever you need.

Thanks for taking this one on...

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Pics from weekend

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 10:09 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

If I do an event and I have staff we need to make sure we get some pics and that we get them up after the event so I can compound the media moment.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 11:34 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Unfortunately my phone died during the Lincoln day dinner. But the Lapeer GOP posted some great pics so I will re post a few of those.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Boy Scouts v Lincoln say - ok this is how I would like this to go; ask the [redacted]s if we can present at or towards the end of the program? Then if yes what is the time slot to do it? Then calculate the time from Lincoln day to Ervin's event and add ten minutes for buffer; then let [redacted] know with an email to her and whoever else is planning this deal that I will need to speak before said time or I will have to head out to give the tribute to an Eagle Scout and we understand that I might not fit that time slot on her plan and if she can make it work great and if not then we will just have to head out. That we all know what the deal is and all can plan or not plan it's their call; I just don't want [redacted] to sandbag and not have it clear on the front end for us to come back to.

Then let me know where you are on the tea party thing and the data contract thing.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Emails and what not...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 4:05 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I obviously am not a happy camper today; I am sure I'll settle down but this was totally low class; and confirmed zero admin of any process; and zero fail safes in place and no calendaring of even reminders or confirmations; it was a hell of a ride to then find out it was canceled several days prior and that the cancelation was sent to me but to what is being called my "private" email; apparently even though I have been told by the entire team I don't have to worry about it I have to worry about it; you guys should be running a diagnostic every day to confirm up to date information and on Friday you should be having a meeting with an agenda and you should have a check list; you all sat in front of me and said you confirm it the day before "BY CALLING THE REPS OFFICE THAT SET IT UP." Whatever process you have it didn't and doesn't work; it takes a checklist and someone governing the checklist and a calendar event to confirm every damn item on the calendar the day before; you should have if you have a process been settling up a calendar event to call and confirm the event is still happening and it has to happen the day before; confirm it by email and a call 48 hours before and by phone call the day before; that means every darned event on the calendar should be called the day before; my legal office sends a letter to the client when the appointment is made, it is put on the calendar, an email is sent to the person; and a letter; then a reminder call is made the day before; those that are not confirmed the day before are called that day up to the appointment time. If you put an event on my calendar you should be putting that same event on your calendar to confirm both 48 and 24 hours before the event. YOU SHOULD HAVE AM OFFICE ADMIN CALENDAR IN PLACE TO HAVE SCHEDULED FOLLOWUPS FOR ITEMS IN PLAY...This should happen for all appointments and events both that we are setting up and that they are setting up.

Now I need to know what email addresses now are flowing into the official office and also thru political emails and I need a list of them and I need to know which can be forwarded to my cell phone and I need that set up the next time I am in the office; then I also need the admin email set up on to my cell phone as well and I needl be able to see the office calendar showing you have reminders and have scheduled in reminders to do appointment and event pre confirmations and who owns the event responsibility.

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/Law Office - Charter Services Reviewed

3 messages

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 10:17 AM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, TRACY PAULUS <tracyp@toddcourser.com>

G-ann/TracyP/Ben

Legal/Political - I need to know if there is any information I am missing before I proceed to make changes. Ben I need to know if there is any political machinery tide to these lines or infrastructure that I don't know about? And if so what are the options to change the structure so it doesn't impact the political machinery?

I spend $392 per month but not entirely sure if I understand what this all includes in regards to whether there is a 2nd fax line or if there are other items unseen to me.

I think it is 6 or 7 phone lines and cable internet. (there maybe more parts to this than I can see from here so if you are aware of more parts then please let me know and also when calling charter please confirm the services in place presently)

1. 810-245-0813 (Main Line)
2. 810-245-1550 (First Rollover Line)
3. 810-245-3582 (Second Rollover Line)
4. 810-245-3595 (Third Rollover Line)
5. 810-245-3610 (Fourth Rollover Line)
6. 810-245-0907 (Fax Line)

I believe there is a 2nd fax line in place but I do not have the number.

It is hard to get away from the cable company, but I am planning having charter re-quote the services I now pay for as the service presently sits; and also getting a second quote with removing the "Third and Fourth Rollover Lines" and if there is a 2nd fax line to cut out; then finally having ATT quote it with their DSL option.

G-ann/TracyP/Ben

I need four things in this order:

1. Confirm with Ben that changes to this service won't alter the political machinery and if it does then confirm how he can change it and that he will change it and get a timeline.

2. Call Charter and confirm the services now in place with their company

2. Then call Charter and ATT and ask them to re-quote the services as they currently sit and also to quote it without the "third and fourth rollover lines and without any 2nd fax line if there is one in place now."

3. Then please get me the quotes so I can make the determination of what to cut

4. I know its busy so if you can't do these steps this next week, then I understand, but give me a time table on completion so I know and then we can decide if I should schedule in my time to do it myself to push this thru to completion.

thanks

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: 10th CD Data

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 1:43 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

Of the two paid companies that we have requested data from:

Great Lakes Strategies: Total cost 2,400.00 in 2 installments. One 1,200.00 before receipt of data this year and 1,200.00 next year.

Practical Political Consulting: 6,000.00 plus additional cost of up to 2,400 for continuous data update along with AV Chase. Total Cost would be 8,400.

Over the weekend I requested the data and a contract from Great Lakes Strategies. I have not heard back from him yet as I suspect he is tied up in Lansing. (In the off year he works for the GOP Caucus in Lansing). Once I get a copy of the written agreement I will forward it along.

Thanks,

Josh

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 10:54 AM
To: Todd Courser <todd@toddcourser.com>
Cc: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, TRACY PAULUS <tracyp@toddcourser.com>

The only political machinery dependent on Charter is the polling server. As long as the internet is still connected and there isn't any reduction in bandwidth for the internet services we should be fine with any other changes made to Charter services.

If you do end up switching to ATT or another service I will need to reconfigure some of the settings for the polling server. We will also need to ensure the bandwidth level is comparable to the previous charter service.
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd A. Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 12:26 PM
Reply-To: todd@toddcourser.com
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "Todd.Courser.Law.Office" <lawoffice@toddcourser.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>, TRACY PAULUS <tracyp@toddcourser.com>

ok thanks - tracy/g-ann can you get the rest of this a step or two down the tracks?

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 changes...

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 9:13 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Several months ago I asked for a list of vendors that I could cut from the ongoing political machinery; I didn't receive it; it may or may not matter to you all or maybe it's just not really a concern but these items in an ongoing basis cost me each month and so if the item or service is crucial then I am fine with keeping it but if not then I needed to get it cut out and I really needed some assistance in getting a sense of which i could cut to bring down my overall costs monthly for ongoing political operations; it didn't happen. I will now be making the decisions on my own. Ben please do what is necessary to transfer the political fb account to the BAL this next week. I don't want to hear you don't understand, I want it morphed into the BAL this next week. I will be ending other pieces as well either by asking you to shut them down or ending payment on them without asking you; some of these things don't appear to be in use.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 11:08 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

When you asked I spoke with Tracy and asked for a list of services I should look through. She said I should know better than her what they were so I did think through what services we no longer need that I could remember. The only thing I can think of in the political realm is the Flamethrower server but we had discussed awhile back you wanted to keep that around in case for we needed it for other more covert operations. Unless you wanted to keep it around I would say it is unnecessary in our current configuration.

As we discussed last night merging the political NB account with the BAL can be done on the data side. Last night I said I will look into what savings can be had by doing that. It can be done and will probably save some money. But we would lose any detailed correspondence like content of emails, contact records via phone etc... Also the reason we separated the data in the first place was to avoid and messy data problems. Also if we want to totally move over and combine NB's there will need to be some significant work done to move content from the State Rep site back to the BAL NB.

I will look into what cost savings can be had and work to move in that direction when I am off state time and state computer's.

On Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 9:13 AM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

> Several months ago I asked for a list of vendors that I could cut from the ongoing political machinery; I didn't receive it; it may or may not matter to you all or maybe it's just not really a concern but these items in an ongoing basis cost me each month and so if the item or service is crucial then I am fine with keeping it but if not then I needed to get it cut out and I really needed some assistance in getting a sense of which i could cut to bring down my overall costs monthly for ongoing political operations; it didn't happen. I will now be making the decisions on my own. Ben please do what is necessary to transfer the political fb account to the BAL this next week. I don't want to hear you don't understand, I want it morphed into the BAL this next week. I will be ending other pieces as well either by asking you to shut them down or ending payment on them without asking you; some of these things don't appear to be in use.

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Sent from my iPhone

Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

2015PPCSalesAgreement.docx
21K

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

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Rep 80/82: Cline 3/24/15 Daily Report

2 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 10:58 AM

My apologies, I crashed after taking cough syrup when I got home and fell asleep on the couch. Here is the report from yesterday:

Working on scheduling a few tours that Cindy had requested an interest in going to. There two different tours on the 30th. 1. Prison Fellowship at EC Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon and Muskegon Correctional Facility. The 2nd tour is a nuclear plant tour with Aric Nesbit that will be sometime next week.
There is a tour with Military and Veterans Committee of a VA outpatient clinic in Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Wyoming on the 31st and another in Battle Creek on the 1st of April. I have called the respective offices of Barrett, Hughes, Colbeck and Nesbit who are the points for these tours.

Went through all outstanding LSB bill requests to see what has not had any contact from them in a while.

Updated CourserLeglislativeTracker with new information

Discussed with Keith where both of our staffs are at in regards to outstanding legislation.

Emailed LSB lawyer Kristen Dunn that despite her reservations of mandated federal funding that states must also match in regards to Amtrak wwe wish to proceed.

Called LSB lawyer on the Medicaid question having to to with federal authority, its mandate and the Social Welfare Act. I called to find out if that had been answered yet. Left VM.

Called Brandon from LSB research about some additional questions I did not get answered regarding some 3-Tier distribution. Here are some example questions I had that were not answered in my original request: What are some examples of similar systems to Michigan across the country? What states does not have a beer and wine government distribution system? What states still have a distribution system that is more free market? What has been the increase in private sector companies, wholesalers, retailers, etc in state that have diminished or eliminated their distribution system.

Re-read the bill to eliminate the Tier 1 teacher pension system to make sure that it does, in fact, eliminate or mandate that all future employees no longer have the choice to enter into tier 1 and must do a tier 2 401k style retirement system.

Reviewed the bills before your Regulatory Reform committee and listed short explanations for them in the schedule brief.

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

FB posts on MIRS article -

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 9:45 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

We probably should expose this and list the members of the committee in the fb posts to get them to do this all in day light...

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Maybe start it like this and then lead into the article...

Recent MIRS Article on how the leadership is hiding nearly a half a billion in new Medicaid money to pay for last cycles disgraceful expansion of Medicaid; it's totally unsustainable and it was done by Republicans to set up a future Obamacare Exchanges...this spending needs to be stopped...

Medicaid Expansion Money Rolled Into Next Year's Budget

Faced with an impending battle with conservatives over $361 million in new money to cover the more-popular-than-expected Medicaid expansion program, the House today rolled the money into next year's Department of Community Health (DCH) budget.

Typically, additional mid-year money is broken off into its own supplemental appropriations bill. But sticking the federal money into a Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 spending bill prevents direct conflict on the House floor over Healthy Michigan, Gov. Rick SNYDER's 1-year-old plan to extend Medicaid to those making up to 138 percent of the poverty line.

Snyder had initially projected to enroll about 400,000 people in the first year. Instead, 580,000 Michiganders signed up.

House DCH Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Rob VERHEULEN(R-Walker) said the additional money needed to be allocated so, "We were here. We needed to do that. So, we thought we'd do it with our budget.

"It consolidates things, we'd throw in something else if it was remotely relevant just to keep is simple," he said. "At this point, we're waiting for the discussion to move forward."

House Appropriations Chair Al PSCHOLKA (R-Stevensville) said the extra Healthy Michigan spending for the current budget year was put in the bill for next year's budget because lawmakers decided that was the best place to do it.

For weeks now, lawmakers have known that a supplemental would be coming to draw down more federal spending for Medicaid (See "Debate Over Medicaid Expansion Expected To Creep Back Into Legislature," 2/19/15).

Caseloads, Pscholka said, fluctuate up and down and leadership is hoping to have fewer mid-year supplementals this session.

Asked if he was worried that the Healthy Michigan spending could cause some conservatives to vote against the whole budget, Pscholka said he hopes people look at the budget a whole.

"I think there are things in every budget that some members will not like," Pscholka said. "There were things in last year's budget that I didn't like, but I still voted for the budget."

Rep. Cindy GAMRAT (R-Plainwell) is opposed to further Healthy Michigan spending and said the state needs to stop spending money on the program.

"Success is not making more people dependent on the government," Gamrat said. "It's enabling the environment and the economy so people can become less dependent on the government and more independent."

Asked if that would cause her to vote against the budget as a whole, she responded, "I would vote against anything that supports or encourages the increase of Medicaid expansion and more people dependent upon the government."

Sent from my iPhone

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 11:54 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

The fb post should probably say - sneaky little 300 to 500 million dollar annual fix to an unConstitutional welfare entitlement; last year our legislature/senate along with our governor passed a very controversial expansion to Medicaid with late night arm twisting, promises of all sorts and of course when it passed it ended with end zone dancing to the Macarena on the house floor (this was and is all a pre step to full Obamacare exchanges); this legislation allows medical coverage of adults who are up to 133% of poverty and up to 160% for children - Example - so in a family of 4 w/ 58k income then the family received free medical coverage on the taxpayers dime, not to mention a whole host of other gov benefits (I am a family of 6 and the current state rep for my district and on my 70k income from being state rep my family qualifies "free medical!" All at taxpayers expense not to mention a whole host of welfare entitlements); this is in no way sustainable nor is it even Constitutional and defies all sound governance, but that did not stop the republican house, senate, and governor from hoisting upon the taxpayers a massive never ending new welfare liability which is a key part of Obama's agenda. Well fast forward to a year later and "big surprise," instead of having 400k new enrollees in the program as predicted we have nearly 600k and so our legislature of course now has to pay the bill for these added welfare recipients who are now entitled to this government benefit. So the new leadership, made up of much of the old leadership that passed this beast onto the taxpayers, has to now figure out how to pay the extra tab 400 million annually and increasing into the future; the leadership is now attempting to bake the needed new money to fund this monstrosity of Obamacare into the upcoming budget so they don't have to have the programs feasibility and Constitutionality brought back thru the legislature for scrutiny. These new "poor" are not poor at all; 58k for a family of 4 is not poor; and it is not the proper role of government to pay the medical coverage and expenses for its citizens; so needless to say our conservative wheat and chaff get separated on this one; this won't come now before the legislature but you "joe taxpayer" will be paying on this "forever!" It's all a baked in figure into the whole budget. In the committee it was voted on today and only one voted against continued funding of this component of Obamacare (Rep Gamrat / I don't sit on this committee but I would have voted against it myself, none other voted against taking these federal funds); all the rest simply said "yes" and will of course sleep just fine tonight in their conservative credentials and with their decision and tomorrow they again be able to rail against Obamacare and entitlements and government spending tomorrow...the wheel goes around and round and it always stops on more and more government and more and more spending.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Daily Report 3/24/2015

3 messages

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 9:45 AM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

3/24/2015

- Call from Britney at MLBA on cancelling Scott Ellis meeting
- Todd voicemails
- Cindy voicemails
- Scheduled Hillsdale conference
- Scheduled FYI on Lapeer Homeschool Conference
- Left a message for [redacted]n Lapeer Homeschool conference
- Scheduled several in district FYI events
- Todd Happy Notes
- Scheduling call from [redacted]r Ntl day of prayer in Lapeer on May 7th
- Called [redacted]ack about consumer complaint issue
- Scheduled Cindy for Prop one panel on the 16th
- Spoke to

Capitol facilities on flag for Lincoln day

Advertisement for Lapeer

Constit call from [redacted]

Call from [redacted]n

Ottawa Patriots Round table

Confirmed Todd for Lapeer National day of prayer service

Serving Allegan Emails

Serving Lapeer Emails

Fixed Todds friends list issue

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 10:44 AM
To: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I am pretty sure that [redacted] asked me to speak at their event for the national day of prayer and we went thru that some time ago? I need some clarification on all that.

Also [redacted] had asked for some lit from our office did that happen?

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Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 25, 2015 at 10:55 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yes, [redacted]s booked for the AM on the National Day of Prayer with the understanding that if a vote happens in that committee you have that morning that you might miss the event. The one in Lapeer is at 6pm in the evening and you would need to head back after session. [redacted] and [redacted]ve requested some Citizens Guide to Government Booklets which were just updated with all the latest information. We have put in a request for more of the requested lit and it will be delivered as soon as it arrives.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: Data Lists

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 3:57 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Team,

I have contacted two list companies and made requests for the data that we are looking for. Both have suggested that they should have a price within 24-48 hours.

An approximate cost of emails at a data list of 80,000 GOP voters should be a match of 16,000 valid emails at a cost of .011-0.12 cents per record. The cost for emails would be between 1,760-1,920. We may go up to a target of 100,000 voters and that would increase both the list price and the email price.

Thanks,

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: Daily Schedule Brief 3/24/15
7 messages

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:20 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

Representative Todd Courser

-

7:15-8:15 FYI 4-H Capitol Experience Ceremony and Legislative Breakfast

Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 218 W. Ottawa Lansing

Note: You have constituents attending

9:00-10:30 Criminal Justice Committee

11:00-11:30 Meeting with Kevin Eisenheimer on MIOSHA

11:15-1:00 Lunch and Legislation Meeting with Keith

1:00-1:30 GOP Caucus

1:30-3:00 House Session

Criminal Justice: Tuesday's @ 9:00am, Room HOB 327

Chair: Heise

GOP Policy: Hassan Beydoun, 373-0935, [redacted] (m)

-

Agenda:

1. **HB 4247, 4248, 4249, 4250, 4251** *(Criminal Justice, 3/24/15)* - These are the first of the various bills repealing outdated and bizarre laws as part of the House action plan. **THIS IS JUST TESTIMONY, NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN.**

HB 4247 (Howrylak) Repeal Public Act of 1981 that provides that only deaf people may in use of a dog that wears a blaze orange leash and/or color in public. I think this bills makes since to decriminalize people who put an orange collar on their dogs. A deaf person's ability to have a service dog is not impacted by this legislation, but it does allow for all dog owners to have orange collars, leashes, or vests even though the standard color for a "Hearing Dog" is orange.

HB 4248 (Afendoulis) Repeal the crime for using reproachful language while not accepting or fighting or participating in a duel. It also repeals the crime of swearing in front of a woman or child, ends the regulations on where and when the Star-Spangled Banner should be played and it being played as a medley, and repeals the crime of knowingly improperly disposing of a refrigerator.

Swearing while dueling should be allowed, swearing at announcing not participation in a duel should be allowed, heck swearing in general should be allowed. People should be free to play the national anthem however and whenever they want.

HB 4250 (VerHeulen) Repeals the crime of participating in a walkathon.

HB 4251 (LaFontaine) Repeals the crime of selling a chick, rabbits, ducklings or any other game fowl that has been dyed.

HB 4249 (Webber) Repeal the additional trespassing laws that create crimes from trespassing on property to take things away like timber, gravel, sand, turf, stone, plants, trees, roots, hay, grass, or grain; garden, orchard with the intent to cut, take, carry away, destroy, or injure the trees, grain, grass, hay, fruit, or vegetables that are growing; entering the premises of another and taking cranberries or cranberry vines from a cranberry marsh, or destroying or trampling the vines; prohibits a person from entering, without consent of the owner, a vineyard, orchard, or garden

and picking, taking away, destroying, or injuring the fruits, vegetables, or crops; willfully break down, dig, destroy, take, or carry away certain medicinal plants such as ginseng seed or golden seal roots.

Talked with Hassan and all these laws in HB 4249 are in duplicate to existing trespassing on private property laws.

Bills:

Testimony: [redacted]

See Above

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:32 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 7:33 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Is dueling legal? Or illegal?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 7:39 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

Dueling its self is covered as illegal under existing statute dealing with assault, battery, homicide, indecent behavior etc.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 9:01 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Are you sure?

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 9:03 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: team@toddcourser.com

I already asked that question today, but maybe you bring it up as a question in committee tomorrow.
The answer I got is the one I gave you.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 10:09 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Got it, but in a duel there is consent of both parties; so I would think it would be legal unless it's outlawed.

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Rep 82: March 23rd Cline Daily Report

1 message

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:47 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Contracted [redacted] from Columbiaville that she is all set to testify before the Ag committee on Wednesday in favor of Rep. Johnson's HB 4175

Contacted [redacted] who requested a proclamation about making March Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month that Rep. sarah Roberts had already done that earlier in the month.

Received email from LSB on the eliminate marriage licenses bill that she need clarification on if judges would then be allowed to still do marriages or do we want it exactly like the Oklahoma Bill. Called Todd at the office and left a message for G'Ann for Todd to call me back. Heard back from Todd and relayed to LSB the clarification to the language of the bill.

Went through all of Cindy's and Todd's committee's and verified that they are having them and what the agenda is for each committee.

Review all possible floor vote possibilities that we have a dual copies of each and each has a vote explanation.

Printed off the bills that passed committee at the end of the week and went through them with Keith.

Added the needed vote explanations to the Floor Votes and explanation tracker.

Read, reviewed and sent email regarding a short brief of the bills for tomorrow's committee testimonies in Criminal Justice.

All GOP Staff meeting where they went over the Constituent Walk (CCP) days for the in-district break.

Booked me and Ben for a couple CCP days over the in-district break.

Went to Grand Traverse to do some list purchasing and email purchasing analysis.

Printed and placed all committee bills and information in all relevant binders for both Cindy and Todd.

Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Weekly committee and legislative overview 3/23/2015 Rep 80/82

5 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 1:16 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Many of the bills in Cindy's Appropriations committee came out of nowhere - some do not even have enrolled bills yet and are referred to by LSB request number. Pscholka has indicated all of this will be discussed further at an Appropriations caucus meeting **Tuesday at 4:30pm.**

Investigation Report
Rep. Courser/Rep. Gamrat
Joshua Cline Documents
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Cindy

1. **HB 4091 (DNR BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION)** *(Natural Resources - Approps, 3/24/15)*
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3. **HB 4108** *(Lara Appropriations, 3/24/15)* - Chairs recommendations for the DIFS budget.
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5. **LEGISLATIVE TRANSFER 2015-2** *(Appropriations, 3/25/15)* - I believe we are a **NO** vote on this, per my last conversation with Cindy. There is no process to amend or substitute the transfer document allowed without express consent of the House and Senate Appropriations chairs
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10. **HB 4101** *(Appropriations, 3/25/15)* - Supplemental Appropriation to purchase discounted tax vouchers from the Venture Michigan Corporation. This addresses an issue I have been working on the past several months. As you know, the Venture Michigan Fund will be issuing $50 million in tax vouchers in the current fiscal year. We are carrying that amount on our balance sheet to anticipate those being redeemed. If we do nothing, $50 million in vouchers will be issued and $50 million will be redeemed. If we appropriate this money, however, we could purchase these tax vouchers at a 10% discount, thus saving the taxpayers of Michigan $5 million in the current fiscal year. This bill runs parallel to three pieces of legislation currently in the Commerce Committee to phase out the Venture Michigan Funds and cap our tax liability. This issue is highly complex, and we will discuss further in Appropriations Caucus tomorrow.

11. **HB 4097** *(Education Appropriations, 3/25/15)* - Education budget decisions. Cindy has indicated her issues to Potvin. I believe we are a **NO** on this budget without some significant changes that the subcommittee chair will likely not allow. If Kelly or Canfield is able to be swayed to a No vote, it is likely this legislation will have to be reconsidered as Pagan and Banks are both no votes.

12. **HB 4104** *(MVA Appropriations, 3/26/15)* - Military and Veterans Affairs decisions. As the MVA budget actually reduces general fund expenditures from the FY14-15 levels, and Cindy feels that military/veterans spending is an acceptable role of government, I believe we are a **YES** on this budget.

Todd

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2. **HB 4245** *(Regulatory Reform, 3/25/15)* - This would amend the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act by removing a requirement that an individual seeking registration under the act be employed by a governmental subdivision, and adds a new subsection specifying that an individual need not be employed by an enforcing government agency to register under the act. **RECOMMENDED VOTE: Yes**
3. **HB 4246** *(Regulatory Reform, 3/25/15)* - This bill establishes that for any rule or regulation mandated by federal law, the state can not enact rules or regulations more strict or stringent than those mandated by the Feds. **THIS IS JUST TESTIMONY, NO VOTE WILL BE TAKEN.**
4. **We have yet to receive notice for AGRICULTURE or EDUCATION Policy committee hearings**. The **MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS** policy committee hearing has been **cancelled** this week.

SENATE ACTIVITY

1. The Senate passed five bills last week, all unanimously except for the Choose Life license plate legislation. None of the bills are of concern for liberty issues
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To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Breakdown of item 1 from the above email. These are for testimony in Criminal Justice.

HB 4247 (Howrylak) Repeal Public Act of 1981 that provides that only deaf people may in use of a dog that wears a blaze orange leash and/or color in public. I think this bills makes since to decriminalize people who put an orange collar on their dogs. A deaf person's ability to have a service dog is not impacted by this legislation, but it does allow for all dog owners to have orange collars, leashes, or vests even though the standard color for a "Hearing Dog" is orange.

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Swearing while dueling should be allowed, swearing at announcing not participation in a duel should be allowed, heck swearing in general should be allowed. People should be free to play the national anthem however and whenever they want.

HB 4250 (VerHeulen) Repeals the crime of participating in a walkathon.

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HB 4249 (Webber) Repeal the additional trespassing laws that create crimes from trespassing on property to take things away like timber, gravel, sand, turf, stone, plants, trees, roots, hay, grass, or grain; garden, orchard

with the intent to cut, take, carry away, destroy, or injure the trees, grain, grass, hay, fruit, or vegetables that are growing; entering the premises of another and taking cranberries or cranberry vines from a cranberry marsh, or destroying or trampling the vines; prohibits a person from entering, without consent of the owner, a vineyard, orchard, or garden and picking, taking away, destroying, or injuring the fruits, vegetables, or crops; willfully break down, dig, destroy, take, or carry away certain medicinal plants such as ginseng seed or golden seal roots.

Talked with Hassan and all these laws in HB 4249 are in duplicate to existing trespassing on private property laws.

Thanks,

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
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p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
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Revised update:

Agriculture is meeting this week with a vote on Rep. Johnson's HB 4175 reform Equine Activity Liability Act. Currently, a business, farm, organization or non-profit group can be held to the standard of Criminal Negligence in relation to accidents, injuries and/or death related to horseback riding or other equine activity at their place of

business. This bill would bring Michigan Law into line with 27 other states that move the liability from Criminal Negligence to "Willful or Wanton Disregard" regarding accidents, injuries, and/or death. This bill was before the Ag committee last session and passed out of the Ag committee 11-5 with one pass. It was a straight party line vote. All the Agriculture groups support this bill and the State Bar opposes this bill. I would advise a Yes voted on this bill as it reduces the burden on business and non-profits, such as 4-H groups that provide equine services, but it still leaves them liable if the event was unreasonable, malicious, voluntary and intentional.

Note: You have a constituent [redacted] testifying in favor of the bill before the vote on Wednesday.

Thanks,

Josh
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Gmail by Google

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Joshua Cline
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Note: You have a constituent [redacted] testifying in favor of the bill before the vote on Wednesday.

Thanks,

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Be ready

3 messages

[redacted]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 10:57 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just a note - We need to be able to go thru the caucus agenda and submit amendments to the liberty killers on Mondays so we can do our best for Tuesday's. So we need to be able So knowing what was voted in in committees last week is crucial and identifying what needs amendments and what they would be is really important on Mondays.

Also I need a plan on my data tomorrow before caucus.

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 11:35 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger and we are going back through the bills that could be up this week to double check. Your bill binders have been getting updated daily with what is passed out of committee and on to 2nd reading.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

Investigation Report
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To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Here are your potential floor votes this week - many are the ones we discussed last week, and the new ones reported don't have any particularly egregious liberty concerns... some we can discuss as indicated below.

SB 12	No	I voted NO on SB 12. This bill allows individuals who retired from the Michigan civil service to continue receiving retirement benefits if they work as contractors in the Attorney General's office (i.e. 'double dipping'). This bill violates the spirit of the civil service pension reforms that prohibit civil servants from simultaneous receiving a state paycheck and a state retirement check. This bill places no limitations on the retiree for the amount of time they can "double dip" or the total amount of benefits they can simultaneously receive. I believe the office of the Attorney General should pursue other options before this bill is given consideration.
		I voted YES on SB 53. This bill exempts retired federal law enforcement officers from 'no-carry' zones if they hold a CPL license. Though I question the validity of no-carry zones, and believe all CPL holders should be exempt from them, this bill moves in the right direction towards

SB 53	Yes	protecting liberties guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. I continue to work on drafting legislation that provides for true constitutional carry in the state of Michigan.
HB 4289	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4289. This bill corrects a typo in Public Act 185 of 2014. Who would have ever guessed that legislators would pass a bill without it being perfect the first time... ;)
HB 4183	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4183. This bill begins the necessary reforms to Michigan's outdated system of public notices. It allows municipal governments to move towards a system of posting public notices online instead of in local newspapers. With the decline in newspaper circulation, and the proliferation of online access, Michigan's current system essentially forces local governments to subsidize declining print journalism outlets. This bill is a solid step towards more efficient and less costly municipal governance, and will result in greater transparency and ease of use for Michigan taxpayers.
HB 4054	No	I voted NO on HB 4054. This bill increases regulations on an industry where there are local control mechanisms in place. An expansion of regulations through expanded power by the DEQ and LARA was not warranted industry wide. It was, in part, a failure of the local enforcement mechanism that caused the original issues this bill ostensibly seeks to address.
HB 4015	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4015. This bill allows Michigan citizens to resell tickets they have purchased to entertainment events. This bill restores property rights and is a pro-liberty reform.
HB 4244	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4244. This bill removes tort liability for individuals who own private airstrips. It encourages these individuals to make their property available for private and recreational pilots by removing liabilities they might face. This bill will esentially equate recreational aviation activities with other recreational activities like snowmobiling.
HB 4295	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4295. This is a technical bill that amends the sentencing code to reflect the amendment to current law related to HB 4155, which I also voted for.
SB 18	Yes	I voted YES on Senate Bills 18 and 19. These bills authorize the state to convey privately owned swamp land, incldiing any mineral rights inherent, back to the de facto private property owner. They correct a grievous oversight related to the administration of the Swamp Patent Act of 1850 and protect the private property rights of Michigan citizens.
SB 19	Yes	
HB 4041	DISCUSS	Removing FIP benefits for families that do not meet compulsory school attendance guidelines
HB 4017	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4017. This bill removes criminal liability from restaurants or organizations that donate excess food to Michigan food banks. Civil liability was removed in 1993. By additionally removing criminal liability, we can further encourage restaurants and other organizations to donate excess food supply that would otherwise be discarded to food banks, ideally helping feed more of those who require the food banks' services.
HB 4134	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4134. This bill allows military veterans to use their military experience with boilers towards the experience requirement for state licensure for boiler installation, boiler repair, and boiler inspector.
HB 4060	DISCUSS	HB 4060 would require four-year public universities to identify individuals who are active or former military, national guard or military reserves and provide them with the ability to translate their military training or experience into academic credit.
HB 4193	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4193. This bill allows Michigan residents to show electronic proof of insurance to law enforcement officers.
HB 4244	DISCUSS	eliminates the $25.00 filing fee for the annual financial statements of foreign and alien insurers. This fee is no longer needed because the annual statements are now electronically filed through National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Energy fb post - probably it will be a couple...

5 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 8:31 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

So I have a short one to expose it and to give a little warmth to our frienemies on the committee and our friends. :)

Keith / josh can you proof this tomorrow and then hook the names to it for the warm up volley? Also ae can hook it to the bills or the article of the new energy thing the gov is doing...

It's hard to always have to voice my opposition to the Governor and my fellow republicans who have become so enamored with distorting the free markets at every turn, but I am sorry government isn't the answer to our problems it is our problem; to solve the energy problems we have and the extortionist prices we pay we need freedom to buy energy not tyrannical control of energy; the answer lies in lesser government and less governmental interference; unfortunately our house energy committee is set to pass a really draconian set of legislation to outlaw what little energy freedom we now have; we have some of the highest prices in the country; there should be some liberty voices out there in that committee who are willing to add amendments to turn this legislation back toward the free markets, but none so far have been willing to stand up to either stop this offense from proceeding or to offer a liberty option. HB 4279 and 4302 give a perfect government imposed monopoly to two companies who then can charge whatever and there is no choice for our citizens; this legislation should be opposed and we need someone on that committee to offer some counter weight for the people of Michigan to balance the tremendously powerful and "well paid for" will of DTE and Consumers Energy which absolutely rule the energy world here in Michigan; these companies pretty much control this committee and the legislators who sit on it with massive funding for their campaigns now and far far into the future. The people of Michigan deserve representatives who will fight to prevent monopolies that will gouge our citizens. Here are the reps who sit on this committee so please read these bills and let them know how you feel about having a total monopoly that give an absolute guarantee of profits and is set up by your representatives in favor of DTE / Consumers versus our people being free to buy their power in the free markets. It's not done yet so please give them a call or message them to let them know how you feel.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Graham <bjamm90@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 8:35 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>

Keith, unless I'm mistaken Todd totally threw out everything you wrote and substituted his crazy ass shit below. That huge paragraph is only 5 sentences!!!!!!! THE FIRST HALF IS ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE WITH LIKE 10 SEMICOLONS!!! WTFFF!!!!??!?!

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Ben Graham
Bellwether Strategies
Partner/ Director of Technology
Certified Nationbuilder Expert
[redacted]
bengraham.mi@gmail.com

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Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 8:45 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger...

[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 21, 2015 at 10:55 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I would like to have this up tomorrow before 6 so we go into the week with it out. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 9:14 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Posted
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82 - Data situation?

5 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:26 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

We said it would be ready to go last week so I need a definitive time on the email purchase and Facebook match being done - when will it be ready to go? And what is the approximate cost? And what is needed from me? And when?

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:28 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Keith, how soon until we get the data list for the 10th? That is the hold up from our end at this point.

Josh

On Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:26 PM, Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> wrote:
> We said it would be ready to go last week so I need a definitive time on the email purchase and Facebook match being done - when will it be ready to go? And what is the approximate cost? And what is needed from me? And when?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p:[redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 3:46 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

My guy is being inexplicably slow. Let me call him again.
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 16, 2015 at 4:05 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Ok well it's been a couple of months so then I some quotes on the data for the tenth this week.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Sat, Mar 21, 2015 at 7:30 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

It has been now a couple of months and several emails so i do need some sort of feedback on data - basically what the hell is the deal? What do I need to do to get a plan on this? Keith is your guy a go or no? If yes then when? If no then what are my options to buy the data? And what do those options cost and what is the soundness of the data? I need to know this info by Tuesday when I go to session.

Also Ben I think you said we can match that old rt72 list to voter file for 700? Confirm this for me as well by Tuesday at session.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - FDA legislation for terminally ill

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:35 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2015/03/to-the-governor-indiana-and-mississippi-pass-bills-to-take-on-fda-restrictions-on-terminally-ill/

Found one..

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:56 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger and We need to teach you to enter these in the tracker :)

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:40 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't think so Josh, when you do it you are now alerted to it and it is on your radar. By sending the email to all of us We are all mire on the same page and have a shared understanding of what we are working on.
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 11:25 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I can and of course that would be me being intellectually honest with my robust conservative fiscal ideology by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracies but josh then what would you do? :)

Sleep well

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Ok here is another one...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:04 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2015/03/north-dakota-house-passes-measure-to-reject-federal-acts-61-30/

Sent from my iPhone

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - Be ready

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 10:57 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Just a note - We need to be able to go thru the caucus agenda and submit amendments to the liberty killers on Mondays so we can do our best for Tuesday's. So we need to be able So knowing what was voted in in committees last week is crucial and identifying what needs amendments and what they would be is really important on Mondays.

Also I need a plan on my data tomorrow before caucus.

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 11:35 AM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger and we are going back through the bills that could be up this week to double check. Your bill binders have been getting updated daily with what is passed out of committee and on to 2nd reading.

Josh
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Joshua Cline
Senior Partner and Director of Consulting
Bellwether Strategies
p: [redacted]
Facebook: Joshua D. Cline
Twitter: @JoshuaDCline

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 1:01 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Here are your potential floor votes this week - many are the ones we discussed last week, and the new ones reported don't have any particularly egregious liberty concerns... some we can discuss as indicated below.

SB 12	No	I voted NO on SB 12. This bill allows individuals who retired from the Michigan civil service to continue receiving retirement benefits if they work as contractors in the Attorney General's office (i.e. 'double dipping'). This bill violates the spirit of the civil service pension reforms that prohibit civil servants from simultaneous receiving a state paycheck and a state retirement check. This bill places no limitations on the retiree for the amount of time they can "double dip" or the total amount of benefits they can simultaneously receive. I believe the office of the Attorney General should pursue other options before this bill is given consideration.
		I voted YES on SB 53. This bill exempts retired federal law enforcement officers from 'no-carry' zones if they hold a CPL license. Though I question the validity of no-carry zones, and believe all CPL holders should be exempt from them, this bill moves in the right direction towards

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Energy Facebook post

6 messages

Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 5:40 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Todd if you approve I will post this immediately. I tried to add semi-colons.

It never ceases to amaze me the ways that Big Government will collude with Big Business to stymie competition and manipulate markets to eliminate competition and favor the politically connected businesses who spend massive amounts on the lobbyists constantly roaming the halls of our office building; they stop by constantly and they aren't looking out for the citizens of Lapeer county or the state of Michigan; they have one motive: maximizing their own profits and putting their competitors out of business. Certainly in our capitalist system businesses will face challenges; some will thrive and some will go belly up, but that should be because of stringent competition, not because Big Government puts the boot of excessive regulation and subsides on their favored benefactors lining the pockets and greasing the palms of politicians.

House Bills 4297 through 4302 represent the worst type of political meddling in the private sector, and of course it affects a marketplace every Michigan citizen comes into contact with: electricity and gas utilities. Seven years ago Michigan voted to give its citizens a 10% cap on electric choice and deregulate a tenth of the utility market. Of course the big utilities whined and cried that this was unfair to their monopoly, and really the cap should have been lifted totally giving Michigan consumers a totally deregulated market to choose the energy from the sources they wished. This would benefit our state as

Free markets benefit all consumers, but they hut the politically connected businesses that make their profits by grifting off the taxpayers. I hope you'll educate yourselves on these bills and reach out to members of the House Energy Committee and your representatives to tell them NO WAY! Ask them to stand on the side of taxpayers to defend our ability to purchase our energy from sources of our choice in a truly competitive free market!

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:13 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

There are a couple of errors in it; let me take a eye at it and maybe rework it a bit; it's been a long day so my head isn't at full force; it's not a full court press but if we raise some awareness down in these dark and seedy committee spots we can shut some of this down at the bottom and not have to fight it on the floor. To me this is a little spot to push where they are not at this moment expecting it.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:14 PM
To: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Let me know if you need anything. This article from CapCon might be good to attach as well: http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/21108
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:16 PM
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

Yup I'll rework it and we can add a link and list the committee members and ask people to call the committee and message them to get them to fight this and to offer some liberty legislation.

SB 53	Yes	protecting liberties guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. I continue to work on drafting legislation that provides for true constitutional carry in the state of Michigan.
HB 4289	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4289. This bill corrects a typo in Public Act 185 of 2014. Who would have ever guessed that legislators would pass a bill without it being perfect the first time... ;)
HB 4183	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4183. This bill begins the necessary reforms to Michigan's outdated system of public notices. It allows municipal governments to move towards a system of posting public notices online instead of in local newspapers. With the decline in newspaper circulation, and the proliferation of online access, Michigan's current system essentially forces local governments to subsidize declining print journalism outlets. This bill is a solid step towards more efficient and less costly municipal governance, and will result in greater transparency and ease of use for Michigan taxpayers.
HB 4054	No	I voted NO on HB 4054. This bill increases regulations on an industry where there are local control mechanisms in place. An expansion of regulations through expanded power by the DEQ and LARA was not warranted industry wide. It was, in part, a failure of the local enforcement mechanism that caused the original issues this bill ostensibly seeks to address.
HB 4015	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4015. This bill allows Michigan citizens to resell tickets they have purchased to entertainment events. This bill restores property rights and is a pro-liberty reform.
HB 4244	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4244. This bill removes tort liability for individuals who own private airstrips. It encourages these individuals to make their property available for private and recreational pilots by removing liabilities they might face. This bill will esentially equate recreational aviation activities with other recreational activities like snowmobiling.
HB 4295	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4295. This is a technical bill that amends the sentencing code to reflect the amendment to current law related to HB 4155, which I also voted for.
SB 18 SB 19	Yes Yes	I voted YES on Senate Bills 18 and 19. These bills authorize the state to convey privately owned swamp land, incldiing any mineral rights inherent, back to the de facto private property owner. They correct a grievous oversight related to the administration of the Swamp Patent Act of 1850 and protect the private property rights of Michigan citizens.
HB 4041	DISCUSS	Removing FIP benefits for families that do not meet compulsory school attendance guidelines
HB 4017	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4017. This bill removes criminal liability from restaurants or organizations that donate excess food to Michigan food banks. Civil liability was removed in 1993. By additionally removing criminal liability, we can further encourage restaurants and other organizations to donate excess food supply that would otherwise be discarded to food banks, ideally helping feed more of those who require the food banks' services.
HB 4134	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4134. This bill allows military veterans to use their military experience with boilers towards the experience requirement for state licensure for boiler installation, boiler repair, and boiler inspector.
HB 4060	DISCUSS	HB 4060 would require four-year public universities to identify individuals who are active or former military, national guard or military reserves and provide them with the ability to translate their military training or experience into academic credit.
HB 4193	Yes	I voted YES on HB 4193. This bill allows Michigan residents to show electronic proof of insurance to law enforcement officers.
HB 4244	DISCUSS	eliminates the $25.00 filing fee for the annual financial statements of foreign and alien insurers. This fee is no longer needed because the annual statements are now electronically filed through National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC

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Gmail

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - FDA legislation for terminally ill

4 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:35 PM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2015/03/to-the-governor-indiana-and-mississippi-pass-bills-to-take-on-fda-restrictions-on-terminally-ill/

Found one..

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:56 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Roger and We need to teach you to enter these in the tracker :)

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 10:40 PM
To: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>
Cc: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I don't think so Josh, when you do it you are now alerted to it and it is on your radar. By sending the email to all of us We are all mire on the same page and have a shared understanding of what we are working on.
Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 11:25 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

I can and of course that would be me being intellectually honest with my robust conservative fiscal ideology by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracies but josh then what would you do? :)

Sleep well

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:40 P
To: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>
Cc: "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

If you haven't sent it, the second line of the last paragraph "hurt" and the. Third. Line of the last paragraph "grifting".

Cindy

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 8:34 PM
To: Cindy Rep <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
Cc: Keith Allard <keithjallard@gmail.com>, "team@toddcourser.com" <team@toddcourser.com>

I just sent you a short post on it to warm them all up a bit, but we are going to get our backsides kicked in when they attempt brute force with all the bad stuff at once; so some of this we need to slow down or stop by creating some road side bombs in the committees and elsewhere. So what I just sent is a first shot

---

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

82/80 - militarization of police forces

2 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:47 PM
To: "<team@toddcourse[redacted]

http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2015/03/first-in-the-country-new-jersey-law-a-first-st[redacted]
militarization-of-local-police/

Sent from my iPhone

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 6:59 PM
To: Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com>
Cc: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Good info...goes well with the McMillin bill I mentioned yesterday.

Josh

[Quoted text hidden]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

Tea Party Meeting Request

3 messages

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 3:42 PM
To: [redacted], [redacted]" <team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>, [redacted], [redacted]
<[redacted]

To All:

I am glad to participate in an upcoming Tea Party Meeting on the roads, but honestly it sounds like you want both myself and Gary Glenn to attend and speak on the roads, I am glad to assist, but if you already have Gary attending then I see no reason to have us both involved (we would be covering the same information); so if you want Gary to attend and he is willing to help out, then I am deferring to him. In the future, if the Lapeer Tea Party, is willing, we can set up a mutually determined date for a speaking time for myself to the Lapeer Tea Party to do a update.

Thanks for the consideration and God bless and have a great meeting!

todd

Sent from my iPhone

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 5:07 P
To: [redacted], Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, " <team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

Honestly it sounds like if you have another person such as Phil then have Phil do it; he will handle it fine and has represented the district in the past. Let me know when you don't have as much pressure on your night and we can chat on plugging me into a meeting then.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 20, 2015, at 4:36 PM, [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Thanks Todd,
>
> Gary Glenn nor Mike Green will be speaking at the April Meeting.
> We want to have a legislative update from our elected officials. This meeting is not just about Prop #1 (road tax) although it certainly should be a part of the conversation. Sen. Green not attending as he has a prior commitment. Sen.Pavlov has committed to give the update from the Senate side of things. Therefore it would only be you from the house and Phil Pavlov from the Senate. As we want to get out our press releases next week, can we count on you being there? (April 7th, 7:00 PM, Maple Grove Church)
>
> Thanks
>
> [redacted]
>
> ----Original Message---- From: Todd Courser
> Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 3:42 PM
> To: [redacted]
> Subject: Tea Party Meeting Request

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[Quoted text hidden]
> Sent from my iPhone=

dd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 5:43 PM
o: [redacted] Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>, "
<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

My apologies I was assuming you had scheduling pressure on the night; but honestly I think I'll defer to Phil and call it good. Feel free to speak with Josh and try and come up with some time that makes sense and we can set something up for a later date.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 20, 2015, at 5:20 PM, Robert Murphy <r.murphy451@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> We would like both of you to attend and give your respective updates. What pressure are you talking about?
>
> ----Original Message---- From: Todd Courser
> Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 5:07 PM
> To: [redacted]; Joshua Cline ; <team@toddcourser.com>
> Subject: Re: Tea Party Meeting Request
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail by Google

Joshua Cline <joshuadcline@gmail.com>

[redacted]

I'll probably need a bill on this...

1 message

Todd Courser <courserlaw@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 12:23 AM
To: "<team@toddcourser.com>" <team@toddcourser.com>

So it needs to be a crime for a police officer to shoot an unarmed person unless they are clearly in fear for their life. So not sure how to say it but maybe it's something "hey you you can't just shoot unarmed people in the head !" Or something like that!

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

Recordings: State rep asked aide to hide relationship

Chad Livengood, Detroit News Lansing Bureau *7:11 a.m. EDT August 7, 2015*

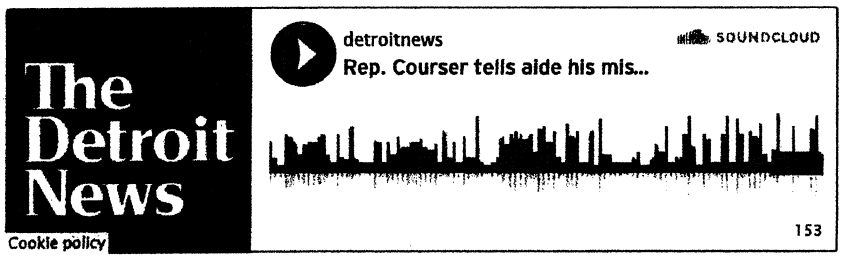
(Photo: file)

Lansing — State Rep. Todd Courser planned the distribution of a fictional email alleging he had sex with a male prostitute in a bid to conceal his relationship with Rep. Cindy Gamrat, according to audio recordings obtained by The Detroit News.

Courser, a Lapeer Republican, said on one recording the email was designed to create "a complete smear campaign" of exaggerated, false claims about him and Gamrat so a public revelation about the legislators' relationship would seem "mild by comparison."

Interviews with former House employees and the recordings show freshman lawmakers Courser and Gamrat, R-Plainwell, used their taxpayer-funded offices to maintain and cover up their relationship. Courser, 43, and Gamrat, 42, rose from the ranks of tea party activism, battled establishment Republicans to win seats in the House last year and formed their own legislative coalition (/story/news/politics/2015/01/18/firebrands-test-fellow-gop-lawmakers/21981025/).

A now-former House aide recorded Courser in mid-May directing him to send Republican activists and operatives an email that would appear to be from an anonymous political enemy that said Courser had been "caught behind a Lansing nightclub" having sex with a man.

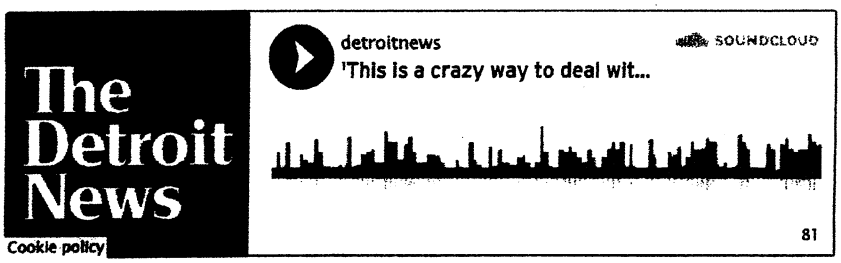


(On mobile devices, click here to hear audio of Rep. Courser telling his aide his plan.) (https://soundcloud.com/detroitnews/rep-courser-tells-aide-his-misdirection-plan/s-seWMM)

After House aide Ben Graham rejected Courser's May 19 request to take a sick day on May 20 and send the mass email to Republicans across Michigan, he says he had duties removed in subsequent weeks. By early July, Courser fired Graham and Gamrat ended the employment of her aide, Keith Allard — about a month after giving them both pay raises — without explanation.

During the May 19 meeting, Courser instructed Graham to send rank-and-file Republicans across Michigan what he called "an over-the-top story that's obscene about me." It was designed, Courser said on the recording, to "inoculate the herd" — an apparent reference to Courser and Gamrat's followers in the tea party movement.

"It will make anything else that comes out after that — that isn't a video — mundane, tame by comparison," Courser, a married father of four, told Graham.



(On mobile devices, click here to hear audio of more of Rep. Courser's conversation with his aide.) (https://soundcloud.com/detroitnews/this-is-a-crazy-way-to-deal-with-this-situation/s-n2duF)

"I need a controlled burn," said the lawmaker, who used the term three times during the meeting.

During two meetings recorded by Graham, Courser and Gamrat, who is also married and has three children, did not dispute the aide's characterization of their relationship as an extramarital affair. They acknowledged the aide's discomfort but neither directly confirmed nor denied having a sexual relationship.

Courser and Gamrat both declined to comment about whether the dismissals of Graham and Allard were related to their unwillingness to help hide their relationship.

"I'm not going to talk about any kind of staff-related issues," Gamrat said in a telephone interview Monday.

On Monday morning, Courser told a Detroit News reporter and photographer to leave his Lapeer law office after being asked whether he wrote the email to get ahead of revelations of an affair.

Courser initially declined to hear the recording, but confirmed "that's my voice" as a Detroit News reporter played the recording in his office lobby. He then disputed the legality of the recording.

"I'm not commenting on what happened in my office between Ben (Graham) and I inside here," Courser said. "... I don't have any comment at all."

Socially conservative legislators

The pair are socially conservative legislators who often invoke their Christian faith (http://www.toddcourser.com/privatize_marriage_now) in pursuit of new legislation governing gun rights, abortion (/story/news/politics/2015/01/18/firebrands-test-fellow-gop-lawmakers/21981025/) and marriage (/story/news/politics/michigan/2015/06/19/gay-marriage-legislation-religion-michian/29018125/). Their political alliance dates back to Courser's unsuccessful 2013 race for Michigan Republican Party chairman when Gamrat ran as his vice chairwoman.

Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, talks with Rep Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, on the first day of the Legislature's new session in January. The two lawmakers, in an unusual arrangement, combined their office operations, with three aides effectively working for both of them. *(Photo: Dale G. Young / The Detroit News)*

But since being sworn into office in January, the self-described tea party "gladiators" (/story/news/politics/2015/01/18/firebrands-test-fellow-gop-lawmakers/21981025/) have fought with Republican leaders. In an unusual move, Courser and Gamrat wrote a "liberty response" (http://www.toddcourser.com/liberty_response) to Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's State of the State address in January — the kind of retort that typically comes from Democrats.

In April, House Speaker Kevin Cotter kicked Gamrat out of Republican caucus meetings after she was caught leaking confidential discussions (/story/news/politics/2015/04/17/house-speaker-gamrat-ousted-gop-caucus-leaks/25955035/) among GOP members. In one of his lengthy emails to people involved in Michigan politics, Courser called the House speaker a "bully" (http://www.toddcourser.com/stand_w_rep_gamrat) who was waging a "witch hunt" and who was "dead set against (Gamrat's) efforts to advance liberty and freedom."

In an unusual arrangement, Courser and Gamrat combined their office operations, having three aides effectively work for both of them.

Graham, Allard and former aide Joshua Cline said they internally opposed the relationship between Courser and Gamrat and how it complicated the operations of their jointly run House office.

"Everything in the office was done and intertwined around their relationship — from time management to who's going to get what bills," said Cline, a former legislative director who quit working for Courser and Gamrat in April after he said he confronted them about their relationship and "unprofessional" office behavior.

'This is a crazy way'

Graham and Allard said their House work situation began rapidly deteriorating after Courser called Graham to his Lapeer law office at 10:30 p.m. on May 19 with an alarming request to "destroy me."

Not knowing whether Courser would become volatile, Graham said he recorded the 90-minute conversation without his boss' knowledge. He subsequently provided an audio copy to The News.

Michigan Court of Appeals ruling says participants in a conversation may record a discussion without getting the permission of other participants. "A recording made by a participant is nothing more than a more accurate record of what was said," the court decided in a 1982 case.

During the meeting, Courser said earlier in the day, after the House adjourned, he and Gamrat received identical text messages from an unknown phone number with a message about their relationship.

At several points, the House aide can be heard on tape advising Courser against distributing the email and urging him to acknowledge the relationship with Gamrat.

"This is a crazy way to deal with this situation," Graham told Courser on May 19. "Normally, people just like front it off, head it off themselves and say 'Hey, this happened' or quietly resign and go away."

Written using the pseudonym George Rathburn, the sexually explicit email was received by Republicans on May 20 and 21, the two days following Courser's meeting with Graham. The missive claimed Courser was removed from the House GOP caucus after being caught having "paid male on male sex behind a prominent Lansing night club," among other claims.

During the May 19 meeting, Courser twice read aloud portions of a draft email to Graham. Most of the sentences Courser recited match copies of the email sent to Republicans and obtained by The News.

"Nobody's gonna believe any of that," Graham said about the draft email.

"Correct," said Courser, who then added: "No, they'll believe some of it. They'll believe some of it."

Courser does not explicitly say he wrote the letter, only telling Graham "it's already written" and that Gamrat "agreed" with sending it.

"It's what they won't expect," Courser said. "At that point, if they don't have some really, really, really offensive stuff ... it will be tough for them to bring it after this."

The mass email calls Gamrat "a tramp" and claims she "has covered" for Courser "and her involvement is the real reason she was thrown out" of the House Republican caucus in April.

"In a controlled burn, you do a little bit of truth mixed in with a lot of lies," Courser explained to Graham.

At one point, a cellphone began ringing and Courser identified the caller as Gamrat. The recording picked up Courser's end of the conversation.

"Ben and I are sitting here," Courser said. "He's trying to, trying to mentally process everything I just told him."

During the meeting, Courser wonders aloud whether someone has pictures, video or audio recordings of him and Gamrat.

Aide rejects Courser's email request

After a 90-minute late night meeting, House aide Ben Graham responds to a text message in the early morning hours of May 20 from state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, rejecting a request from his boss to take time off from his job to send an anonymous, salacious message about the lawmaker in a mass email to hundreds of Michigan Republicans.

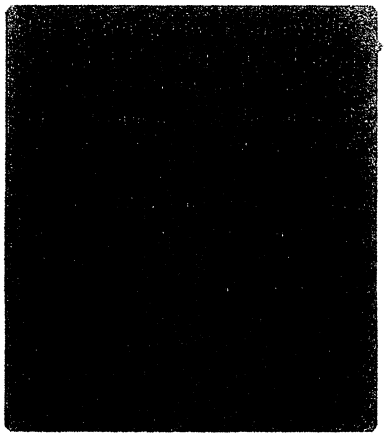
Todd Courser

Hey Ben if your not coming back please let me know. I know it doesn't make sense and maybe it doesn't if you see another way then let me know, but if I can keep
1:07 AM

this from blowing all to hell then I would like to give it this shot. Maybe it's nothing and maybe I should not have ever run but I felt and still feel that
1:07 AM

God brought me here and had me here and maybe it hasn't accomplished anything but I have to believe it has done some good inspite of me.
1:07 AM

Ben Graham



Todd Courser

Thanks I appreciate your help. Have a good night. No I don't think I feel resigning at this point is the way to go down if they have something I think a
1:31 AM

crucifixion is in order here so I'll just keep praying on it and you may need to consider that and if

The Detroit News

Aide refuses request

Courser also told Graham to claim he was sick the next day — a Wednesday — after sending the email. "You're going to do this and then go home," Courser told the state employee.

Graham asked Courser for time to think about the assignment of sending the email. The meeting ended at about midnight and he left the law office, Graham said. An hour later, Courser asked for an answer in a text message to Graham, which he released to The News.

"If you see another way then let me know," Courser wrote. "But if I can keep this from blowing all to hell, then I would like to give it a shot."

Graham replied by text that he wouldn't participate in a "cover-up" and urged his boss to resign from office.

"This kind of stuff never stays hidden. It's going to blow up, and I can't help cover it up," Graham wrote. "... My best advice, consider resigning. You may be able to protect Cindy and her family and your family."

In a reply, Courser said he didn't plan to resign "at this point."

"If they have something, I think a crucifixion is in order," the lawmaker wrote in a text.

It's unclear who ultimately sent the email. But during the meeting, Courser said he has someone who does "this sort of thing" for him using "gmail accounts." The email came from a georgerathburn520@gmail.com (mailto:georgerathburn520@gmail.com) address.

Anti-Courser email

This email attacking state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, was sent to Republican activists around Michigan on May 20 and May 21. Most of the sentences in the email match what Courser recited May 19 to a House aide, captured on a recording, and said he wanted sent as a mass email to GOP operatives. What is shown is a small portion of the entire email, parts of which are sexually explicit.

From: George Rathbun <[redacted]>
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:36 AM
Subject: Todd Courser, our State Rep

Breaking Scandal!
State Rep Courser Caught behind a Lansing nightclub!

Christian conservative or Godless Addicted Monster!

Truth!!!! Courser secretly Removed from Caucus several weeks ago due to male on male paid for sex behind a prominent Lansing nightclub! Action soon coming to remove Courser!

He is a bi-sexual porn addicted sex deviant! All over Lansing since the election and that is why he was thrown out of caucus!

The Detroit News

Staffer recorded meeting

Graham, a Lapeer native who worked on Courser's past campaigns for office and helped him build a political machine, said he took a vacation day the next day after rejecting the order to send the email and claim to be sick. On the following day, May 21, Graham recorded another meeting in Gamrat's House office in Lansing with both representatives present. Courser told Graham he wanted to "chat" about what took place two nights prior at his Lapeer office.

Courser and Gamrat can be heard apologizing to their 25-year-old aide, who made direct comments that they "are having an affair."

"How long has this been going on?" Graham asks on the recording. "A year? Two years?"

"No, I mean, I don't want to go through the circumstance of how that developed," Courser replied.

Graham then quizzed his bosses on when the relationship developed since the pair ran for state GOP leadership positions in 2013.

"Wasn't back to the beginning and it wasn't yesterday," said Courser, later adding "some things happened and shouldn't have happened."

At one point, Gamrat urged Graham to keep quiet about "a mistake that we made."

"I would ask you to just keep this private. This is not just about protecting me, it's also about protecting Joe and the kids," Gamrat said.

Graham repeatedly tries to steer the discussion back to legislative matters and reminds Courser he's late for a committee meeting. Courser was absent that day from a House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, committee records show.

In the following weeks, Courser and Gamrat relieved Graham of his duties, including his main job speaking to their constituents, Graham and Allard told The News.

On July 7, Courser and Gamrat terminated the employment of Graham and Allard, said Tim Bowlin, chief financial officer for the House business office.

Office staff for individual House members are at-will employees and the reason for the firings doesn't have to be given, Bowlin said.

But the dismissals occurred several weeks after Courser and Gamrat gave Allard and Graham each 6 percent pay raises, the maximum salary increase allowed, according to House payroll records.

Aides worked for both reps

House members from neighboring districts or urban areas like Detroit sometimes share an employee for budgetary reasons, Bowlin said. But Courser and Gamrat's House districts are nearly 130 miles apart on different sides of the state; Gamrat represents the 80th District (http://house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/2012DistrictMaps/080.pdf) in west Michigan's Allegan County, while Courser represents the 82nd District (http://gophouse.org/representatives/thumb/courser/districtmap/) in Lapeer County.

"In the past, when it's happened, it's usually happened in districts that share a county or share proximity," Bowlin said.

Cline, the former aide who quit in April, said the joint office was devised to give Courser and Gamrat more legislative muscle.

But within weeks of taking office, Cline said "everything was merged." Courser and Gamrat began sitting in on meetings with constituents and lobbyists who wanted to meet with just one of them, he said.

"It didn't matter if it was inside the office or outside the office, all meetings were held together," Cline said.

rser and Gamrat would demand that no meetings be scheduled on Thursday afternoons after the House adjourned for the week and most representatives were driving home to their districts, Cline said.

The pair would frequently leave the office together for several hours on Thursday afternoons, asking the staff to stay in Lansing until they returned to the office for evening staff meetings that sometimes stretched on for hours, he said.

"It measurably affected the time management of the office, the efficiency of the office and constituent services," Cline said.

Battle with Cotter

During the May 19 recorded meeting, Courser speculated that Republican leaders may have been behind the anonymous text messages he and Gamrat received about their relationship.

"The speaker, he's got a wound in his side," Courser told Graham. "They want something from us. They want us dead."

In the meeting, Courser also told Graham he desired news reports about the email to inflame his on-going battle with Cotter.

"This is the best we came up with. Neither one of us want to be on somebody's leash," Courser later told Graham. "Neither one of us really want to be in Lansing if this is how we have to do it."

"You could just quit, you know," Graham suggested.

After a long audible pause, Courser replied: "I might have to."

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GONGWER Michigan
The Capitol Record Since 1906

Volume #54, Report #155, Article #1--Friday, August 7, 2015

Courser, Gamrat Affair Cover Up Exposed, House Investigation Ensues

Rep. Todd Courser tried to get a his then-legislative aide to send an email to supporters falsely claiming Mr. Courser was caught attempting to pay for gay sex in an attempt to manipulate allies, if the extramarital affair that took place between he and **Rep. Cindy Gamrat** became public, into thinking the affair was part of a smear campaign, audio recordings published Friday by The Detroit News show.

In response, House **Speaker Kevin Cotter** (R-Mount Pleasant) opened an investigation by the House Business Office into any wrongdoing.

The News story, published about midnight, appeared to confirm what had been months of rumors that Mr. Courser (R-Silverwood) and Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell), two tea party stalwarts who have cited the sanctity of marriage in stridently opposing gay marriage, had some type of a sexual relationship. Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat are both married with children.

Rep. Todd Courser and **Rep. Cindy Gamrat**

But more seriously, insofar as it involves their status in the House, the story revealed that the two, led by Mr. Courser, contrived a megalomaniacal plot in which they ordered the sending of the email full of fabricated claims about himself. Besides paying for a male prostitute, the email claims Mr. Courser is addicted to drugs, alcohol and porn.

The idea, the News reports, citing audio recordings of Mr. Courser, was to "inoculate the herd" - their supporters in the tea party - and make any eventual news stories about their affair seem like part of a continuing pattern of false allegations against the two.

Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat made no substantive comment to the News and were silent on Friday. They could not be reached for comment, their offices were unoccupied and neither one posted anything on their social media accounts about the incident or anything else.

The recordings are allegedly between Ben Graham and Mr. Courser. Mr. Graham is a former aide who was fired along with Keith Allard, an aide in Ms. Gamrat's office, in early July. The representatives reportedly shared three aides, though Josh Cline, the third, quit in April.

At 3:22 a.m., about three hours after the News posted its story online, Mr. Cotter announced he instructed the House Business Office to conduct an investigation into the matter.

"The office will review the matter and determine whether there was a violation of House rules or any evidence of illegal behavior, and will follow-up with any and all appropriate measures, including disciplinary steps," Mr. Cotter said in a statement. "We will not stand for any violation of House rules or law, and we will not let anyone's actions tarnish this institution or take away from the work we do every day to improve the lives of the hard-working men and women of this great state."

House Business Office Director Tim Bowlin said he could not discuss specifics of the investigation at this point. He said details on the scope of the investigation and timeline could be available next week.

There was no announcement of a criminal inquiry and the Department of Attorney General had no comment. Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for Mr. Cotter, said the business office will turn over any evidence of illegal activity found to the proper authorities.

There was, however, intense speculation about what Mr. Cotter's office knew of the incident and when. Several sources said at a minimum the speaker's office knew the legislative staffers in Mr. Courser's and Ms. Gamrat's office were unhappy with their work environment.

It was less clear if the speaker's office had any knowledge of state time and resources being used to cover up the affair. Neither Mr. Allard nor Mr. Graham would comment.

Mr. D'Assandro said The News report was the "first evidence we've seen" of any wrongdoing in the offices. Mr. Bowlin said he could not discuss personnel matters, but said complaints from staffers could be a part of the investigation.

Democrats began pressuring Mr. Cotter to move the investigation outside of the House. Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon said a criminal inquiry may be warranted, and Lonnie Scott, executive director of the liberal organization Progress Michigan, said the situation warrants an independent investigation.

"The Republican leadership has been quick to paint this issue as only involving Reps. Courser and Gamrat, however, any investigation should include answers as to what any members of Republican leadership knew of this incident and when they knew it," Mr. Scott said in a statement. "House **Speaker Kevin Cotter** shouldn't just call for an investigation, he should be a part of it. Since Speaker Cotter can't investigate himself we believe an independent investigation should commence immediately."

In another meeting recorded by Mr. Graham on May 21, according to the News, Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat meet with the staffer and Mr. Courser misses a House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting.

During that meeting, Mr. Graham reportedly asks how long the relationship has been going on and Ms. Gamrat urges Mr. Graham to keep the relationship private.

Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Potterville), chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, said he confronted Mr. Courser about missing the meeting, and Mr. Courser said it was due to confusion among his staff.

"I support the speaker calling for that investigation and seeing where it leads," Mr. Barrett said.

Mr. Barrett said he didn't know if the representatives should resign.

"Certainly we are charged with public trust, and I take that responsibility really seriously. And many of my colleagues do as well," Mr. Barrett said.

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House **Minority Leader Tim Greimel** (D-Auburn Hills), said Mr. Greimel also is not yet calling for the representatives to resign.

Ms. Carey said Mr. Greimel is disappointed in the Mr. Courser's and Ms. Gamrat's actions.

"As serious as these revelations are, it is still not clear we have all the facts," she said. "There may be more information."

The News reports that the raw audio made available by the newspaper was recorded on May 19. The email was sent to various Republicans in the state on May 20 and May 21.

"This is the best we came up with," Mr. Courser said in the recording of the "false flag" email strategy. "Neither of us want to be on someone's leash. Neither one of us want to be in Lansing if this is how we have to do it."

Mr. Graham repeatedly tells Mr. Courser the email is crazy. And he suggests Mr. Courser could resign or just admit the affair.

In the recordings, Mr. Courser said Ms. Gamrat's husband knew about the affair and they are working through their issues. Mr. Courser said his family did not know, but he might have to tell them soon.

In a text message between Mr. Graham and Mr. Courser, Mr. Graham said he cannot send the email. It is unclear who sent the email.

In the recording, Mr. Courser said he needs the email to be "over the top" and he said "they will believe some of it."

"I need to if possible inoculate the herd against gutter politics that are coming," Mr. Courser said of his supporters in the tea party. He then said it would be difficult, but not impossible to find eyewitnesses, videos or audio recordings of the affair.

At one point, Mr. Graham suggests only sending the email to media. But Mr. Courser said it needs to go out to political operatives as well.

Mr. Courser tells Mr. Graham he is "going to be sick" the following day. "You are going to do this and then take the day off."

"This is a crazy way to deal with this situation," Mr. Graham told Mr. Courser.

At one point, in an amazing moment of lack of self-awareness, as Mr. Courser insists he will survive the ramifications of his actions, he says, as Mr. Graham recorded the conversation that would ultimately doom him, "Unless they have something really awful, which I do not know about."

"Todd, this is really awful," Mr. Graham responded.

"What's that?" Mr. Courser asked.

"You and Cindy. How much more awful could you get?" Mr. Graham said.

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Legislators behaving badly: Scandals rock Lansing

Kathleen Gray and Paul Egan *6:39 p.m. EDT August 8, 2015*

(Photo: Michigan House Republicans)

It was a week full of news about bad behavior by state lawmakers.

The most recent was the alleged, clumsy cover-up of an extramarital affair between two of the Legislature's most conservative members — Republican Reps. Todd Courser of Lapeer and Cindy Gamrat of Plainwell.

But state Sen. Virgil Smith and former Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche added fuel to the lawmakers-gone-wild narrative swirling around the state this week.

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Insanity defense may be used in state Sen. Virgil Smith case

(http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2015/08/07/insanity-defense-may-used-state-sen-virgil-smith-case/31284361/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=)

Smith is facing felony charges surrounding a domestic violence incident in May with his ex-wife. The Detroit Democrat's lawyer, Godfrey Dillard, recently filed paperwork saying that he might use an insanity defense to explain why he allegedly assaulted his ex-wife and shot up her Mercedes.

And DeRoche, a Novi Republican, began promoting the book he recently wrote — "Highly Functional" — which details his 29-year battle with alcoholism, including a drunken driving-related arrest, a gun-related charge that got dropped and his time in the Legislature, where he kept an alcohol-spiked bottle of soda with him most of the time.

re seeing what the intoxication of power can do to people. It's something we've seen before in business when powerful people behave badly. And we've certainly seen it in politics," said Matt Friedman, cofounder of Tanner-Friedman, a Farmington Hills-based public relations and crisis management firm. "The question about redemption for them is really interesting, though. How easy will it be to recover when the bad behavior lives forever online?"

In the case of Courser and Gamrat, the news got very bad for them when the Detroit News first reported Friday morning that they allegedly concocted a plan to distribute an e-mail accusing Courser of paying for gay sex outside a Lansing nightclub — what Courser described in a conversation taped by an aide, who was later fired, as a "complete smear campaign" that would make reports of a straight extramarital affair with Gamrat seem mild by comparison.

The e-mail, which was widely sent to Republicans in May, was an over-the-top indictment of Courser as a sexual deviant. In the audio recording, Courser read portions of the e-mail to the aide and said it was "a burn," "a scam," to try to "inoculate the herd from gutter politics that are coming."

"This is the best we came up with. Neither one of us want to be on someone's leash. Neither one of us want to be in Lansing if this is the way we have to do it," Courser told the aide on the recording.

The aide urged him to forget the scheme and resign. Neither Courser nor Gamrat, both of whom are married with kids — Courser has four and Gamrat has three — returned phone calls from the Free Press for comment.

They already face an internal investigation ordered by Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant. The House of Representatives business office will conduct the investigation and could levy punishment — such as reimbursing the state for inappropriately used state funds — or they could refer the matter to another law enforcement or state agency for further action.

The pair also could face removal from office if the House decides to seek and pass a resolution, which would need two-thirds support from the 110-member House, said Gideon D'Assandro, spokesman for Cotter.

Bowlin, director of the House Business Office, told the Free Press the office doesn't comment on ongoing investigations. But in general, the office can conduct interviews and examine records in office files.

"If we think any laws were broken, we would have to move those issues to a different party," Bowlin said.

- A former Wayne County prosecutor said Friday that Courser potentially could face criminal charges.

Gary Wilson, an assistant prosecuting attorney in Wayne County in 1988-92 and now a criminal defense attorney in Grosse Pointe Woods, said Courser faces, at the least, a potential misdemeanor charge of willful neglect of duty, but also could potentially face a felony charge of misconduct in office by a public officer if the allegations are true.

The allegation from the audio recordings that Courser missed a legislative committee meeting while plotting the cover-up could support a neglect of duty charge, he said.

"It's the most bizarre, over-the-top thing I've ever read in political dishonesty," Wilson said. "This is stunning."

Calls for resignations

While the investigation is going on, plenty of politicians and groups are weighing in on the latest political scandal.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties of the state called the allegations against Courser and Gamrat, serious, troubling and disturbing. But they held back on calls for resignation.

"I support the speaker's call for an investigation. My thoughts are with the spouses and children who are affected by this," said state Rep. Al Pscholka, R-Stevensville, and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "If it's proven that they used state resources to be involved in some sort of cover-up, they should resign."

Others, including Jake Davison, a Republican who already has filed to run against Courser in 2016, were calling for resignations.

"Todd Courser, a man who never passes on an opportunity to preach about his supposed morals and his close relationship with God, constantly evoking religion in his personal and political stances, has proven to be completely unfit to represent the hardworking residents of Lapeer County," said U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, who is retiring at the end of her term in 2016.

Courser has said he's thinking about running for that congressional seat.

Equality Michigan, a group that advocates for gay, bisexual and transgender people, said in a statement "we are disturbed that Courser and Gamrat attempted to use a 'gay affair' as part of their continued attack narrative against the LGBTQ communities, rather than take responsibility for their own actions. These self-proclaimed 'moral authorities' have built their political careers by demeaning our lives and our relationships as the degradation of marriage and society when they had to look no further than the mirror."

The pair are among the most conservative members of the Legislature, introducing bills that would more severely restrict abortions, and change the way marriage licenses are issued so that local clerks wouldn't have to participate in same-sex marriages. After the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage in June, Courser said in a statement, "It's a crushing day for those who believe in traditional marriage and traditional morality."

Friedman said their best option is to resign immediately, because, "The longer it goes on, the more the story grows, the more controversies that emerge. This investigation happens and just lengthens the negativity. Resign and the story is closer to being over at that point."

More in trouble

The pair are hardly the first lawmakers to get into trouble. The list of state lawmakers affected or undone by scandals that have happened while in office continues to grow.

■Former Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon announced in October 2013 he was stepping down as state treasurer amid a controversy over his campaign finances from an unsuccessful run for governor in 2010, and unfavorable publicity related to a messy divorce, including an alleged drinking problem. Earlier, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy decided there was insufficient evidence to support an assault allegation made by his ex-wife.

■Former legislative staffer Tramaine Cotton sued state Rep. Brian Banks, D-Harper Woods in Wayne County Circuit Court in 2013, alleging Banks violated his civil rights by discriminating against him based on his gender, demanding sexual favors as a condition of employment, and creating a hostile work environment. Banks denies the allegations. In March of this year, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the lawsuit against Banks, who has a felony record of his own for writing bad checks, can proceed.

■In 2013, an Ingham County judge wrapped up a one-person grand jury investigation and ruled there would be no charges in connection with an election-rigging case. Former House Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, and former state Rep. Roy Schmidt helped recruit a fake Democratic candidate to enter a Grand Rapids race after Schmidt switched his allegiance from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party just before the filing deadline. By recruiting

an acquaintance of Schmidt's son, the idea was to make it more difficult for the Democrats to field a successful write-in candidate. But the 2012 scheme was exposed, and it backfired. Schmidt was defeated, and the seat is now held by Democrat Winnie Brinks.

■In DeRoche's book, he talks about taking two, unnamed fellow House members to rehab clinics after both faced drunken driving arrests while they were all serving in the Legislature. At the same time, he wrote, "There had to be a bottle everywhere. Not a bottle of booze, though, a premix of some sort. For it was pop bottles of Diet 7-up or Squirt or Gatorade. I had half-crumpled water bottles, too, which I took great pains to make unattractive to anyone who might want to share. I kept them in my car, office, briefcase, gym bag and basically anywhere else I might need them. The night I was elected Speaker, it was a 20-ounce bottle of original flavor Gatorade mixed about 50-50 with 80-proof vodka."

During his third trip to a rehabilitation hospital in Brighton in 2010, DeRoche gave his life over to God, stopped drinking and now is the executive director of the Justice Fellowship, which advocates for criminal justice reforms.

The latest scandal, though, is different, said public relations executive Kelly Rossman McKinney.

"The reason this one has reached such a frenzy is not just what they did, but the hypocrisy of their own sanctimonious, holier-than-thou positions," she said of Courser and Gamrat.

Cotter isn't taking any further action against the two lawmakers at the moment, said D'Assandro, such as removing them from their committee assignments or reassigning their staff, such as what was done with Smith. "We're not going to do anything until the investigation is done," he said.

Contact Kathleen Gray: 517-372-8661, kgray99@freepress.com or on Twitter @michpoligal.

What they cosponsored

Some of the bills cosponsored by state Reps. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer and Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell

■Allow eligible people to purchase and carry — openly or concealed — weapons without registering the gun with the state or getting a concealed pistol license.

■Eliminate straight-party ticket voting.

■Eliminate the requirement for marriage licenses and only allow clergy to perform marriage ceremonies.

■Prohibit the imposition of income taxes on individuals or businesses and repeal the Michigan business tax.

■Provide all the protections afforded to individuals to fetuses.

■Provide protections for medical professionals and hospitals who refuse service because of religious objections.

■Allocate Electoral College votes by congressional district.

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MIRS Breaking News - Courser Issues Apology; Suspects Former Staff Blackmailed Him -- 6:01 a.m.

Monday, August 10, 2015

Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) issued a 27-minute audio message this morning in which he apologizes for his extramarital affair with fellow conservative Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) and the fake email he orchestrated to "inoculate" the public about the situation.

However, Courser said he sent in May the false flag email about himself soliciting a male prostitute behind a Lansing nightclub because he was trying to sniff out a blackmailing scheme that he now suspects was his own former staff, Ben **GRAHAM** and Josh **CLINE**.

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Based on the timing of when he sent the "controlled burn" email on himself and when he was questioned by *MIRS* shortly thereafter if he were behind the email, he figured out his own staff was behind the blackmailing scheme.

He claims his former staff told other House staffers his office was "bugged" by the office of the House Speaker, with whom they were working "maliciously" to bring him down as someone within the liberty movement who refused to work within the Lansing system.

Graham, Cline and Keith **ALLARD** he called political operatives with "political aspirations of their own" who stole his data to undermine him.

"They had no professional experience to run an office," Courser said. "I leaned on them and trusted them. It became clear to me that they were ill-suited to their responsibilities to the district."

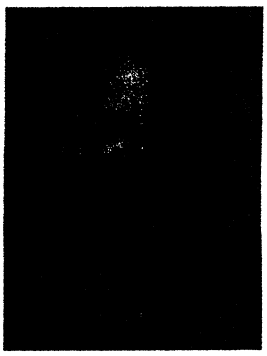
Courser does not resign in the clip. He acknowledges himself as a "broken messenger" and that the "founding fathers" of the country were "flawed as well" and that didn't stop their desire to serve.

"I'm just a poor sinner . . ." he said ."I'm really sorry. I am. It sounds trite. There's got to be a better word or a bigger word in that. I would simply ask for your prayers and your forgiveness."

Rep. Todd Courser has a checkered political past

Kathleen Gray and Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press *11:22 p.m. EDT August 10, 2015*

He was suspect in smear campaign; Snyder questions blackmail excuse



(Photo: Courtesy of Rep. Todd Courser)

As the House business office continues its investigation into a clumsy cover-up of an extra-marital affair between Republican state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, Courser is coming under increased scrutiny for his political history.

Since 2008, Courser has run for office, mostly unsuccessfully, losing a state House race in 2008, a state Senate race in 2010, a run for the state Board of Education in 2012 and a campaign to unseat Michigan Republican Party Chairman Bobby Schostak in 2013.

But in 2014, he hit pay dirt in a bruising campaign for state representative that included dueling campaign finance complaints, flyers with the question "Do you think Todd Courser is a child molester?" and official-looking warnings placed on his GOP opponents' campaign signs, saying they were illegally placed in homeowners' yards.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Are you listening, PR pros? It's me, Todd Courser

(http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/brian-dickerson/2015/08/10/coursers-pr-advice/31430633/)

Monday, however, the attention was on the latest political scandal, with investigators combing through computer servers, e-mails and other documents from the offices of Courser, of Lapeer, and Gamrat, of Plainwell; Courser sending out a rambling, 27-minute audio recording saying he sent the anonymous e-mail in May that said he had sex with a man behind a Lansing bar to smoke out a blackmailer; Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, wishing the two would just resign, and Gov. Rick Snyder saying that if there truly had been a blackmail attempt, Courser should have gone to police.

But like the current scandal, people who were involved in the 2014 campaign for the state House felt the political shenanigans were Courser's handiwork.

"I tried to stay out of the mud slinging that happened in that campaign," said Sharna Smith, the Arcadia Township clerk and a Republican who finished fourth in that August primary. "After that flyer was put on the other candidates' signs, a couple of my signs were burned. Who does them, nobody knows for sure. But that was the talk" — that Courser was responsible.

Jacob Hunsanger, who finished third in the race and now lives in Grandville, is more convinced than ever that Courser was the culprit behind the political shenanigans.

" 'Sleazy' doesn't even begin to describe it," he said. "We all had those warnings on our campaign signs, except for him."

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Lawmakers gone wild: Courser, Gamrat latest subjects of political scandal

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/07/state-reps-todd-courser-cindy-gamrat-caught-political-sex-scandal/31315343/)

Courser denied involvement then and pointed to the child molester signs as proof that he was a victim, too. In a Facebook post just six days before the August primary election, Courser wrote, "This is really regretful that this campaign has descended into clear character assassination. ... These personal attacks have reached a point where they are nothing but hurtful to me and my family. They are shameful and have no place in political discourse or any other, for that matter. I am a political candidate, but am I first and foremost an imperfect follower of Christ."

'Political shenanigans'?

He used similar language in a long and rambling audio recording distributed Monday by e-mail and social media to respond to the sex scandal, calling himself a "broken messenger."

In the recording, Courser said he sent an anonymous false e-mail about paying for gay sex because he was being blackmailed. The tape blames his former staffers, Ben Graham, Josh Cline and Keith Allard, for colluding with the Lansing "mafia" establishment to bring him down. And it didn't work, he said, because he has decided to stay in office to expose the "political shenanigans" that are happening in Lansing.

"The e-mail was put in motion to disrupt the blackmailer and give me some clues as to the surveillance of my life. It was all done in a pressure cooker and ... it put me in a situation where a bad choice was the choice that I made," he said, adding that the alleged blackmailer's intent was to get him to resign.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Cotter orders investigation into reportedly covered-up affair

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/08/07/house-speaker-orders-investigation-reported-coverup-affair/31274087/)

"But to change the country, men and women must be able to stand unafraid even when they're a broken messenger. And I'm certainly am a broken messenger," he said in the recording. "I have chosen to stay and make them play their hand. I think it is absolutely necessary to have these clandestine operations to control public officials to be exposed. So I have refused to leave quietly and have decided that these efforts really need to come out."

Cotter, the House speaker, said the recording is disturbing and insulting to the rest of the members of House of Representatives and Senate.

"So much of the audio file was just another in a long series of deflections. He's trying to deflect from himself and allege that others have done wrong," he said. "He has a long pattern of this type of behavior."

Cotter said he would like to see both lawmakers resign, but won't start the wheels in motion to remove Courser or Gamrat from office. He wants to wait for the internal investigation he ordered to be completed by the House business office.

"If this weren't so offensive, it might be funny. He sends out these ridiculously long e-mail rants, about the so-called establishment, and uses words like 'mafia' and 'cartel,' " Cotter said. "But no one else did wrong here. These two representatives voluntarily engaged in the affair, and they need to own up to that. There are 107 other members of the House currently serving. It's so unfair to this institution as a whole, and it's so unfair that we have this type of distraction."

A 'breach of ... trust'

After listening to the audio recording early this morning — Courser e-mailed it out at 4 a.m. — Allard said, "To be slandered like that is stunning."

In a joint statement, the three staffers — Allard, Cline and Graham — said, "This continues to be a very sad situation, not only for the families involved, but for the constituents of these districts. Attempts to blame others instead of accepting responsibility is unfortunate. We look forward to cooperating with any investigation to ensure that taxpayers are protected and faith in our institutions can be restored. Most important, an investigation will reveal the truth. There is absolutely no truth to the accusations against us by Mr. Courser, as will be proven."

Courser may have committed a "breach of the public trust" and should have gone to the police if he thought he was being blackmailed, Snyder said Monday after an event at Wayne State University in Detroit.

He wouldn't comment on whether Courser or Gamrat should resign over allegations of improper use of taxpayer-funded resources.

"This is something that does need to be investigated, very clearly," Snyder told reporters. A possible affair, though "not something that should happen," is an issue for voters, not the state, to decide.

"With respect to the comments today from Rep. Courser about a blackmail situation, that's what the Michigan State Police are for," Snyder said. "If you're being blackmailed, shouldn't you have contacted the police and proceeded that way?"

House Minority Leader Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills, and Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon both called for an independent investigation.

The affair and e-mail were revealed last week in an audio tape made public by Graham, who — along with Allard — was fired by Courser in July.

He claimed the staffers were "incompetent" and ill-suited to run a legislative office. "I see this as the establishment machine getting everyone to do what

"they're told to do, and no one dare question their authority," Courser said in the recording.

"I could have resigned. This is really the option that the anonymous texter wanted and done so quietly. But that would have allowed my personal issues to rule the day," he said. "I essentially would have submitted to the authority of the establishment machine ... to protect myself and my family. And most of would say this is the right decision. But I really thought that this would allow them to win."

Neither Courser nor Gamrat, both of whom are married with kids — Courser has four and Gamrat has three — returned phone calls from the Free Press. Gamrat posted on Facebook that she was canceling scheduled office hours with constituents that were supposed to take place at 6 p.m. Monday at the Lee Township offices.

On Friday, Cotter ordered the House business office to conduct an investigation to see whether the lawmakers broke any House rules or whether there is any evidence of illegal behavior. The office worked through the weekend, going through computer servers, e-mails and documents. The House business office also can interview current or former staffers, examine records from the two offices and levy punishment — such as demanding reimbursement to the state for inappropriately used state funds.

If suspected illegal activity is found, the office could refer the matter to law enforcement or another state agency, such as the Attorney General's Office, for further action. The pair also could face removal from office if the House passes a resolution, which would need two-thirds support from the 110-member House, said Gideon D'Assandro, spokesman for Cotter.

Contact Kathleen Gray: 517-372-8661, kgray99@freepress.com or on Twitter @michpoligal

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There isn't a conspiracy. It was caused by these two individuals and the hubris and the damage they're doing to the Republican caucus and officeholders, in whole, is insurmountable."

- Former Rep. Andrew **RACZKOWSKI** on the alleged affair and its cover up by Reps. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) and Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer).
Raczkowski had called Courser a hypocrite and fraud in a private e-mail last month.

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Courser, the self described 'God-fearing' conservative legislator, said he began receiving anonymous text messages from the phone number "313-421-5345" that he should either resign or information about his affair with Gamrat would become public.

Based on the timing of when he sent the "controlled email" on himself and when he was questioned by *MIRS* shortly thereafter if he were behind the email, he said he figured out his own staff was behind the blackmailing scheme.

He claims his former staff told other House staffers his office was "bugged" by the office of the House Speaker, with whom they were working "maliciously" to bring him down as someone within the liberty movement who refused to work within the Lansing system.

Graham, Cline and Allard he called political operatives with "political aspirations of their own" who stole his data to undermine him.

"They had no professional experience to run an office," Courser said. "I leaned on them and trusted them. It became clear to me that they were ill-suited to their responsibilities to the district."

Courser does not resign in the clip. He acknowledges himself as a "broken messenger" and that the "founding fathers" of the country were "flawed as well" and that didn't stop their desire to serve.

"I'm just a poor sinner . . ." he said. "I'm really sorry. I am. It sounds trite. There's got to be a better word or a bigger word in that. I would simply ask for your prayers and your forgiveness."

Allard shared a statement from himself, Cline and Graham in which he says there is "absolutely no truth to the accusations against us by Mr. Courser, as will be proven."

Allard said the situation is a sad one, not only for the families involved, but for the constituents of these districts.

"Attempts to blame others instead of accepting responsibility is unfortunate," Allard said. "We look forward to cooperating with any investigation to ensure that taxpayers are protected and faith in our institutions can be restored."

"Trucker" Randy **BISHOP**, the chair of the Antrim County Republican Party, told Michigan's Big Show this morning that as a personal friend of Courser and Gamrat's he was "heartbroken" about the news Friday morning.

"It was personally devastating to me," Bishop said. "I cried. I was extremely emotional over it."

That said, Bishop said it's clear to him Gov. Rick **SNYDER**, House Appropriations Committee Chair Al **PSCHOLKA** (R-Stevensville) and others in Lansing don't want Courser and Gamrat -- two Tea Party/liberty sympathizers -- around the state Capitol.

Unlike other conservative leaders, Bishop said Courser and Gamrat should not resign and succumb to the "undo pressure" of those who are "piling on" their personal tragedy.

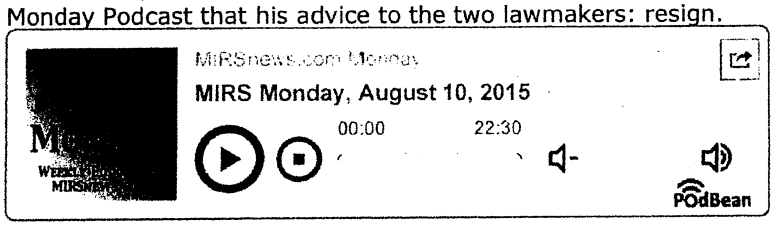
However, Rocky **RACZKOWSKI**, a former state representative and conservative leader in southeast Michigan, said some of the staff involved once interned for him and he's "disgusted" by what he's seeing out of Courser. Gamrat and Courser should resign, he said, for bringing the House to "a new level."

On *Michigan's Big Show* today, he called Courser the "epitome of hypocrisy," who has been emboldened by those "de minimis" numbers of people who support him.

"There is 30 percent of America who believes O.J. should still be looking for the real killer," Raczkowski said. "There isn't a conspiracy. It was caused by these two individuals and the hubris and the damage they're doing to the Republican caucus and officeholders, in whole, is

insurmountable."

In a private email he wrote to Courser last month, Raczkowski wrote, "You are a HYPOCRITE and a FRAUD! I would rather follow 20 Democrats that are not hypocrites than follow an authentic hypocrite like yourself! Shame on you for using the Lord to cover your deeds. Shame on you! Long-time public relations consultant John **TRUSCOTT** said on today's MIRS Monday Podcast that his advice to the two lawmakers: resign.



Republican Strategist Greg **McNEILLY** also sees a resignation from Courser and Gamrat as being in order. McNeilly, the former executive director of the Michigan Republican Party, said it is not about the lawmakers' "personal choices," which he believes are "irrelevant."

Rather, the problem is their alleged handling of the liaison after the fact that he thinks involves a "cover up" and the misuse of taxpayer funds.

"This is so embarrassing," McNeilly said. On top of that, he concludes, "It's damaging to the Legislature, the Republican Party and the Tea Party establishment which they purport to represent."

McNeilly pointed out he is not speaking for the Michigan Freedom Fund on this story, but he does relate that his work with the Great Lakes Education Project involved trying to defeat Courser when he ran for the House.

"We came up short," he said.

Randall **THOMPSON** of the Faith & Freedom Coalition of Michigan said Courser is fooling himself if he believes he is suited to continue to lead in public service. Both representatives should resign immediately, Thompson said.

Cotter: Courser, Gamrat's Emails Seized; Greimel Wants AG Involved

House Speaker Kevin **COTTER** (R-Mt. Pleasant) said the House Business Office has seized and preserved electronic records, files and emails from the offices of Reps. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) and Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) as part of its investigation into whether state resources were used to cover up their extramarital affair.

Cotter told *Michigan's Big Show* that House members were also asked to preserve files and email exchanges with Courser and Gamrat's office so a "very detailed review" can be conducted.

The update was given after Courser alleged in a 27-minute audio message today that Cotter's office was in cahoots with his former staff members to bug his office. It's an audio recording former staffer Ben **GRAHAM** took of a conversation with Courser that was published in *The Detroit News* that sparked the current scandal.

The Speaker categorically denied the claim of bugging Courser's office as "ludicrous" and another example of Courser trying to "look as if he's the victim and the establishment is out to get them."

"I can assure you that there is no black helicopter," Cotter said. "There are no drones circling his office. This is just another incident in a series of behaviors we've seen from him."

Courser and Gamrat's former staff did have conversations with the Speaker's staff, Cotter said, but at that point the talks were about the House members' affair and the "controlled burn" email Courser put together to try to deflect attention away from it (See "Released Audio Has Courser Concocting Scheme To Soften Gamrat Affair," 8/6/15). He called it "gossip at that point" with no hard evidence and that he wasn't going to exhaust his efforts "digging into the rumor mill."

Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Tim **GREIMEL** (D-Auburn Hills) said the allegations of wiretapping, blackmail and the use of taxpayer dollars to cover up the affair are too serious for House Business Office Manager Tim **BOWLIN** to handle and urged that the matter be sent to the Attorney General's Office.

Even Tim Bowlin last week stated the need to move the investigation to a different party if laws were broken," Greimel said. "I urge Michigan Attorney General Bill **SCHUETTE** to lead this investigation and get to the bottom of these allegations. There is no place in the Legislature for people who are engaged in criminal conduct, and when accusations of this magnitude are raised, the taxpayers of Michigan deserve a full investigation."

In the meantime, with neither Courser not Gamrat making moves like they will be resigning anytime soon, *MIRS* confirmed with Cotter that expulsion is an option in cases where laws have been broken. Such action would take a resolution introduced in the House and then investigated by a committee.

However, Cotter noted that the process involving Courser and Gamrat has not moved that far along and it would be premature to discuss the matter further. He noted a resolution along those lines has not been crafted.

Rep. Ed **MCBROOM** (R-Vulcan), the chair of the House Oversight Committee, said he is reserving judgment on the entire situation until whatever investigation being done is complete.

"If the investigation leads to the necessity of my committee acting and the Speaker would like it referred to my committee, then it would be an appropriate place for those discussions to take place," McBroom said.

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Rose Mary **ROBINSON** (D-Detroit), the vice chair of the Oversight Committee, spoke out against the idea of the committee looking into the situation.

She labeled the situation with Courser and Gamrat "tomfoolery."

"I think the constituents should take care of their state reps," she said.

But given that Cotter has said that his staff talked with Courser and Gamrat's merged staff before, Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon **DILLON** said Cotter has more questions to answer and the Attorney General should be stepping into the matter now.

"It is inappropriate for the House Speaker to investigate himself," Dillon said.

"When did the Speaker know about the affair and the cover-up? Were State resources used in the criminal cover-up? Why were staffers fired after going to the Speaker's staff with their concerns? Are there any texts and/or emails between the fired staffers and House leadership?"

Ex-Staffers For Courser, Gamrat Got Raises After Emails, Before Firings

Just days after Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) told a staffer about the plan to send out emails trashing himself to disguise his affair with Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell), the

staffer got a 6 percent raise.

According to information from the House, Ben **GRAHAM**, who was Courser's staffer, and Keith **ALLARD**, who was Gamrat's staffer, got approximately 6 percent raises on May 25 -- just days after the Courser-orchestrated emails went out on May 20 and May 21.

Then, just 40 days after May 25, on July 6, Courser and Gamrat did a U-turn and fired the two staffers (See "Key Staffers For Gamrat, Courser Depart," 7/6/15).

While still working for Courser, Graham had secretly recorded him discussing the email scheme. That audio became public on Friday when it was released by *The Detroit News*, setting off a firestorm of media attention.

Today, Courser made his first comments on the situation in a 27-minute audio recording posted online. In it, Courser detailed a blackmail scheme against him that he said helped inspire the fake emails.

Courser also slammed Graham, saying he and another former staffer "just simply were not suited for the offices of Lansing."

"It became clear upon getting to Lansing, essentially immediately, they were ill suited to the office's needs and their responsibilities to the district," Courser added.

Courser went on to allege that Allard and Graham were working with House GOP leadership.

Courser alleged that in an exit interview with Allard, Allard said he had been working with Speaker Kevin **COTTER**'s (R-Mt. Pleasant) office for "some time."

Asked why the two staffers were given raises in late May, Courser indicated today that he and Gamrat couldn't prove, at that time, that they were involved in the blackmail scheme.

Courser said he and Gamrat were -- at that time -- trying to give Graham and Allard the benefit of the doubt on the situation.

The raises pushed Graham's salary from $35,000 to $37,100. Allard's salary went from $54,5000 to $57,770.

Gideon **D'ASSANDRO**, spokesperson for Cotter, said the Speaker's office generally signs off on raises asked for by lawmakers.

But the Speaker's office apparently didn't have to sign off on the firings, which representatives can pursue on their own.

Asked why the raises and then firings raised red flags for the Speaker's office, D'Assandro said he couldn't comment on issues directly connected to the firings, a human resources matter.

After *The Detroit News* reported allegations on Friday that Courser used public resources to orchestrate his email scheme, Cotter called on the House Business Office to investigate the situation.

As for meetings between the ex-staffers and the Speaker's Office, Graham met with Norm **SAARI**, Cotter's former chief of staff, the day after one of the fake emails were sent. The Speaker's Office had met with Allard on "several occasions."

D'Assandro said those meetings with Allard were "normal," in that it's normal for the chief of staff to meet with member staff.

Embattled state Rep. Courser says he was blackmailed

By Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press Lansing Bureau *6:54 a.m. EDT August 10, 2015*

(Photo: Michigan House Republicans)

Embattled state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, sent his own audio tape early Monday morning, saying he sent a false e-mail about paying for gay sex because he was being blackmailed.

The long and rambling audio tape blames his former staffers, Ben Graham, Josh Cline and Keith Allard, for colluding with the Lansing "mafia" establishment to bring him down. And it didn't work, he said, because he's decided to stay in office to expose the "political shenanigans" that are happening in Lansing.

"The e-mail was put in motion to disrupt the blackmailer and give me some clues as to the surveillance of my life. It was all done in a pressure cooker and ... it put me in a situation where a bad choice was the choice that I made," he said, noting the alleged blackmailer's intent was to get him to resign.

"But to change the country, men and women must be able to stand unafraid even when they're a broken messenger. And I'm a certainly a broken messenger," he said in the recording. "I have chosen to stay and make them play their hand. I think it is absolutely necessary to have these clandestine operations to control public officials be exposed. So I have refused to leave quietly and have decided that these efforts really need to come out."

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Investigation into Courser-Gamrat sex scandal continues

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/09/house-business-office-working-weekend-investigation-sex-scandal/31392655/)

The sex scandal rumors that have been swirling around Lansing for months involve Courser's attempts to cover up an extra-marital affair with state Rep. y Gamrat, R-Plainwell. He said he sent the anonymous e-mail on May 20 to people around Lansing that claimed he was a sexual deviant as a means to expose the blackmailer.

After apologizing to his family, constituents, God and Gamrat's family, he said sending the e-mail to divert attention away from the affair was his decision alone.

"My actions in and around the events in the e-mail sent to misdirect attention were my doing in planning and execution," he said. "No one else has the responsibility for those actions."

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Here's the real outrage in Courser-Gamrat sex scandal

(http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/08/07/gamrat-courser-sex-scandal/31316711/)

The affair and e-mail was revealed in an audio tape made public by staffer Graham, who was fired by Courser. He claims that the three staffers were let go because they were "incompetent" and ill-suited to run a legislative office.

"I see this as the establishment machine getting everyone to do what they're told to do and no one dare question their authority," Courser said in the recording. "I will attempt to continue to resolve this issue and find out who the person is, but without police involvement and willingness to track the person do, it's nearly impossible to do so.

"I could have resigned, this is really the option that the anonymous texter wanted and done so quietly. But that would have allowed my personal issues to rule the day," he said. "I essentially would have submitted to the authority of the establishment machine and in doing so to protect myself and my family. most of you would say this is the right decision. But I really thought that this would allow them to win."

Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, has ordered the House business office to conduct an investigation into the matter to see if there is a violation of House rules. The office has been working through the weekend, going through e-mails and documents to determine whether the two lawmakers broke any House rules or whether there is any evidence of illegal behavior. The House business office can conduct interviews with current or

former staffers, examine records from the two offices and could levy punishment — such as demanding reimbursement to the state for inappropriately used state funds.

If suspected illegal activity is found, the office could refer the matter to law enforcement or another state agency for further action. The pair also could removal from office if the House passes a resolution, which would need two-thirds support from the 110-member House, said Gideon D'Assandro, esman for Cotter.

Contact Kathleen Gray: 517-372-8661, kgray99@freepress.com or on Twitter @michpoligal.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Cotter orders investigation into reportedly covered-up affair

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/08/07/house-speaker-orders-investigation-reported-coverup-affair/31274087/)

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Friend denies distributing Courser email to Republicans

Chad Livengood, Detroit News Lansing Bureau *12:43 a.m. EDT August 10, 2015*

(Photo: facebook)

Lansing — State Rep. Todd Courser told an aide that he had a longtime friend and business associate send Republicans an email falsely claiming the lawmaker was caught having sex with a male prostitute, audio recordings show.

The email, which Courser first ordered a staff member to send out, was sent as part of a scheme to conceal the lawmaker's relationship with Rep. Cindy Gamrat.

But Immanuel "Ike" Eickholdt, the man Courser says sent it, denied any involvement in distribution of the email in an interview with The Detroit News. Rank-and-file Republicans received the message May 20 and May 21 from an anonymous sender.

Former Courser and Gamrat aides confirmed to The News that the "Ike" mentioned by Courser during two recorded meetings is Eickholdt, who ran in a Democratic primary last year against Courser's eventual general election opponent, Margaret Guerrero DeLuca.

At a May 21 meeting in Lansing recorded by then-House aide Ben Graham, Courser identifies "Ike" as the person who sent the sexually explicit email to rank-and-file Republicans at the Lapeer Republican's behest after Graham refused the assignment.

On Friday, The News first revealed (/story/news/politics/2015/08/06/recordings-state-rep-asked-aide-hide-relationship/31269315/) the existence of audio recordings Graham made of meetings on May 19 and May 21 with Courser in which the freshman lawmaker details a plan to spread an "over-the-top story that's obscene about me" to create the appearance of "a complete smear campaign."

The emergence of another Courser associate being purportedly entangled in what Graham called a "cover-up" comes after House Speaker Kevin Cotter called Friday for an internal House investigation (/story/news/politics/2015/08/07/house-speaker-wants-investigation-courser-gamrat/31274709/) of Courser and Gamrat's actions and as calls for their resignations began to mount.

Over the weekend, Allegan County Republican Party Chairman Steve McNeal demanded Gamrat's resignation (http://allegangop.com/statement-from-allegan-county-republican-party-chairman-steve-mcneal-on-cindy-gamrat/), while the Lapeer County Democratic Party called on Courser to step down.

Neither lawmaker has commented publicly since the recordings came to light, aside from a Facebook post that appeared on Courser's page Sunday evening. In the posting, Courser said he would "try" to issue a statement Monday.

"I want to thank all of you who have offered up your prayers and support these last few days; it has meant the world to myself and my family," Courser wrote. "Given all that is happening around me I have felt it was appropriate to simply take some time and reflect and simply pray. I will try and issue a statement tomorrow...God bless you all and thanks again for your prayers!"

During the recorded May 21 meeting between Courser, Gamrat and Graham, Courser talks at length about Eickholdt carrying out the task after Graham would not.

"Ike is a great guy. Obviously he will do things. He's an executer," Courser told Graham in a meeting inside Gamrat's state office in Lansing. "That's what he does and stuff."

Graham, 25, refused to send the email. He told Courser in a text the previous day he would not participate in a "cover-up" of Gamrat and Courser's relationship.

Mobile users, click here to listen to audio (https://soundcloud.com/detroitnews/awkward-to-say-the-least/s-c3MAt)

"I know that's not really your thing, but Ike performed that and did it," Courser told Graham. "Obviously (the email) was over-the-top."

elephone interview, Eickholdt acknowledged being a "friend and business associate" of Courser's for a decade, but denied sending the email or having any knowledge of it.

"I did not send an email thing out," Eickholdt told The News. "Whatever nonsense they've got going on, I don't deal with that kind of stuff anymore."

During the May 21 meeting, Courser recalls to Graham a conversation he claimed he had with Eickholdt when he asked him to send the email.

"I said, 'Hey I need you to do this' and he said, 'I understand,' " Courser told Graham. "I said, 'Do you need to know why?' He said, 'I already know why.' OK, thank you. And then he said, 'What the hell did you think was going to happen?' "

Mobile users, click here to listen to audio (https://soundcloud.com/detroitnews/im-just-a-sinner-saved-by-grace/s-8O3gv)

On the morning of May 20, an hour before the first email was sent to Republicans, Eickholdt posted a single sentence status update on his Facebook page that read: "Sometimes I am asked to do things that I am uncomfortable doing."

year, Lapeer County Democrats suspected — but could never prove — that Eickholdt was a fake candidate planted by Courser or local Republicans to hurt their favored candidate, DeLuca, in a primary, former county chairwoman Nancy Coscarelli said.

"She lost some wind in her sails because (Eickholdt) filed" and forced a primary, Coscarelli said.

DeLuca, a former Imlay City mayor, won 80 percent of the vote in the primary, before losing to Courser by 10 percentage points in the general election for an open House seat. It was Courser's first electoral win after two failed campaigns for the Legislature.

"There was a lot of conversation going about whether he was a mole, planted to attend the meetings and take stuff back (to Republicans)," DeLuca said of Eickholdt.

Eickholdt, a 51-year-old information technology professional, denied he was recruited by Courser or local Republicans to run in the Democratic primary against Courser's eventual opponent.

"Heck no. That was my motivation (to run)," Eickholdt told The News. "I came in and I definitely caused some stink in there."

Campaign finance records show Eickholdt donated $50 to Courser's failed 2010 campaign for the state Senate.

Eickholdt said he helped Courser build the information technology "war machine" for his failed Senate campaign that year and has done computer work for Courser's Lapeer law office. Graham also worked on the 2010 campaign.

"My own party beat the crap out of me because they knew I had been friends with Todd," Eickholdt said.

Courser fired Graham in early July after stripping him of his constituent services duties in the weeks following his refusal to send the salacious email, ding to Graham and Keith Allard, another former Courser and Gamrat aide who was fired July 7 without explanation.

Gamrat, R-Plainwell, declined to comment on the firings.

Courser first identified Eickholdt by his nickname as someone who could send the email for him during a May 19 meeting with Graham at his Lapeer law office. Graham said he recorded the meeting without Courser's knowledge after his boss called him into the office for a 10:30 p.m. meeting with a request to "destroy me."

"Normally, with this sort of thing I would have Ike do it," Courser told Graham. "He's done it from Gmail accounts. A series of them."

"Yeah, he told me how to do that, but I now can't remember," Graham replied.

Mobile users, click here to listen to audio (https://soundcloud.com/detroitnews/a-controlled-burn-of-me/s-yq9hh)

Courser later instructed Graham to pretend to be sick the next day and send the email to Republicans and the media, according to the audio recording obtained exclusively by The Detroit News (/story/news/politics/2015/08/06/recordings-state-rep-asked-aide-hide-relationship/31269315/).

On the recording, Courser can be heard saying he wanted the email to create "a controlled burn" to distract from what he thought would be forthcoming revelations about his relationship with Gamrat. The email "scam sham" was sparked by anonymous text messages the representatives received earlier in the day threatening to expose their relationship, according to Courser.

But Graham rejected his boss's request to send the email and take a sick day. He said he took a vacation day on May 20 instead, as the email began arriving in the in-boxes of Republican activists and operatives and some journalists.

May 21, Graham recorded a meeting with Courser and Gamrat inside Gamrat's House office in Lansing in which Courser discloses that Eickholdt sent the email for him.

"I don't think Ike should have done it ... but that's his choice," Graham told Courser.

"Yeah," Courser replied. "Well he's done the things in the past as well and, umm, he's a guy obviously that I've done some things for and he's done some things for me as well."

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Volume #54, Report #156--Monday, August 10, 2015

Courser Won't Resign; Accuses Staff Of Blackmail, Spying

Rep. Todd Courser early Monday morning released a 27-minute recording where he apologizes for sending a false email accusing himself of having sex with a male prostitute in an effort to distract others from his relationship with **Rep. Cindy Gamrat**, but also says he is not resigning and his three former staffers were working with the "Lansing mafia" to bring him down.

Mr. Courser's (R-Silverwood) recorded audio message is his first real response to The Detroit News story where recordings released by former aide Ben Graham to the newspaper show Mr. Courser asking him to send out the fake email. Mr. Courser calls the story a "hit piece."

Mr. Courser also claims that House **Speaker Kevin Cotter** (R-Mount Pleasant) was working with Mr. Courser's staff to "monitor him."

Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell) has not yet spoken about the issue. She canceled office hours for Monday evening and did not return a call for comment.

With neither representative resigning at this point, Mr. Cotter told Gongwer News Service on Monday he is stopping short of calling for their resignation as a House Business Office investigation into the scandal continues.

He said he also would not rule out urging to House to expel the two lawmakers. Only one House member has ever been expelled, former Rep. Monte Geralds in 1978. One senator, former Sen. David Jaye, was expelled in 2001.

Mr. Courser claims that he decided to send the phony email to supporters after receiving texts from a blackmailer, "it was not my finest moment," he said.

Mr. Courser never specifically says what the alleged blackmailer threatened to reveal, and he never specifically admits to a sexual relationship with Ms. Gamrat, but he on many occasions talks of his failure as a husband and apologizes to Ms. Gamrat, her family and "especially" her husband. He also apologizes to God, his wife, his constituents and the general public.

Mr. Courser says he began receiving texts threatening to destroy him, so he conceived the phony email - which also claims he is addicted to drugs, alcohol and porn and told Mr. Graham to distribute it - in hopes he could winnow the potential suspects. After a reporter approached him about the email and after Mr. Graham allegedly claimed he had enough information to destroy him, Mr. Courser said he then concluded it was Mr. Graham.

"I could have resigned. This is really the option that anonymous texter wanted," he said. "I essentially would have been submitting to the authority of the establishment machine and doing so to protect myself and my family."

With the new allegations coming from Mr. Courser, House **Minority Leader Tim Greimel** (D-Auburn Hills) called for **Attorney General Bill Schuette** to begin an independent investigation. Currently, the House Business Office is conducting an investigation to determine if the representatives broke the law or House rules. Mr. Greimel said House Business Office Director Tim Bowlin works at the discretion of Mr. Cotter and the investigation should be taken to an outside agency.

"Even Tim Bowlin last week stated the need to move the investigation to a different party if laws were broken," Mr. Greimel said in a statement. "I urge Michigan **Attorney General Bill Schuette** to lead this investigation and get to the bottom of these allegations. There is no place in the Legislature for people who are engaged in criminal conduct, and when accusations of this magnitude are raised, the taxpayers of Michigan deserve a full investigation."

Mr. Cotter said he does not disagree with Mr. Greimel, but would like to see what the House investigation discovers before calling in Mr. Schuette. Mr. Schuette's office had no comment.

Mr. Courser claims that another staffer he and Ms. Gamrat shared, Keith Allard, informed him after being fired that he was working with the office of House **Speaker Kevin Cotter** (R-Mount Pleasant) to monitor Mr. Courser. Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham were fired by the representatives in July. Mr. Courser then calls his former staffers - including Josh Cline who departed in April - incompetent.

The three staffers released a joint statement Monday dismissing the accusations. All three declined to comment further.

"This continues to be a very sad situation, not only for the families involved, but for the constituents of these districts. Attempts to blame others instead of accepting responsibility is unfortunate," they said. "We look forward to cooperating with any investigation to ensure that taxpayers are protected and faith in our institutions can be restored. Most important, an investigation will reveal the truth. There is absolutely no truth to the accusations against us by Mr. Courser, as will be proven."

Mr. Cotter also denies attempting to monitor Mr. Courser's office in any way and said he was not working with Mr. Courser's staff.

Mr. Cotter said he does not know how he would even go about bugging Mr. Courser's office - something the representative charges in his audio.

"On a good day, I can open my own email," he said.

Mr. Cotter quipped that he would like Mr. Courser to start condensing his responses to Capitol-happenings, saying he is either forced to read seemingly never-ending emails or listening to a 27-minute long recording.

But more seriously, Mr. Cotter said Mr. Courser's behavior was "disgusting" and he should be focusing on mending his relationship with his family.

"Trying to make sure he survives personally and professionally, that is the wrong thing to do," Mr. Cotter said.

Mr. Cotter said it is tempting to call for the two representatives to resign, but he is not because he "thinks it is prudent the investigation gets carried out," he said.

He is not ruling out expelling the members, even if it is found no laws have been broken, he said. To expel a member of the House, a two-thirds majority vote is necessary.

"I have not gotten to that point yet," he said. "I would be jumping to conclusions."

On the investigation, Mr. Cotter said currently all property has been collected from the two representatives' offices, including emails, servers and other communications. He said there will be an internal review, and then it will be determined if the two broke any laws or House rules.

"We are covering ground at what I think is a fast pace," he said.

Mr. Cotter noted he called for the investigation at 3:22 a.m. Friday, saying he recognized the urgency. He also said there is no harm in waiting to bring in Mr. Schuette because none of the evidence will be lost.

"I am open to the Attorney General's involvement," Mr. Courser said.

Governor Rick Snyder made his first public comments on the scandal, when talking to reporters in Detroit, and said that if Mr. Courser felt he was being blackmailed he should have contacted the Department of State Police.

A State Police spokesperson said it would investigate if Mr. Courser filed a complaint as is the case with any other criminal allegation.

Mr. Snyder said an investigation will determine if Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat had breached the public trust.

He also said he believed Mr. Cotter was handling the investigation appropriately and expeditiously.

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Cotter: Courser, Gamrat Aides 'Frequently' Had Conversations With Office

House **Speaker Kevin Cotter** said on Monday there was nothing more his office could have done to prevent the ultimate termination of two legislative aides that seems to have stemmed from **Rep. Todd Courser**'s attempts to get his staffer to send out a false email meant to distract from an actual relationship with **Rep. Cindy Gamrat**.

Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) noted all legislative staffers actually work for the speaker's office. He said all human resources issues, problems in the office and outside projects and scheduling involve communications between legislative staffers and the speaker's office.

Mr. Courser (R-Silverwood) and Ms. Gamrat, both married with children, have been involved in an extramarital affair for an unknown period of time. They began their first term in office sharing three staffers, although their districts are nowhere near each other.

Josh Cline quit in April. But Keith Allard and Ben Graham were fired from the offices in July. On Friday, The Detroit News first reported Mr. Graham had been asked to send a false email - written by Mr. Courser - accusing Mr. Courser of having sex with a male prostitute and being addicted to drugs and alcohol, among other things.

The email, Mr. Courser said in recordings provided to The News by Mr. Graham, was meant to distract his supporters and opponents from any real accusations of his affair with Ms. Gamrat. Mr. Graham refused to send the email and he and Mr. Allard were eventually fired.

Mr. Cotter said the employees with Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat frequently had conversations with Mr. Cotter's office.

"We did hear about rumors about maybe an inappropriate personal relationship between the two members," Mr. Cotter said. "You have two adults, what they do in their personal time is their business."

While there has been speculation on whether or not Mr. Cotter's office knew Mr. Courser had asked his staffer to send the false email, which meant using state resources on a personal matter, Mr. Cotter said that is not true.

"If we had had evidence on that we would have acted on it promptly," Mr. Cotter said of state resources being used inappropriately.

However, multiple sources have said the legislative staffers expressed unhappiness about their office situations to the speaker's office more than once.

When asked if his office should have removed the staffers from Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat's offices and instructed the legislators to not share staff, Mr. Cotter said, "I don't think in light of what we knew at the time there was anything we could have done differently."

Mr. Cotter said he did not have the warmest of relationships with Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat, which really shut down the line of communication with the two representatives.

Mr. Cotter barred Ms. Gamrat from caucus meetings in April and Mr. Courser decided not to attend the caucus meetings shortly after. He also sent out a strongly-worded email where he called Mr. Cotter a "bully" after the incident.

"It comes down to what did we know at the time," Mr. Cotter said. "At the time we knew there was a rumor that existed, and we didn't really have anything beyond the rumor."

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Melissa Gilbert Announces Bid For 8th U.S. House District

The 8th U.S. House District suddenly and surprisingly rocketed to prominence in the 2016 elections with the surprising announcement that Melissa Gilbert, best-known for her role on the television program "Little House on the Prairie," will run for the seat as a Democrat against Republican **U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop**.

'I have never sent him a text in my life' says man Rep. Todd Courser accused in blackmail text plot

Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com By **Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com**
on August 12, 2015 at 6:00 AM, updated August 12, 2015 at 7:05 AM

Political consultant David Forsmark, owner of Winning Strategies, was accused by Rep. Todd Courser of being involved in a blackmail texting plot to oust him from office. (Photo courtesy of David Forsmark.)
Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com

LANSING, MI -- David Forsmark was at the Donald Trump event when his phone lit up with people wanting to talk about his involvement in a blackmail texting plot to oust Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer.

The only problem? He says he's never texted Courser or directed anybody else to.

Courser publicly named Forsmark, owner of political consulting firm Winning Strategies, in a Facebook statement on what he framed as a blackmail texting plot to remove him from office.

"Based on select information he released and who he release (sic) that information to, he has concluded that his former staff worked with political consultant David Forsmark to concoct a plot to remove him from office," read a mostly third-person statement posted to Courser's Facebook page Tuesday evening.

In **text messages** Courser shared with MIRS News on Tuesday, an unknown sender asks him to resign and threatened to release audio, video and pictures of his alleged affair with Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell.

Forsmark said he's good friends with two of Courser's former staffers, Joshua Cline and Ben Graham. Cline quit working for Courser and Gamrat in April, and Graham was let go in July.

He thinks Courser may have inferred his involvement from a Facebook post about the three eating dinner together, or maybe something he said at some point.

"I'm fairly good at arguments, reasonably sarcastic, occasionally funny. So maybe something stuck with him that ticked him off. But who knows," Forsmark said.

Forsmark does not like Courser, and was planning to kick him out of office the old fashioned way: by helping a candidate run against him and win in the 2016 primary.

Forsmark said he does not plan to sue over the public accusation but imagines that Graham, Cline and former staffer Keith Allard have been getting calls from lawyers wanting to represent them.

So far Courser has accused all three former staffers, Forsmark and House Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant of being involved in a plot to remove him from office.

"I don't tell people anymore I've seen everything in politics," Forsmark said.

Emily Lawler is a Capitol/Business reporter for MLive. You can reach her at ***elawler@mlive.com****, subscribe to her on* ***Facebook*** *or follow her on Twitter:* ***@emilyjanelawler****.*

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's not the boy who cried wolf, anymore. This is the boy who cried Loch Ness Monster."

- Gideon **D'ASSANDRO**, press secretary for House Speaker Kevin **COTTER,** about Rep. Todd **COURSER** suggesting that an outside investigator look the Speaker's involvement with his former staff, who he suspected blackmailed him into resigning over his affair with Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT**.

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Courser Asked Sheriff About Text Messages; Now Working With FBI

Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) asked Lapeer County Sheriff Ronald **KALANQUIN** the process of tracking the identity of the person behind a cell phone number shortly after the Legislature adjourned for the summer recess a couple months ago.

The first-term House member was allegedly attempting to track down the identity of a cyber-stalker who was blackmailing him to resign or witness information on his affair with Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) go public.

However, Courser didn't indicate he wanted to pursue the matter after he was told it would likely involve a formal complaint and a warrant issued by a judge, thereby creating a public

record, Kalanquin said.

Kalanquin declined to speculate on why Courser did ask him to pursue the matter, but presumably working with law enforcement would have required him to make statements about his affair in a police report that could later be obtained by the public.

Courser is not working with the Lapeer County Sheriff in trying to figure out the identity of the blackmailer. Rather, *MIRS* has learned Courser spent more than two hours speaking with a FBI agent in Flint about the matter Tuesday afternoon, a piece of information neither Courser nor the FBI would confirm or deny.

Back in June and July, when rumors about the Courser/Gamrat affair were the talk of Lansing, Kalanquin said he visited Courser to get a legislative update on law enforcement-related matters.

During that visit, Courser brought up the feasibility of getting information about the identity of cell phone caller. Kalanquin informed him that cell phone companies now are only releasing that information to law enforcement when presented with a warrant signed by a judge.

In order to get a warrant, investigators need to present the information that led up to the request, which would require some type of complaint being filed, Kalanquin said.

It was during this meeting that Courser told his local sheriff that he believed his office was bugged and that people were "out to get him."

"He said that people did not like him and the power elite were out to get him," said Kalanquin, who declined to offer an opinion on whether Courser should now resign amid the public release of information on the scandal (See "Released Audio Has Courser Concocting Scheme To Soften Gamrat Affair," 8/6/15).

"This is a regretful, sad situation involving a young man with a bright political future," Kalanquin said. "Whether he should resign is a decision he has to make."

Meanwhile, Tim **BOWLIN**, director of the House Business Office, said he hopes to conclude interviews for his investigation, which was requested by the House speaker, by next Thursday.

By the end, there will have been between 15 and 20 total interviews.

After concluding the interviews, Bowlin said he would then have to finalize his report. That's unless he finds something worthy of forwarding to law enforcement.

"It's proceeding and I'm going as deliberatively as possible and expeditiously as possible," Bowlin said.

In other news on the Courser/Gamrat story today, House Minority Leader Tim **GREIMEL** (D-Auburn Hills), as promised, sent his letter to Attorney General Bill **SCHUETTE** requesting the AG begin an investigation into the "number of criminal allegations and counter-allegations levied" as part of this developing story.

"Due to the criminal allegations, I believe it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of Michigan, as well as the Michigan House of Representatives, for a law enforcement entity with subpoena power to investigate this matter and bring it to a speedy resolution," Greimel wrote. "For these reasons, I am requesting that your office take immediate investigative action into this matter."

House speaker slaps Courser's demand for separate probe

Chad Livengood, Karen Bouffard and Gary Heinlein, The Detroit News *9:32 p.m. EDT August 12, 2015*

(Photo: Dale G. Young / The Detroit News)

State Rep. Todd Courser endorsed Michigan Democrats' request for an independent investigation as the House Business Office continued its probe of the Lapeer Republican lawmaker and GOP Rep. Cindy Gamrat of Plainwell for possible misuse of office.

The official in charge of the House investigation said Wednesday that interviews with potential witnesses have started and could be complete by the end of next week.

On Friday, House Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant, ordered the House Business Office to conduct an open-ended investigation of tea party conservatives Courser and Gamrat three hours after The Detroit News reported interviews with former House employees and two audio recordings showed Courser and Gamrat used their taxpayer-funded offices to maintain and cover up their relationship.

Courser endorsed the idea of a separate probe in a wild flurry of Twitter posts Wednesday that tried to cast blame for the scandal on Cotter. It came as House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel requested that Attorney General Bill Schuette, a Republican, conduct his own investigation.

"Speaker knew of the incidents immediately after alleged incident but left the staff in place? Why?" Courser tweeted without indicating to what he was referring.

He also retweeted a post by Michigan Democrats publicizing Chairman Brandon Dillon's questioning of what Cotter knew about the Courser-Gamrat relationship. Both lawmakers are married; Courser has acknowledged there was a relationship, while Gamrat has not released a comment after refusing to discuss the issue with The News last week.

speaker's office reiterated that "we don't investigate affairs."

"We heard nothing about any 1) recordings or 2) allegations of taxpayer resources being misused until The Detroit News story came out" Friday, Cotter spokesman Gideon D'Assandro said in an email.

"This isn't the boy who cried wolf; this is the boy who cried Loch Ness Monster. He's shown time and time again that he has zero credibility on this issue. He's desperate and trying to point the finger at anyone but himself for the pain he's caused."

In early July, Courser and Gamrat fired staffers Ben Graham and Keith Allard, who objected to the lawmakers' relationship. The staffers also objected to how the relationship affected operations of the combined Courser-Gamrat office, unusual because the lawmakers' districts are separated by 130 miles. On May 20, Graham rejected Courser's order to send a fictional email claiming the lawmaker had sex with a man behind a Lansing bar.

Tim Bowlin, chief financial officer and business director for the state House, said Wednesday he has begun interviewing potential witnesses and that Courser and Gamrat are cooperating. "They will be interviewed. They just have not been interviewed at this time," Bowlin said.

He added that he is compiling data and will need to write a final report.

"If I find something before that time that is potentially illegal, then I will forward that" to the Michigan State Police or attorney general, Bowlin said. "I won't wait until the end of the investigation."

Courser's social media blitzkrieg came on the same day that Greimel of Auburn Hills asked Schuette to investigate, requesting in a letter a "law enforcement entity with subpoena power to investigate the matter and bring it to a speedy resolution." Schuette's office confirmed receipt of the letter but spokeswoman Andrea Bitely had no other comment.

On Tuesday, Courser accused the two former staffers, a Flint-area political consultant and a third aide who quit, Joshua Cline, of sending anonymous messages indicating knowledge of the Courser-Gamrat relationship and threatening to reveal it if he did not resign. All four have denied the accusation as ridiculous.

On Wednesday, Courser posted on his Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Toddformichigan?fref=nf) alleged anonymous text messages he said he received, threatening him with revealing the relationship. One said the texter didn't care about politics and others said Courser should resign.

"I didn't send any text messages to Todd Courser," said David Forsmark, the conservative owner of Winning Strategies in Flushing. "I was not trying to take him down, and they were not trying to take him down.

"These text messages — if they are really are from someone other than him — he said they started in January. This has not been on my radar."

Anything, Forsmark, 54, said it would make no sense for him to get Courser to resign because he has been approached by two people who wanted to challenge the Republican freshman lawmaker in 2016. Courser narrowly won the seat in November.

"I would have been costing myself some money," Forsmark said. "He was looking pretty vulnerable."

The political consultant said that while he is friends with Graham and Cline and they have done work for him, they never made critical remarks about Courser when they worked for the lawmaker.

"They would make excuses for him when I talked to them," he said.

Graham and Allard were fired after receiving 6 percent raises about a month earlier. On May 20, Graham rejected Courser's order to send the fictional email alleging the lawmaker had sex with a man. Cline quit working for Courser and Gamrat in April after he said he confronted them about their relationship and "unprofessional" office behavior.

Courser said on Facebook the alleged blackmail texts "are very intimate. They were freakishly stalking. It was in this environment that I was acting to find out who was involved in the blackmailing. They involved access to conversations, texts, locations, and family info including private cell data. It was constant surveillance from January forward."

In his Facebook post Tuesday, Courser claimed "has been in contact with authorities over a period of time" about the alleged blackmail scheme, but did not say which law enforcement agency he contacted.

The lawmaker's claim to have made contact with police came one day after Gov. Rick Snyder questioned publicly why Courser had not contacted the Michigan State Police.

"I am not aware that Rep. Courser has reported anything in the last couple of days," state police spokeswoman Shanon Banner told The News.

If Courser had sought the help of federal law enforcement authorities, the nearest FBI field office to his home in Lapeer County is in Flint.

David Porter, a spokesman with the FBI's Detroit office, would not say Wednesday whether Courser visited the Flint field office Tuesday. "I can't comment on that situation," Porter told The News.

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office hasn't received a report from Courser about an alleged blackmail effort, according to a spokesman.

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Todd Courser

August 13 at 12:05am

Tomorrow I will be releasing more texts from another person who received them from the blackmailer at same moments; I'll release them so you all can continue to complain that it's all in my mind and I made it up as a wild conspiracy theory to hide my actions. But please don't let evidence taint your conclusions, because I am in no way offering these up to make you concerned about state reps being blackmailed; or to make you in anyway concerned about a Speakers office that seems not at all that concerned about reps being blackmailed; if that doesn't bother you then don't be bothered. Sleep well and I hope God blesses you tonight! ☺

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Michigan Rep. Cindy Gamrat apologizes for affair, denies role in email cover-up

Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com By **Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com**
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on August 14, 2015 at 2:33 PM, updated August 14, 2015 at 4:41 PM

LANSING, MI — Michigan state Rep. Cindy Gamrat on Friday apologized for **her role in a Capitol sex scandal** but said she has not decided whether to resign or stay in office.

"I am sincerely sorry I have disappointed so many by my actions," Gamrat, R-Plainwell, said Friday during a press event at the law office of attorney Andrew Abood.

Flanked by her husband, Gamrat made her first public statements since last Friday, when audio recordings surfaced suggesting that she and state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, had attempted to cover up an extra-marital affair.

Emotional from the onset, Gamrat expressed contrition but said she believes an ongoing House investigation will show she did not misuse taxpayer resources or break any state laws.

"Although I am not proud of my personal conduct, in regards to my position as state representative of the 80th district, I believe that an open and honest investigation will vindicate me," she said.

Gamrat acknowledged that she has considered resignation but said she has not made any final decisions on that front. She plans to return to work next week.

"I respect the opinion of those that would like to see me resign," Gamrat said. "For now, I believe the best path is for me to move forward, and I intend to continue to represent my district to the best of my ability."

The House Business Office is investigating whether Gamrat and Courser used staff or other state resources to hide their affair.

Courser, **as heard on audio recordings** by a former staffer, plotted an email accusing himself of doing drugs and having sex with a male prostitute, an apparent attempt to distract from the truth.

In the May 19 meeting at his Lapeer law office, Courser reportedly took a call from someone he identified as Gamrat, and both lawmakers reportedly met with a shared staffer the next day in her official Lansing office.

Watch Rep. Cindy Gamrat's apology for role in sex scandal

Watch Rep. Cindy Gamrat's apology for role in sex scandal at the Abood Law Firm in Lansing.

Gamrat denied any involvement in the email, saying she has since seen only parts of it and finds it to be in poor taste.

"I did not author nor assist in sending the email in question," Gamrat told reporters. "I was unaware this email was sent and also of its content until a reporter pointed it out to me."

Courser and Gamrat, tea party favorites and avowed social conservatives, had **shared office space and staff** since taking office in January. Gamrat said that arrangement, which was designed to "eliminate redundancy and save taxpayer dollars," has ended. She called her current relationship with Courser "professional."

Rumors of their affair had been spreading around Lansing for months, and Gamrat said she had already been in marriage therapy with her husband. Her family has been great throughout the ordeal, she said, crying as she discussed her three children.

Watch Cindy Gamrat take questions after apology in her role in sex scandal

Watch Cindy Gamrat take questions after apology in her role in sex scandal

"They don't deserve what's come upon them," she said. "I take full responsibility, so I just want to thank them."

Abood, an attorney who Gamrat retained this week, said in a Friday morning radio interview that he expects the findings of the House probe to be "a lot less damning than what everybody has suggested."

Staffer Ben Graham, who recorded the conversations in which Courser asked him to send the email, ultimately declined to do so. He and Gamrat aide Keith Allard were fired in July. Another staffer, Josh Cline, quit working for Courser and Gamrat in April.

Gamrat acknowledged that a former staffer had been fired, but attributed the move to complaints from constituents. "Under no circumstances was anyone on my staff terminated because of a personal indiscretion on my part," Garmat said.

State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, whose 26th district covers Allegan County, responded to Gamrat's press conference and apology by reiterating her belief that **both lawmakers should resign**.

"I agree that everyone deserves forgiveness, but this isn't about forgiveness. This is about her ability to effectively do her job. And when you've lost the support of even your biggest supporters, it's time to step down," said Schuitmaker, R-Lawton.

"As long as Cindy and Todd remain in office they will be distractions from the real issues facing Michigan. Legislators should be fixing problems, not providing fodder for late-night talks show hosts. The soap opera has gotten too big, and as long as they remain in office the focus will be on them, not the issues."

Courser, in an audio statement and a series of social media posts, has made clear he has no intention to resign. He has alleged that a blackmailer threatened to expose the affair if he did not leave office, leading him to send the salacious email in May.

Gamrat, asked if she had been contacted by the alleged blackmailer, said she has forwarded any texts she has received to state police.

Josh Cline, a former staffer for both lawmakers, has scheduled his own press conference for Monday afternoon in Royal Oak.

Jonathan Oosting is a Capitol reporter for MLive Media Group. ***Email him****, find him on* ***Facebook*** *or follow him on* ***Twitter****.*

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everybody needs to calm the heck the down."

- Randy **BISHOP**, a conservative radio host and the chair of the Antrim County Republican Party, who said he "totally supports" Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** during her current controversy and wants the public to hold judgment until an investigation has been completed.

Inside Today's MIRS

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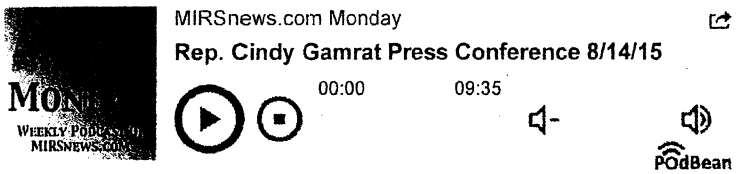
In Wake Of Sex Scandal, Gamrat Apologizes, Isn't Resigning For Now

(EAST LANSING) -- Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) tearfully apologized but didn't resign this afternoon during her first public appearance since details of her affair with Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) and an alleged political cover-up surfaced exactly one week ago.



In front of a crowd of more than 20 reporters, at least 10 TV cameras and a handful of other interested individuals, Gamrat vowed that she broke no laws and no House rules. She also said that she wasn't involved in sending out fake emails that Courser orchestrated about himself to try to draw attention away from the affair.

But still, Gamrat didn't rule out that she might eventually resign from the House in the wake of the scandal. Many lawmakers and some of her own political supporters have called for her resignation this week.

"I've considered that quite a bit," Gamrat said of resignation. "At this point, I'm leaving all of the options on the table. I don't know what tomorrow brings."

But for now, she isn't resigning, and she said she plans to attend House session next week if it happens as planned.

Today's press conference at the Abood Law Firm, which is working with Gamrat, unfolded one week after *The Detroit News* published audio recordings secretly taken by a former Courser staffer detailing the lawmaker's plot to send out fake emails alleging that he had solicited a male prostitute.

The idea was that the salacious allegations could limit the impact of the news of Courser's affair with Gamrat.

Gamrat said she found out about the emails only after they had been sent out. Gamrat said she first heard of them when a *MIRS* reporter asked her about them and showed her the email on his iPhone.

At the request of House Speaker Kevin **COTTER** (R-Mt. Pleasant), the House Business Office is currently investigating whether public resources were used to send out the emails, among other allegations against Courser and potentially Gamrat.

One of those other allegations is that Courser and Gamrat wrongly fired two staffers in July, after one of the staffers, Ben **GRAHAM**, refused to participate in the cover-up plot.

The staffers, Graham and Keith **ALLARD**, received raises from Gamrat and Courser on May 25, just about 40 days before they were fired (See "Ex-Staffers For Courser, Gamrat Got Raises After Emails, Before Firings," 8/10/15).

Gamrat said the raises happened to compensate the two staffers for a larger workload they had taken on after a reduction of workers in the joint office of Courser and Gamrat.

Graham and Allard were later let go, Gamrat continued, because of "numerous complaints" about their work and a "track record of poor work performance."

Allard issued a response to Gamrat's press conference on social media, saying he looks forward to cooperating with the investigation "to ensure that taxpayers are protected and faith in our institutions can be restored."

"Most important, an investigation will reveal the truth," he continued. "There is absolutely no truth to the accusations against me by Mrs. Gamrat, as will be proven."

Gamrat took numerous questions from the media in attendance today.

One of them focused on so-called "blackmail" text messages that Courser said he was receiving from an anonymous person about the affair. Courser has said he developed the

plan to send out the fake emails to try to figure out who the alleged blackmailer was.

Gamrat had little to say about the text messages, except she had turned messages over to the police. A Michigan State Police spokesperson, however, today said she was not aware that they were in their possession.

Gamrat also didn't mention Courser by name. She did refer to him as "another representative" at one point.

Early on in the press conference, Gamrat apologized specifically for the "negative attention" the situation had brought.

She also said she and her husband had been receiving counseling on the matter for months. And she specifically thanked Joe and her three children.

"They don't deserve what's come upon them," she said. "I take full responsibility."

In addition to Joe, attorneys along with two constituents, who Gamrat identified as military veterans, stood at Gamrat's side this afternoon.

At one point, Gamrat highlighted the two veterans, saying if they could face what they faced in the military, "I can come and face you guys today."

That comment drew criticism on social media, including criticism from Sen. David **KNEZEK** (D-Dearborn Heights), a military veteran himself.

"Classless move using veterans as props during your presser," Knezek said. "Comparing your indiscretions to combat service is an insult."

But there was some support for Gamrat as well today.

Randy **BISHOP**, a conservative radio host and the chair of the Antrim County Republican Party, said he "totally supports" Gamrat.

The first-term lawmaker, Bishop said, isn't going to resign until the investigation into what happened is complete.

Until then, he said, "Everybody needs to calm the heck the down."

Bishop also alleged that some lawmakers could be calling for Gamrat and Courser's resignations because Gamrat and Courser -- two outspoken conservatives -- have made their opponents' voting records look bad.

Courser issued his initial response to the situation on Monday in a 27-minute audio recording posted online.

In that recording, Courser apologized for his actions. But he also said that the fake emails he sent out, which alleged Courser himself had solicited a male prostitute, were meant to help him gain information on anonymous text messages he had been receiving.

Courser says the person behind the text messages was trying to blackmail him and specifically mentioned his former staff as the culprit. Gamrat made no such allegations as to who she believed was behind them.

MSP Meets With Courser, Opens Investigation

Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) met with a Michigan State Police (MSP) investigator in Lapeer today on his own accord and the police agency has opened an investigation, MSP spokesperson Shanon **BANNER** confirmed today.

"Given it is an open investigation, I have no other information to share," Banner wrote *MIRS*.

The investigation comes two days after Courser met with the FBI in Flint on the blackmailing texts he's allegedly received for several months from a sender who asked him to step down from office or risk having details of his affair with Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) become public (See "Courser Goes To Law Enforcement With Text Messages," 8/11/15).

Courser, an attorney by trade, also is denying theories and suspicions that he was the author of the threatening text messages. His brother, Dan **COURSER**, told *MIRS* on Thursday that he doubts that Rep. Courser was the author of the text messages considering that he, too, started receiving them before he ever confronted his brother on the Gamrat affair (See "Courser's Brother Received Blackmailing Text Messages," 8/13/15).

Courser told them he did not use state resources in crafting a phony email message about himself, which he admits was designed to take attention away from his affair.

And while acknowledging the "inexcusable" action as being a low point for him personally, he doesn't believe he did anything criminally wrong.

"I welcome an investigation into the allegations against me; and into my claim that there is a blackmailing effort that is ongoing and attempting [to push] me to resign; if there was any misuse of state resources then there should be consequences; I am confident that I will be fully exonerated," Courser said on Wednesday.

The House Business Office is currently looking into the matter of whether he used his former staff and resources as part of his "controlled burn" email of May 20.

That email was generated, he said, because of a blackmailer who had been texting himself, Gamrat and members of their immediate families over the extramarital affair since January.

In the text messages released to *MIRS*, the blackmailer claimed to Courser on Friday to have "steamy audio, pics and video."

And if Courser didn't resign, the alleged blackmailer claimed the media would "get it all."

"It went global fast," reads the message from 313-421-5345. "Resign NOW Todd as Candy has asked . . . ASKED. You too Cindy, spare the kids and Joe. Resign, both of you today."

The reference to "Joe" appears to be Joe **GAMRAT**, the House member's husband.

What Did Gamrat Say After The Press Conference?

It was an emotional roller-coaster day for Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell). She worked her way through her news conference with sniffles and tears, but by the end of her one-on-one interview afterwards, she was actually laughing, perhaps for the first time that day.

Admitting that "I really don't want to do this," Gamrat agreed to a post-news conference sit down once all the other cameras had departed the building.

She apparently was acting under the advisement of her legal counsel and public relations consultant, who stood nearby as the interview commenced with her husband, Joe **GAMRAT**, again at her side.

"How are you doing?" was the opening inquiry as the FOX2 and TV6 cameras rolled.

She paused for just a moment and then said, "It's been one of the hardest weeks of my life. It's been pretty hard."

She had the option to issue a news release to avoid the cameras, but she reflected that she did it because "I've been wanting to do this" since this all "exploded" but she needed some time to get there.

Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) has suggested that the "establishment" was out to get him. Did she feel it was out to get her, too?

"I'm here today because I made a mistake. I made that mistake (and) this isn't about politics today," she concluded.

She made it clear during the news conference that she had not broken any laws or violated any House rules, having said earlier, "I'm looking forward to the investigation that will vindicate me in that."

However, if she is so sure of her innocence, why did she not rule out resigning?

"Just being honest with you, it's been a hard week," Gamrat said. "I'm not here to make that decision right this minute or right this moment." She added she did not know "what tomorrow looks like."

But she did add that "I was sad and disappointed" with those who called on her to step down but "I won't hold that against anybody."

After a thank you for granting the interview, this closer: Will you vote for a gas tax hike next week?

With that, a smile and a laugh and this, "I think you know the answer to that . . . No, I'm not going to vote for a tax increase."

And with that she and her husband left the room.

Courser's Relationships With Cline, Graham Run Deep

Two of the former House staffers of Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) and Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell) weren't strangers to Courser when he took office earlier this year. Far from it, based on information collected by *MIRS* over the last several weeks.

Josh **CLINE** and Ben **GRAHAM** grew up in Lapeer County, having known Courser since they were in high school, close to 20 years in the case of Cline, even before Courser started having children.

Being a small town, Courser knew of the men and their families for years before either of them worked for him.

In fact, the bond among the men stretched to the spiritual side as they worked side by side, particularly during the Michigan Republican Party chair's race.

Cline and Graham became so close to Courser, they ended up starting their political consulting business, Bellwether Strategies, out of Courser's law firm building at 455 S. Main St. in Lapeer in 2013.

Courser is listed on state licensing documents as Bellwether Strategies' first resident agent in 2013. When Courser ran his first successful campaign for the state House last year, he paid over the course of the campaign more than $26,000 to Cline and Graham's firm.

While Cline and Graham both ended up working for other political candidates in 2014, their listed address at the beginning of the year was still Courser's law offices. In 2014, Courser was removed as the resident agent and Helen Lynn **OBERHAUSEN** was put in as the resident agent, according to state filings.

Prior to that, Graham helped in nearly all of Courser's past unsuccessful ventures -- the 2008 state House race, the 2010 state Senate race, the 2012 state Board of Education race and the 2013 Michigan Republican Party chair's race.

Cline worked on the chair's race and a little bit in his Senate race, but Cline also spent time working for former U.S. Rep. Pete **HOEKSTRA** and former Rep. Rocky **RACZKOWSKI** between 2010 and 2013, when Bellwether's Strategies was founded.

Cline and Graham were well known to Courser's family, Todd's brother Dan **COURSER** and his mother, Georgeann **COURSER**, Dan **COURSER** told *MIRS* on Thursday.

The situation with Bellwether being in Courser's law offices was described as being "more like a fraternity," where Courser helped the duo with their paperwork and their tax returns.

Over the course of several weeks, *MIRS* has learned that the relationship involving Courser, Graham and Cline was a "long personal relationship." Courser apparently let Graham borrow his truck when Graham was without a vehicle for a spell.

The two knew Courser's passwords, his personal accounts, business statements, even his iTunes account.

Courser once told *MIRS*, "They were 100 percent trusted."

Courser described his relationship with Graham in particular as a "personal friend," in his 27-minute audio statement published Monday.

Courser said in the message that he provided start-up capital for the two and didn't charge them rent for running their business out of his law firm, even if it involved work for other clients.

"We ate together and spent numerous hours together," he said. "They treated my building like it was their dorm room. It was a unique experience to have them here."

When Graham was fired, he and Cline had a computer server containing some of Courser's information on it left in Courser's law office.

According to a police report filed with the Lapeer City Police Department, the former staffers told the police that Courser "wouldn't give them back the computer server until Todd had his tech support" team go through it (See "Courser Staff Used Police To Get Back Polling Server," 8/7/15).

"They were campaign guys," Courser said on his audio message.

Past campaign finance reports show Courser has intermingled his professional staff with his campaigns in each of his past bids for public office. In 2008, his law office's staff, Tracy **PAULUS** and Miranda **McINTOSH,** was listed in reports as his treasurer and record keeper, respectively.

McInotsh was his largest contributor that year, giving him $900. Paulus, an accountant with Courser since 1994, gave him $250.

In 2010, Courser's Treasurer was Paulus and his recordkeeper was Melissa **CAMINTI**, who was controller at Todd A. Courser & Associates.

Dillon Says Anderson Group Not Fit To Do Ed Costs Study

The author of the law calling for a study on the cost of a public K-12 education in Michigan said one of the firms bidding to do the work -- the Anderson Economic Group (AEG) -- isn't

Calls for resignation of Rep. Cindy Gamrat continue; Senator says she used vets as 'props'

Watch Rep. Cindy Gamrat's apology for role in sex scandal
Watch Rep. Cindy Gamrat's apology for role in sex scandal at the Abood Law Firm in Lansing.

By Kyle Feldscher | kylefeldscher@mlive.com
Follow on Twitter
on August 15, 2015 at 8.45 AM, updated August 15, 2015 at 11:19 AM

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LANSING — Rep. Cindy Gamrat faced the media to apologize for her affair with Rep. Todd Courser, but it seems that won't stem the tide of people calling for her resignation.

Indeed, the chorus of voices calling for both Gamrat and Courser to resign in light of their affair and the subsequent cover-up attempt continues to get louder. Joan Fabiano, a Tea Party activist and editor of Grassroots in Michigan, said they both have to go.

"We will remain consistent in demanding ethical behavior from our elected officials regardless of Party or affiliation," Fabiano said in a statement. "With the revelations of the past few days, there is absolutely no reason that both Reps Courser and Gamrat should continue in office as their ability to credibly represent their constituents has been abridged beyond repair. However, an investigation should continue in order to discover all misuse of taxpayer funds."

COURSER, GAMRAT SCANDAL

Former aide to share 'inside story' of working in Courser, Gamrat office

Could Courser-Gamrat matter put roads issue back on track?

Embattled Rep. Todd Courser talks condemnation, righteousness in wake of sex scandal revelation

Poll: Should Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat resign their seats in the House of Representatives?

Michigan Political Points: Todd Courser sex scandal email cracks up Jimmy Fallon

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Fabiano said members of the Tea Party movement in Michigan are working to recruit individuals to run for Gamrat and Courser's seats, should they resign or be expelled from office.

•**Michigan Rep. Cindy Gamrat apologizes for affair, denies role in email cover-up**

Among Democrats in Lansing, one of the biggest talking points following Gamrat's news conference was her decision to bring two veterans from her district to stand alongside her during her remarks.

At one point, Gamrat introduced two constituents who were standing to her right.

"They came to show support, they're from my district," Gamrat said. "They both served in the military and when walking through the doors I figured if they can face what they have faced in the military, faced a shooting squad, I can try to face you guys here today."

Sen. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, is a former Marine and took exception on Twitter to Gamrat's decision to have the veterans with her Friday.

"Classless move using veterans as props during your presser," Knezek tweeted. "Comparing your indiscretions to combat service is an insult."

Democratic political consultant Joe DiSano called the move "tasteless and unnecessary."

"The egotism and lack of self-awareness on the parts of Gamrat and Courser is epic," he tweeted.

Republicans in state government were mostly silent following Gamrat's news conference.

Gideon D'Assandro, spokesman for House Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, simply said "Nope" when asked if he'd like to respond to Gamrat's statements.

However, one Republican state senator had harsh words for Gamrat.

Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, said she believed Gamrat would be ineffective in serving her district in a statement sent to The Kalamazoo Gazette.

"I agree that everyone deserves forgiveness, but this isn't about forgiveness. This is about her ability to effectively do her job. And when you've lost the support of even your biggest supporters, it's time to step down," she said.

•**Read Schuitmaker's full comments here.**

Gamrat also referenced her decision to fire Keith Allard, one of her former aides who has been accused by Courser of plotting to take down the duo.

In response to accusations that she decided to fire Allard because he was a whistleblower who could have gone to the press about the affair between Courser and Gamrat, she said his dismissal was solely related to work performance.

"This employee was let go due to numerous complaints from constituents regarding communications with the office and a track record of poor work performance," Gamrat said.

She said a raise offered to Allard and fellow staffer Ben Graham just weeks before their dismissals was due to the departure of Josh Cline, another staffer who left in April. Allard and Graham were fired in early July.

Allard said he looked forward to cooperating in any investigation into Gamrat's affair.

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"I look forward to cooperating with any investigation to ensure that taxpayers are protected and faith in our institutions can be restored. Most important, an investigation will reveal the truth," he said. "There is absolutely no truth to the accusations against me by Mrs. Gamrat, as will be proven."

*Kyle Feldscher is the Capitol education and MSU reporter for MLive Media Group. Reach him via email at **kylefeldscher@mlive.com** or follow him on Twitter at **@Kyle_Feldscher.** Read more stories **here**.*

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Todd Courser
August 15 at 12:04pm

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My lack of righteousness does not negate God's righteousness –

In all of this – it is nothing short of a massive earthquake for me and my family and those who have supported me and even to those who hate me; thru this a series of common themes have emerged and many will take days weeks months and generations to see the full fruit of, but one that is clear is that I am now the poster boy for those who would say "God is dead," or " Christians are failures," or "Christians are hypocrites." Instantly I have been shown to be a hypocrite in my life, a liar, a laughable joke; much if not all of that is presently justified. But in spite of all of that I am a Christian and I am a follower of Christ, and my failures in no way reduce or negate God's promises; no unfortunately they showcase Him and His promises –both positive and negative. He is still Holy and still righteous and still gave His all on the cross at Calvary so we can have salvation in Him; He did it, not because I am in anyway worthy or righteous, but rather because I am not – I am nothing without Him and my actions do not show that He is less able or that His promises are less true, no my actions show just how corrupt this man's heart is and how much he needs his Savior to walk righteously and to pay the price of sin and death on the cross!

There has been nothing more humbling than to know each and every day that I am a sinner and need a savior – nothing in my actions negates Him or His promises. What my actions showcase are my lacking and how far off the mark this man's condition is from God's Holiness.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10-11 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." My actions come from my heart and showcase the fruits of sin in my own heart, they showcase what happens when sin has its way in a man's life. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord."

In my life sin had its root and it worked to undo so much and has yet to undo so much more; my life, my reputation, my relationship with my wife and children and my extended family; not to mention my relationships and reputation around the world. This sin in my life has been and will continue to reap its reward. In all of this many have commented publicly and have enjoyed the spectacle of watching a man burn and have reveled in the joy it has brought in themselves, but all of this has also brought so many who have been absolutely encouraging and supportive. A special group has been of those men who have come forward to express their own failures to me in fidelity and what guilt and shame they have felt for their own failures in their own faith and faithfulness to God, His holy word, and to their wives and children. Just having heard their stories has been some of the most humbling experiences of my life; with several have come forward to share their pain for participating in/and addicted to pornography and what that has wrought in themselves and their families. And finally a couple have come forward to express their guilt and shame for being faith filled but struggling with how to reconcile that with having homosexual tendencies and trying to reconcile that with their faith. In every one of these experiences it has been an incredibly humbling to me. I am not sure why all of this coming out about me has brought them forward, but I am eternally grateful for their words and their experiences. One pastor told me – "Todd I can't condemn you, I have committed every sin in the bible, but for one and that is murder, and that last one I have thought about enough to be guilty of it." He said and I am a pastor.

John 8:7 "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her."

The most brutal things I have had to endure in my life have been brought from and thru this experience – the public humiliation was small and insignificant when compared to having telling my wife and children and my family – death will be a much richer reward, a much easier mantle, than having to share all of this, my wife and I have been dealing with this

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Chat (3)

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privately and unfortunately some just couldn't allow it to remain private for our family to deal with; it goes with the politic territory – the wages of sin is death... so many have been viscerally hostile towards me – I deserve all of it and every word of anger and hostility. It is mystifying to be in the middle of this hurricane and to be totally here and be present and feel the full fury of so much condemnation. It seems to have brought out the best in some and the most vile in others; so many words of encouragement and yet so many people who revel in piling on and watching another burn alive. I hope all of you who read this can live without having to live thru this personally and I hope that in your lives you have no sin to be held accountable for and so do not need a savior; I am just clearly in need of one; my life and my actions in no way diminish Him, or His plan, or His hope and sacrifice for all who have sinned.

Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord."

My life showcases what His promises are both positive and negative – He promises in His word showcase what a life in Him will bring in blessings and He also promises of what will come from sin in a heart; in no way can we be Holy as He is Holy but for being and resting in Him. We will still sin and cannot take out the sin nature, but in Him we do not have to live a life of sin and death.

Romans 7:7-25
"What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet ." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead. Once I alive apart from law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no the evil I do not want to do-this I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."

Romans 8:1- "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not life according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

I will say in closing, I seek your forgiveness, for those who can and have supported me thru this I am eternally grateful. And for those of you who feel you need to pile on your words of condemnation, please try to keep your condemnation on me, not privately messaging my wife and family; it is my cross to carry. My wife and children do not in any way deserve it; they have not brought any of this on themselves; so if you will, please remember that

Chat (3)

and if you have need to be making hostile comments please direct them at me and not privately or publicly at my family.

Thank you,

God bless you all friends and enemies alike-

In Christ Alone –

todd

P.S. As I am personally walking this out I will just from time to time post and try to explain where I am at in all of this; your prayers and support as this all comes and goes will be most appreciated – there are plenty of parts to it all: marriage, family, official, political, as well as mental, emotional, and spiritual; I can't always explain it all as it plays out around me and in my heart, but as the Lord leads I will bring forward and share. Thanks again.

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[redacted] I just threw up a little in my mouth.
Like Reply 7 August 18 at 9:37pm

[redacted] Self-important, incoherent, posturing fool. Proud NOT to be a constituent.
Like Reply · 7 August 18 at 9:46pm

[redacted] Despicable
Like Reply 4 August 18 at 9:55pm

[redacted] U sir r a hypocrite! U have embarrassed the entire state!!! The right thing to do would b apologize & resign. That would show that you're remorseful but u won't because you're not. You're sorry u got caught. U & you're girlfriend r both despicable.
Like Reply · 8 August 18 at 10:07pm

[redacted] are you for him Mitchell Noland or against him ?..
Like Reply August 18 at 10:13pm

1 Reply

[redacted] Never even heard of this guy but so typical of this sort of right wing "christian" blow hard.
Like Reply 8 August 18 at 11:07pm

[redacted] Don't sweat it dude. It's great that people like you keep doing ridiculous crap to go with the ridiculous crap you say.
Like · Reply · 8 August 18 at 11:41pm

[redacted] I guess you can do whatever you want, as long as you tell jesus you're sorry.
Like Reply 6 August 18 at 11:55pm

[redacted] Just do the decent thing and resign. Stop wasting taxpayers' money. That's the nicest thing I can say to you.
Like · Reply · 14 August 18 at 11:56pm

[redacted] Only the pathetic would use biblical references to cover up for his moronic actions. Typical right wing lunatic, in my opin.
Like Reply 14 · August 19 at 12:10am

[redacted] Haha. Social media is great. If this were simply a letter to your local newspaper, the entire world wouldn't have been able to revel in your demise. But hey, at least you got 78 'likes'.
Like · Reply 3 August 19 at 1:14am

[redacted] Self-serving nonsense that has nothing to do with Lapeer county. I'm glad I don't live there anymore. He is a hypocrite.
Like Reply 5 · August 19 at 1:17am

[redacted] Nothing but a Pharisee on the street corner, hustling.
Like · Reply 5 · August 19 at 1:42am

[redacted] Mmmm
See Translation
Like Reply 1 · August 19 at 3:46am

[redacted] What a pig.
Like · Reply August 19 at 6:03am

[redacted] Ah, but the real question is will the stupid republican hypocritical sheep in Michigan be so incredibly hypocritical themselves as to re-elect this

Chat (3)

Their affair wasn't the only problem

By Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press Lansing Bureau *11 p.m. EDT August 15, 2015*

(Photo: Michigan House Republicans)

While much has been written about the extramarital affair and alleged bizarre cover-up of the relationship between state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, their work life in Lansing and in their districts also is coming under increased scrutiny.

Both are conservative, tea party Republicans elected on a platform of Christian morality and family values. They invited controversy in the state Capitol early and often by challenging leadership on everything from their seating assignments to the state budget and the governor's State of the State address.

They've both had almost perfect attendance records and cosponsored a couple of dozen bills, mostly espousing their conservative philosophy against abortion, easing gun regulations, eliminating taxes and allowing only clergy to perform marriages. But none of those bills has gotten a hearing in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

State Rep. Todd Courser: I'm poster boy for 'hypocrite'

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/15/courser-facebook-post/31797417/)

Gamrat got kicked out of the GOP caucus in April after posting on Facebook during private GOP caucus meetings. Courser stopped going to caucus meetings to show his support for Gamrat. They shared office resources and staff, and, as revealed in the last week, an intimate relationship.

But even before news of the affair and alleged cover-up surfaced, constituents in their districts — Courser is from Lapeer County and Gamrat hails from the west Michigan town of Plainwell — were unhappy with how the two were performing their jobs back home. They were used to highly involved makers who were fixtures at community meetings and events. That mostly stopped when Courser and Gamrat took office.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Gamrat apologizes for Courser affair, won't resign

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2015/08/14/cindy-gamrat-capitol-scandal/31723633/)

"He showed up at one of our meetings for the first time a couple of weeks ago," said Lapeer County Commissioner Lenny Schneider of Courser. "It's really important to have some type of visibility with the local governments, especially the county, because the county and state government are tied at the hips."

Cindy Howell, secretary of the Lapeer County Republican Party, said Courser has shown up at party meetings maybe twice since he was elected in November.

"It seems that he's constantly fighting the entire system and there's no cooperation whatsoever. It's his way or no way," she said. "He's our representative, but I don't think he's representing all of Lapeer County. Maybe there's his select group that is content with what he's doing, but the vast majority doesn't believe he's working in the best interests of Lapeer County."

Courser did not return phone calls this past week and Gamrat, through a spokesman, declined an interview beyond the news conference she held on Friday.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Gamrat lawyer: Scandal not as big a deal as reported

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/14/state-rep-cindy-gamrat-expected-clarify-role-sex-scandal/31711411/)

On Saturday, Courser released a 1,900-word, scripture-laden confessional on his Facebook page, saying he's "the poster boy for those who would say ...

"Christians are failures." " He adds he's been "shown to be a hypocrite," but his actions shouldn't reflect poorly on God.

Courser said he was seeking forgiveness.

" to those who can and have supported me thru this I am eternally grateful," Courser wrote. "And for those of you who feel you need to pile on your words of condemnation, please try to keep your condemnation on me, not privately messaging my wife and family; it is my cross to carry. My wife and children do not in any way deserve it; they have not brought any of this on themselves."

Unreturned calls

While many legislators hold frequent in-district office hours, a review of both news releases and Facebook posts from Courser and Gamrat shows that Courser held two constituent office hours in the district, one in January, another in May. Gamrat also held only two — one in April and another in July.

Donald Chapman, a retired school employee who lives in Gamrat's district, said he has tried to get in touch with Gamrat several times, months before the scandal broke, and she never returned his calls.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Lapeer Republican explores recall effort against Courser

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/12/todd-courser-face-recall-sex-cover-scandal/31579443/)

Chapman, who said he considers himself an independent voter, said he reached out to both Gamrat and his state senator, Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, about a proposed civil forfeiture law he was interested in, but only Schuitmaker and her staff got back to him.

"You get a voice mail over there," Chapman said of Gamrat's office. "You leave a message that doesn't get returned. I think she should resign."

It's a problem Schuitmaker has noticed since Gamrat took office in January. She said she rarely sees Gamrat at events around the district and often hears from constituents that they have to rely on her for help instead of their state representative.

"She came in with her ideology, but I don't think she really understood what the job entails," Schuitmaker said. "I agree that everyone deserves forgiveness, but this isn't about forgiveness. This is about her ability to effectively do her job."

Supporters weigh in

But not everyone believes the pair have done a poor job. Their Facebook pages still get posts from people who support them and want them to continue to fight.

Both lawmakers often take to Facebook to express their views on issues of the day, offer praise to God or explain the votes they've taken.

"TODD — I CARE . I am an american and I believe in the Constitution and until you are —proven guilty — YOU ARE INNOCENT," wrote Mike Koppen of Allegan to Courser on Thursday.

And Don Black, an Allegan County Commissioner, said he has had a good working relationship with Gamrat.

"I was always able to get a hold of her and I've had numerous text messages and phone calls with her. All the conversations we've had have been positive," he said. "I believe everyone is innocent until proven guilty."

Jason Watts is on the Allegan County Library board and wanted to know how Gamrat felt about state aid to libraries. The staffer who took his call asked what part of Lapeer County he was from — the two areas are about 150 miles apart — and he never received a call back.

"The district was spoiled by (former state Rep.) Bob Genetski, he was always at local meetings and doing tremendous constituent service. Then when it switched to Gamrat, it was like, 'good luck,' " he said.

Bill Sprague, the Lapeer City Mayor, said Courser hasn't attended one city commission meeting since becoming the state representative for the district.

"I would have expected him to come to at least one meeting," he said. "He seemed more intent on forwarding his religious agenda rather than representing the city. I make no bones that I think he ought to resign."

Calls to resign

The Republican parties of both Lapeer and Allegan counties are meeting Thursday to take up resolutions calling on the two lawmakers to resign.

hope is that she will step down so we can get some good representation for the county. The business of government is being held up by this. We ould be addressing roads and education," said Mary Whiteford, vice chairwoman of the Allegan County Republican Party and one of Gamrat's opponents in the 2014 primary election.

Both Courser and Gamrat have said they won't resign in the wake of the scandal. Courser blames former staffers and the Lansing Republican establishment for trying to destroy his political career. He said a fake e-mail he anonymously sent to Republicans across Lansing in May, saying he was addicted to drugs and pornography and paid for sex with men behind Lansing bars, was an attempt to smoke out a person who was supposedly blackmailing him in an effort to get him to resign or risk having the affair and cover-up revealed to the public.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Consultant denies Todd Courser claims of blackmail plot

(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/08/12/consultant-denies-role-courser-political-scandal/31527431/)

Gamrat said she wasn't aware of the contents of the e-mail and didn't know it had been sent until a reporter asked her about it.

One of their staffers — Joshua Cline — is having a news conference Monday to reveal what happened in the lawmakers' offices.

Meanwhile, Courser and Gamrat are awaiting the results of a House Business Office investigation into whether they broke House rules or violated state law by using staff resources to participate in the cover-up. The business office is examining computer servers and electronic and paper documents as well as interviewing the two politicians and their current and former staffers.

If they find evidence of illegal activity, they can turn the information over to law enforcement or another state agency. The House of Representatives also ld act to expel the lawmakers from their seats with a two-thirds majority vote.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Contact Kathleen Gray: 517-372-8661, kgray99@freepress.com or on Twitter @michpoligal. Staff writer Paul Egan contributed to this report.

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However, Bishop did endorse current MRP Chair Ronna Romney **McDANIEL** early on in her campaign to become chair this year. That's despite the fact that she faced opposition from another Tea Party-backed candidate.

Bishop said he endorsed McDaniel in an effort to build unity within the party.

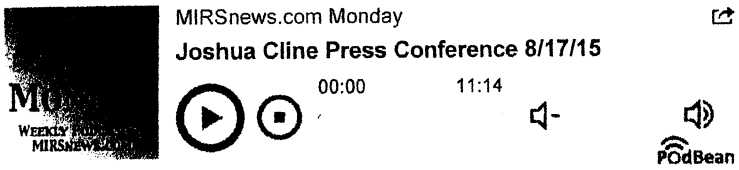
Asked why he thinks the credential was rejected, Bishop responded, "Honestly ... I have no idea."

In an email last week, Anderson noted that Bishop could still attend the conference next month and cover the event as an attendee.

She concluded, "We simply won't be providing him media credentials."

Former Courser Staffer Talks About Hostile Work Environment

Joshua **CLINE**, a former staffer for Rep. Todd **COURSER** (R-Lapeer) and Rep. Cindy **GAMRAT** (R-Plainwell), told reporters today he and his fellow staffers worked in a "hostile, untenable" work environment in which the two lawmakers were "excessively personal" with



each other.

Cline said he left his position in the spring without a back-up plan because he felt like he was working for "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

"He kept us at bay as to which Rep. Courser he would present, with rapid cycling from day to day," Cline said. "I always wondered who he would be. Would he be nice and respectful or abusive? Would he berate and belittle me or praise me or elevate me?"

Although today's press conference in Royal Oak was at the Dailey Law Firm, Cline made no reference to filing suit against his former employer. Cline did say he "absolutely did not" send his former employer anonymous blackmailing text messages as Courser alleges (See "Courser Issues Apology; Suspects Former Staff Blackmailed Him," 8/10/15). Courser and Gamrat declined to respond to today's press event.

Courser and Cline have a personal relationship that dates back to Cline's high school years, but the relationship changed in January after Courser took office and the offices of Courser and Gamrat were effectively merged together.

At that point, Courser became "haughty," "disrespectful," "elitist" and "arrogant," Cline said and made it clear that their jobs would be to promote the freshman conservative legislator, while turning a blind eye to the House members' physical relationship.

He said Courser told them at one point, "Let's get it straight, boys. We're not here to pass legislation. We're here for messaging moments and media."

When he brought up their relationship to them during a staff meeting, he was told it wasn't his place to question them, Cline said. When he brought up the working environment to the staff of House Speaker Kevin **COTTER** (R-Mt. Pleasant), Cline said, "I felt there was no relief forthcoming."

However, Cotter's team has been consistent in saying Courser's and Gamrat's staff did come

to them at various times to complain about the House members, but they didn't know of any potential misuse of state funds under the Detroit News story the Friday before last.

Cline also spoke about the much-rumored downtown Lansing Radisson hotel incident, in which Gamrat's husband, Joe **GAMRAT**, confronted Gamrat at 2 a.m. Feb. 11 after watching her leave Courser's room.

Joe Gamrat called Cline and briefed him on the situation. Gamrat arrived late and disheveled and "smelled of alcohol." Courser was "quiet" and "despondent" and the two spent a lot of their time in their office.

Cline ultimately was sent to a Lapeer County Farm Bureau event later in the evening, hours after a 2:30 p.m. scheduled staff meeting came and went.

Courser and Gamrat have since admitted their affair, but Cline gave his personal observations. Courser would take naps on the floor of her office. Gamrat would "tuck him in" with a pillow and a blanket.

Neither Keith **ALLARD** nor Ben **GRAHAM**, the other two staffers in the merged office, were present at today's press event.

Asked if was ever asked to do any tasks on state time he felt were inappropriate, Cline declined to comment. Likewise, his attorney, Brian **DAILEY** declined to speculate if any law suit was forthcoming pending the House Business Office investigation and "any other investigation" that may be out there.

Cline was present with his wife and spoke for about 11 minutes, taking about a half dozen reporters' questions in the process.

He spoke about his "strong moral obligation to the people of Lapeer County." Courser cancelled or rescheduled about half of their meetings when he worked in the office and imposed a rule that any meeting involving one of them should include the other.

"The stress was immense," he said. "I was unable to get a good night's rest. I was on edge and had increased anxiety."

Cline said he held today's press conference to "set the record straight" by revealing details behind the "unfortunate circumstance" and "bring closure for once and for all."

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon **DILLON** responded to today's press event by repeating the need that Attorney General Bill **SCHUETTE** get involved with his own investigation.

"The more we hear about this sordid and bizarre episode, the less we know," he said. "The one thing we do know is that the Attorney General needs to get involved and head up an independent investigation into all parties involved, including House Speaker Kevin Cotter. On any given day, we learn of a new wrinkle to this story of lies, cover-ups and potentially criminal behavior. It's long past time for Bill Schuette to actually show up for duty."

Former GOP Youth Vice Chair Running In 75th District Special Election

Blake **EDMONDS**, the former youth vice chair of the Michigan Republican Party, is jumping into the race to replace former Rep. Brandon **DILLON** (D-Grand Rapids) in the 75th House District.

A former House staffer and a current student at Grand Rapids Community College, Edmonds, 23, is the second candidate to file for the special primary election, which will take place in November.

State representative calls for Courser censure

Chad Livengood and Chad Livengood, Detroit News Lansing Bureau *12:11 a.m. EDT August 17, 2015*

(Photo: Dale G. Young)

Lansing— The chairman of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee wants to publicly censure state Rep. Todd Courser for skipping a May 21 committee meeting "to presumably cover up unethical behavior" related to his relationship with Rep. Cindy Gamrat.

Audio recordings provided to The Detroit News (/story/news/politics/2015/08/06/recordings-state-rep-asked-aide-hide-relationship/31269315/) reveal that Courser missed the committee's meeting that morning while apologizing to a legislative aide for trying to get him to distribute a fictional email alleging Courser had been caught having sex with a male prostitute behind a Lansing nightclub. Then-aide Ben Graham refused to send the email, which Courser has admitted to writing (/story/news/politics/2015/08/11/todd-courser-response/31399405/) and circulating to Republicans on May 20 and 21.

A public censure of Courser for an unjustified absence could serve as the first step toward expelling him from the House of Representatives, said GOP state Rep. Tom Barrett, chairman of the committee.

"I think that's where this could proceed," Barrett said of expelling Courser.

Barrett, a Potterville Republican and Iraq war veteran, said it was "appalling" to learn from an Aug. 7 Detroit News report (/story/news/politics/2015/08/06/recordings-state-rep-asked-aide-hide-relationship/31269315/) that Courser was meeting with Gamrat and Graham while the panel was holding an 11 a.m. hearing (http://house.mi.gov/SessionDocs/2015-2016/Minutes/MILI052115.pdf) on an audit of the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy.

Barrett said he's in talks with House Speaker Kevin Cotter's office about having his committee vote to censure Courser over his attendance issues. Cotter also could remove Courser from the committee at any time.

After the May 21 committee meeting, Barrett said he "confronted" Courser later that day about why he was absent because the Lapeer Republican had missed a prior meeting and committee vote and was routinely late to other committee meetings.

"I confronted him on it and he blamed it on a staff mix-up," Barrett told The News.

But during the meeting inside Gamrat's House office, Graham repeatedly told Courser he needs to get to the committee meeting, according to a recording Graham has said was made on May 21.

Gamrat *(Photo: Dale G. Young / Detroit News)*

Courser and Gamrat used the meeting inside Gamrat's House office to apologize for their indiscretions and urge him to remain quiet about the relationship. Courser also discussed the "over the top" email in Gamrat's presence, which the Plainwell Republican has denied any involvement in concocting (/story/news/politics/2015/08/14/cindy-gamrat/31709573/).

"I guess you're not going to your (committee meeting), huh?" Graham asks Courser 48 minutes into a 67-minute meeting.

"I guess I missed it," Courser said.

"You're 17 minutes late," Graham replied.

"Yeah, I don't think I need to go, do I?" Courser asked.

"... You're already late, so I would say it's better to not be there than walking in 20 minutes late," the 25-year-old aide advised.

Barrett said the audio recording "suggests (Courser) was conducting or covering up unethical behavior" on House property during normal work hours.

"It's a dereliction of his job as a legislator for him to totally disregard his job as a committee member to presumably cover up unethical behavior," Barrett told The News. "And that's appalling to me."

Barrett said Courser has been routinely late for the committee's meetings, which are often attended by veterans dressed in military regalia.

"I found it disrespectful that Todd would just waltz in 10 or 15 minutes in the middle of a committee meeting," said Barrett, who remains an Army National Guard helicopter pilot.

Committee records show (http://house.mi.gov/SessionDocs/2015-2016/Minutes/MILI031915.pdf) Courser missed a Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on March 19, when the panel voted on legislation requiring universities to assist military veterans in converting college-level training into academic credit.

"Todd's not a veteran, so you would think he would take this seriously with all (his) talk about our country and our values," Barrett said. "The guy's a total hypocrite."

Courser, a devout conservative Christian, on Saturday called himself a "hypocrite" in a Facebook post (/story/news/politics/2015/08/15/courser-describes-weeks-turmoil-online-confessional/31783593/) and pleaded with observers not to blame God for his actions.

Barrett said he doesn't want a committee reprimand to interfere with the House Business Office's internal investigation (/story/news/politics/2015/08/10/cotter-courser-gamrat-investigation/31410487/) into whether Courser and Gamrat mixed their personal relationship with their combined House office, an unusual arrangement at the Capitol.

"I also don't want to affect or derail or overrule any other disciplinary proceedings that could also take place," Barrett said.

Cotter, R-Mount Pleasant, disbanded Courser and Gamrat's combined office operation (/story/news/politics/2015/08/14/cindy-gamrat/31709573/) a week ago in response to The News' story about Courser's email scheme and attempt to get Graham to send it anonymously to rank-and-file Republicans.

Courser's two unexplained absences from the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee's nine meetings this year are not isolated.

The freshman legislator also has missed two meetings on the Education Committee, three Agriculture Committee meetings and two Criminal Justice Committee meetings, House attendance records show.

Courser was marked absent for a House Agriculture Committee meeting at 10:30 a.m. May 20 that adjourned at 11:28 a.m., committee records show (http://house.mi.gov/SessionDocs/2015-2016/Minutes/AGRI052015.pdf).

11:36 a.m., eight minutes after the committee meeting ended, Courser's first email smearing himself began arriving in the in-boxes of select Republican activists and political operatives across the state, according to the email's timestamp (http://westmipolitics.blogspot.com/2015/07/false-flag-sources-courser-sent.html). A second email was sent to Republicans on the morning of May 21 (http://download.gannett.edgesuite.net/detnews/graphics/2015/me_CanadaTrade_email_080715.jpg), hours before Courser, Gamrat and Graham met in Gamrat's office.

Courser did not respond Sunday to messages seeking comment.

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Ex-aide to offer 'the inside story'

A former aide to state Rep. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat plans to "tell the inside story" about working for the two tea party Republican lawmakers at a Monday afternoon news conference, according to a media advisory.

Joshua Cline of Lapeer plans to hold a 3 p.m. news conference at the Dailey Law Firm on Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak. Cline was Courser and Gamrat's legislative director until quitting in April.

Cline previously told The Detroit News he quit after confronting Courser and Gamrat about their relationship being intertwined in the operations of their combined House office.

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Rep. Courser speaks out, defending his record

Posted: Aug 18, 2015 4:43 PM EDT
Updated: Aug 18, 2015 5:05 PM EDT

Posted By Lauren Chapman CONNECT

By Nick Lulli CONNECT

LANSING, MI (WNEM) - For the first time since an attempted cover-up of his affair with a fellow lawmaker, Todd Courser gave his side of the story.

"It was really important to show up today and do the work," Courser said.

The house is back in session and Todd Courser is back at work in Lansing.

It's the first time the Lapeer Republican has spoken out since he became ensnared in a scandal of his own doing. He admits he was having an affair with fellow state Rep. Cindy Gamrat, which he concealed with a fake gay sex scandal.

Courser said he created the false controversy because he was being blackmailed. But he said he hopes his constituents still trust him.

"You can look at my record. Obviously there are some questions, some misinformation in regards to that. There's an investigation. There wasn't a use of taxpayer dollars. I'm looking forward as that investigation is proceeding."

The scandal has also taken a toll on the Courser family. Courser pledges to stay with his family. He said he is working to make things right.

"Obviously, over the past ten days, it was a lot of difficulty. We've been working through this in the background as a family for several months," Courser said.

Courser said he's trying to move past the scandal and work for the people of his district.

"I was elected, I took an oath. I said I would vote against more taxes and more spending. I'm for protecting our constitutional liberties and freedoms."

Gamrat was also at the capitol, but she declined to make any comments.

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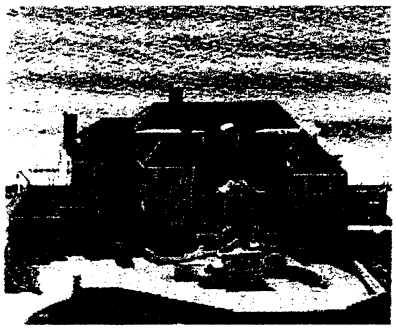

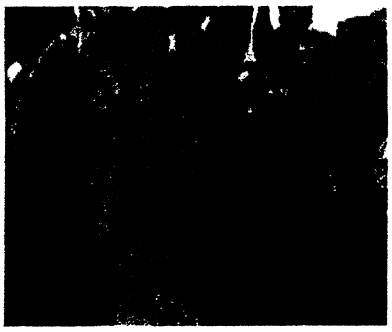

Her Dress Dropped Jaws At The 2015 Met Gala

Michigan state Rep. Todd Courser continues fight but thinks about resignation 'every day'

Michigan Lawmakers-Investigation

Michigan state Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, watches morning session of the Michigan House of Representatives from the gallery with his parents, Georgeann and Dan Courser, on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015. *(Dale G. Young | Detroit News via Associated Press)*

Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com By **Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com**

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on August 19, 2015 at 4:29 PM, updated August 19, 2015 at 5:50 PM

LANSING, MI — Michigan state Rep. Todd Courser knows people think he's paranoid.

And he knows some people aren't going to trust him after he lied in an attempt to **hide an extra-marital affair** with fellow Republican Rep. Cindy Gamrat.

But the embattled lawmaker, facing a House investigation and calls to resign, is counting on the Michigan State Police to take his allegations of text-message blackmail seriously.

"I would hope they would really give it full consideration," Courser, R-Lapeer, said Wednesday afternoon over lunch.

"Some people would say, 'Hey, it's going to lead back to you or back to your brother.' I don't really have any doubt in my mind — other people may — and I'm more than willing to step forward and explain the situation to the state police. I've done so with the FBI as well.

"If it wasn't true, obviously, I'd be making false statements to the police."

Courser on Friday **gave state police** a series of text messages he claims to have received from an anonymous sender who knew intimate details about his work and life. He was expecting to talk to the MSP again later Wednesday.

The pressure from the blackmailer, he has said, led to his decision to send out a bizarre email accusing himself of doing drugs and having sex with a male prostitute, an attempt to distract from the potential revelation of the real affair.

Courser and Gamrat returned to work Tuesday for the first time since their sex scandal made national news. Both initially declined media interviews, but Courser has since talked several reporters as his colleagues consider possible expulsion or censure.

On Wednesday, he sat down with MLive after a chance encounter in a basement canteen inside the Michigan Capitol, where state Rep. Rose Mary Robinson, D-Detroit, told him to "hang in there" but recommended he "stop posting so much" on Facebook.

The House Business Office is investigating whether Courser or Gamrat misused state resources in an attempt to cover up their affair, a plot that was exposed earlier this month **on secret recordings** made by former staffer Ben Graham.

In one clip, Courser said his false-flag email could help "inoculate the herd," but he's since said that part of his motivation was to try and identify his alleged blackmailer.

"People say Representative Courser is paranoid. Well you know what? That doesn't mean there isn't some amount of surveillance happening, and the texts really point that out in an eerie way," Courser said as he sat down to a soup and Coke. "Like right now, I don't know they aren't listening."

Courser's allegations go to the top levels of the state House, where the tea party favorite has pointed the finger at "establishment Republicans" and questioned when and what Speaker Kevin Cotter knew about the situation. Based on the texts, he believes Graham and other former staffers were involved. They may have known his computer passwords, he said, and he suspects his office was bugged.

"Once you know that you're in that spot, you need to do the best you can to expose the corruption that's there," Courser said. "I was already working through it with my family (when the news broke this month). They already knew. It isn't like I was hiding it from them at that point."

Cotter has disputed the **the "black helicopter" claims**. While former Courser staffers had shared some concerns with his chief of staff, Cotter has steadfastly denied knowledge of any evidence that taxpayer resources were misused or other allegations that would have warranted an earlier investigation.

"I can't police affairs, and while I can hope that others conduct themselves in an appropriate way, I am not a babysitter," Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, told reporters on Tuesday. "I will get involved when there is some strong indication that House resources, taxpayer resources, are being used inappropriately."

Former staffer Josh Cline this week alleged that Courser and Gamrat had created a hostile work environment and regularly missed meetings. Cline and Graham, along with former staffer Keith Allard, have disputed various accusations by Courser.

"Attempts to blame others instead of accepting responsibility is unfortunate," the former aides said in a joint statement last week.

Courser released a series of text messages last week in an attempt to corroborate his blackmail claims, but he said they don't tell the whole story. In those texts, sent around the time Courser plotted the false-flag email, the sender indicated he would expose the affair if Courser did not resign.

He chose not to step down then, and he's not resigning now, but that doesn't mean the thought has not crossed his mind.

"You think about it every day. You have to consider it, and weigh it, with your family every day," Courser said. "But I took an oath. As much as people don't understand that, it was an oath to carry out these duties and take these responsibilities seriously, regardless of my own personal issues."

For now, he plans to stay in office and bolster what he called one of the most consistently conservative voting records in the state Legislature, starting with a planned vote against any gas tax increase that may go before the House this week.

"It is what it is," Courser said of his recent controversy.

"It was quite the firestorm for myself, my family and everyone involved. But the blackmail situation, I don't think people understand the way those things are all tied together. If you have staffers that are doing that and working in concert with other people, there's something seriously wrong with that."

Jonathan Oosting is a Capitol reporter for MLive Media Group. ***Email him****, find him on* ***Facebook*** *or follow him on* ***Twitter****.*

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Gamrat camp says it is close to identifying texter

Chad Livengood, Detroit News Lansing Bureau *11:51 p.m. EDT August 20, 2015*

(Photo: Dale G. Young)

Lansing — Private investigators hired by embattled state Rep. Cindy Gamrat have identified the individual who owns the phone number used to send her and Rep. Todd Courser text messages threatening to reveal their Capitol romance if they didn't resign, Gamrat spokesman Justin Near said Thursday.

Near said he would not release the person's name until the investigators get a second source confirming the person's identity. After that, he said, the legal team for the Plainwell Republican will release the name publicly and hand over evidence to law enforcement authorities.

But Near said the name that was traced back to a 313-area code phone number is not Gamrat, Courser, Courser's brother, Gamrat's husband Joe or the lawmakers' former aides — Keith Allard, Joshua Cline and Ben Graham.

"It doesn't appear that any of the names that have been tossed around are behind it," Near told The Detroit News.

DETROIT NEWS

AG won't say whether he's investigating Courser, Gamrat

(http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/08/19/attorney-general-courser-gamrat/32003581/)

The House Business Office is investigating (/story/news/politics/2015/08/19/attorney-general-courser-gamrat/32003581/) whether Courser, the Lapeer Republican, and Gamrat used their state employees to conceal or cover up their extramarital relationship. The investigation was launched Aug. 7 after The Detroit News revealed (/story/news/politics/2015/08/06/recordings-state-rep-asked-aide-hide-relationship/31269315/) Courser plotted the distribution of an email sent to fellow Republicans in late May claiming he was caught having sex with a male prostitute.

Courser, R-Lapeer, has admitted to sending the anonymous email (/story/news/politics/2015/08/11/todd-courser-response/31399405/) to fellow Republicans, but argued the missive was meant to "misdirect attention" and "expose" someone sending him and Gamrat anonymous text messages threatening to reveal their relationship if they didn't resign. Courser has released copies of "freakishly stalking" text messages (https://www.facebook.com/Toddformichigan/posts/1070961926261143) he and his brother Dan have said were sent to their phones (https://www.facebook.com/dan.courser.9/posts/1213373995354742).

Courser previously accused (/story/news/politics/2015/08/12/todd-courser-cindy-gamrat/31532207/) the three former aides and Flint-area political consultant David Forsmark of being part of a "network" to "blackmail" him and Gamrat into resigning. Neither of them is the name Gamrat's private investigators have turned up, Near said.

Courser and Gamrat have not publicly explained why they didn't go to authorities earlier this year when they purportedly began receiving threatening text messages.

On May 21, Graham recorded a meeting with Courser and Gamrat in which the lawmakers suspected that Joe Gamrat was sending the anonymous messages. Graham provided the audio recording to The Detroit News.

"One of the issues is that the contact, umm, I'm about 90, 80 to 90 percent sure that it is Joe himself ... trying to get her to resign," Courser said.

"Yep," Gamrat replied.

"He's just trying to, trying to bring her to that spot, which is messed up all in of itself," Courser said. "But he's obviously into my phone and whatever else. He's a pretty, pretty crafty guy when it comes to all that."

Graham recorded the May 21 meeting inside Gamrat's House office after refusing Courser's May 19 request to send the anonymous email to Republicans.

Gamrat later pondered aloud if her husband was involved. "It's just hard for me to wrap my head around it," Gamrat said.

Near downplayed Gamrat's speculation about her husband. "I'm sure a lot of names were tossed around as possibly being behind those threatening texts," he said.

Joe Gamrat did not return messages seeking comment.

Courser declined to comment Wednesday on whether he still believes Joe Gamrat sent the text messages.

"I'm not talking to you again," Courser told a Detroit News reporter.

clivengood@detroitnews.com

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[redacted]

Audio Recording
From: 5/19
Duration: 1:22:40

[redacted]

[redacted]

Transcribed by [redacted]

* * *

BEN: Hi. What's going on?

TODD: (Inaudible.) (Inaudible) very often so this is only going to happen one time I would say, so. So --

BEN: What are you doing, setting a (inaudible)?

TODD: Yeah. (Inaudible.) Yeah, so.

BEN: What's going on? You're freaking me out.

TODD: Right.

BEN: Well it's not too often you call.

TODD: I need, yeah.

BEN: I don't know what you mean.

TODD: Hmm?

BEN: I don't know what you mean.

TODD: Yeah. At some point I kind of thought it would come to this. I didn't know exactly what, how it would all happen. I figured at some point it would though. So there isn't a whole lot good in me. I, you know, I got a -- I don't know how far to go back. I don't know how to go.

BEN: All right. Almost far back as you need to I guess.

TODD: Thanks.

BEN: I don't know what you're talking about.

TODD: Yeah. Go back, fast forward. I need to leave no question that I messed up bad, dude. I need it to kind of fall on me. I'm going to, I'll back up. I'll back up.

BEN: All right.

TODD: So nine years ago, eight, nine, ten years ago, somewhere in there, I have been a perfectly constructive life, messed up. I never wanted to be all this. You know, it was never my, you know, it was never my goal. I know people don't believe that.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: But in the other side of the way it kind of gets messed up. I'll show you and you'll see it different maybe. See all this? You know what this is?

BEN: Your closet?

TODD: Yeah. You know why it's here?

BEN: Because you didn't like the way Fawn did your laundry?

TODD: No.

BEN: You told me a story about that.

TODD: I don't, I don't really have a,

what you'd say is a normal relationship with my wife at all.

BEN: Okay.

TODD: You make a decision, (inaudible) visible connection, there's no conversation like this, there's nothing like that. Ten years ago she said, I don't know, I don't love you. I don't love you. I hate you. Not that she said it it was a big deal, it was she meant it. So we worked through a lot of that, the children, there's never a fight, there's never a, even a coarse word. I'm completely measured, always controlled. You guys have gotten but they've never, never had it at home. So along the way the rest of my life isn't as pure as the wind-driven snow.

BEN: Okay.

TODD: So.

BEN: I don't --

TODD: So some of that's going to come back then the next couple days. Two months ago -- anyway. They're all just pieces. Maybe if we had more time I could kind of lay it out, but

BEN: I got, I got time.

TODD: So you work that out, you take those things out of the space, it still doesn't work. Your mother kind of takes over the pieces of the things

[redacted]

[redacted]

that she doesn't do and you do that because you're trying to adjust it. [redacted] When you go home there's no speaking, there's no communication, there's no connection. She sleeps on her side of the bed, I sleep on my side of the bed. If I sleep there. If I don't sleep here. And I love my wife, I do. But it's messed up. So.

BEN: All right.

TODD: And we've done counselling, four or five counsellors. So along the way some things happened with some other people that probably shouldn't happen. For her it was earlier and messed up and figured out is that she needed sort of a, basically she couldn't be involved in this office, any of that stuff, politics. Only if she was able if mom kind of organized that and dealt with it. And we tried to only bring her out for pieces and parts of that.

BEN: Hmm.

TODD: [redacted] picked up the slack, [redacted] became kind of the, sort of the wife I didn't have. Of course [redacted] left. An inappropriate relationship with [redacted] but not a sexual relationship with [redacted]. I really can't say that for everybody.

Doing that thing about your head.

BEN: I know. That I do.

TODD: When the budget came up get a call you get somebody saying something and then you get a call and there's no ID and the person says what? Bring some shit out on you.

BEN: We know.

TODD: Hmm?

BEN: We know.

TODD: You know. Know what's been going on. I don't know how far back it goes. So they say you post budget, watch your back. People kill for less than that.

BEN: Less than the budget?

TODD: The money. Millions.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: And you get these hints, right, pull all of this together and you don't know what the hell they're talking about and you just have to keep going on because nobody could believe the whole story anyway. So if I get to this spot this now involves Representative Gamrat and her, her children. I don't know what they have or what they're going to do.

BEN: Well what you mean?

TODD: So I need a, I need an

over-the-top story that's obscene about me. It will make anything else that comes out after that that isn't a video mundane. Tame by comparison. I need a controlled burn. I don't know if I'll survive it.

BEN: I don't -- what are you talking about Cindy's kids, I don't know what you're talking about.

TODD: Stuff's going to come out, Benjamin, and they're going to implicate myself and Cindy Gamrat.

BEN: Her kids are? Or her kids are, you want to protect her kids? I don't --

TODD: In a strange way I'm attempting to protect them. And mine. So it's weird, twisted. So which part don't you understand? So I talked cryptically, I included like things from ten years ago.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: Six years ago.

BEN: I got that part.

TODD: Six hours ago.

BEN: I didn't get six hours ago.

TODD: I get a text and a phone call, right.

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: They want me to do something.

BEN: Who's they?

TODD: I have no idea. Cindy gets the same text, hers is a lot more lewd and obscene.

BEN: Who would --

TODD: They're not here to do that, they're here to destroy me, and destroy her.

BEN: Who's that, I don't --

TODD: It's the whole thing.

BEN: Who was on the phone?

TODD: I don't know.

BEN: Do you recognize them?

TODD: Show you what's left -- they said no, don't look up the number, it's a burn phone. Don't bother.

BEN: It probably is a burn phone too. What do they want you to do?

TODD: They didn't say, I didn't respond.

BEN: I thought you talked to them on the phone?

TODD: No, she got, they got calls on their end.

BEN: Cindy did?

TODD: The recording.

BEN: That you -- she recognize the voice? You recognize the voice?

[redacted]

[redacted]

TODD: They're saying they have a tape or some pictures or some video or something that's going to come out.

BEN: That was earlier today?

TODD: It was earlier today. About seven minutes after caucus, or after session ended. I'm not, not joking about seven minutes after. My phone died right at that moment so I didn't get it. Once I plugged it in then I got it.

BEN: They didn't say what they wanted you to do?

TODD: Who am I asking?

BEN: They just said they wanted you to do something?

TODD: They said you need to respond. Not responding in this case will be detrimental to the -- so she got a lot more. Next we'll be calling and delivering stuff to you and she's not perfect, right.

BEN: No.

TODD: So she has, so she has her own stuff, right. I'm one of those stuffs now. But it's me, so. So hers had ten times, like a whole bunch, because mine shut off, bodm. This phone, so there's a whole bunch, so I get this, right? "Cindy sounds like she's great in sheets, you however have no stamina. Silence in

this case could be very detrimental, careers, political arenas, and of course families. [redacted], who could be disastrous, and of course the kids."

BEN: Some weird number.

TODD: 313, which is Detroit number.

BEN: Yeah, but it could be --

TODD: Anywhere.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: Be right here. So when the gun thing happened I pulled the guns out of the house, took them over to dad's house.

BEN: What gun thing?

TODD: The [redacted] guy.

BEN: Oh, [redacted]

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: With the --

TODD: I get the same comment from some dickhead over there and I, I don't think --

BEN: With him, with him doing the story of the kids, with the kids shooting?

TODD: Putting the picture back up from a year, a year ago.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: He does the picture, right, puts it back up. Somebody says, and I can't remember how that

went, but it just gave me the chills that, you know, they're coming to, you know, check my guns and get my kids. So I went home and took all the guns, I took them all over to dad's house. I'm like I don't know if that's better but hell, you know. You know what I'm saying, if they come and search mine aren't in a box or anything, they're just there in a pile, you know.

So it, I've been tracked and monitored and followed, you know. There's fake e-mails on my, when I was at the hotel. I wasn't getting my statements, I go in, they got a different, a different e-mail on that they're sending my statements to, you know. It's --

BEN: An e-mail that looks like your e-mail?

TODD: Yeah. T-O-D.

BEN: Tod, T-O-D, Courser at like gmail or something?

TODD: At Tod Courser.

BEN: T-O-D at Tod Courser, how could they do that?

TODD: Beats the shit out of me.

BEN: Maybe they, well maybe they typed it, may they didn't, forgot the D, you know what I mean?

TODD: No.

BEN: They were typing it, they --

TODD: No.

BEN: Well I don't see how could, they could --

TODD: You want to know why I say that?

BEN: Hmm?

TODD: Because Gamrat had the same thing. Hers was a different one than that but it was Cindy something.

BEN: Hers was off too?

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: At Cindygamrat.com?

TODD: I don't know if hers was Gamrat.com. No, no, no, it was, I'm sorry, that was one of them, I have it written there, Tod with one D. The other one was like Todd Courser like 82 at gmail or something like that. That's maybe ours but it was something, some number.

BEN: Todd, Todddistrict82 is, is ours, that's the admin e-mail.

TODD: Yeah. Something, something --

BEN: There's no Todd.

TODD: It wouldn't have been one that I would have given in any way, shape, or form. And they started out with the statements right and then they switched over and I'm like I don't know. Mom said we

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 don't get any statements from those people. I said I
2 don't know why, so I called them, I said what e-mail do
3 you have, maybe you're sending it to the wrong one. And
4 they tell the e-mail so then I asked for the thing, and
5 sure enough it was changed like back in January.
6 BEN: That's weird.
7 TODD: It's not weird, dude.
8 BEN: No, I mean -- yeah.
9 TODD: No, it's not weird. Recording
10 devices. I have two.
11 BEN: Two what?
12 TODD: Two recording devices.
13 BEN: What do you mean?
14 TODD: Two that I found.
15 BEN: Here?
16 TODD: Not here.
17 BEN: Where?
18 TODD: Like tricky stuff. Tricky stuff.
19 So GPSing just gets really weird stuff.
20 So I've come down to this and we can sit
21 here all night, but I've come down to that the way to
22 handle it is to do a controlled burn of me. It's so
23 over-the-top that people will see it and they'll be like
24 holy shit, what is that. And anything that comes after
25 that will be mild by comparison. In a controlled burn

1 you do a little bit of truth mixed in with a lot of lies.
2 BEN: Okay.
3 TODD: People are so disturbed they won't
4 print it. But anything after that is going to be
5 suspect. It will be looking like a complete smear
6 campaign.
7 BEN: What do you have in mind?
8 TODD: An e-mail.
9 BEN: Okay.
10 TODD: As many e-mails as we can.
11 BEN: Okay.
12 TODD: (Inaudible) from a different
13 e-mail. Rolling out of whatever, whatever the machinery
14 would allow. Normally with this sort of thing I would
15 have [redacted] do it.
16 BEN: Um-hum.
17 TODD: He's done it from gmail accounts,
18 a series of them.
19 BEN: Yeah. He told me how to do that
20 though, I can't remember.
21 TODD: The gmail account?
22 BEN: Yeah. He could do it but it
23 would --
24 TODD: Took him a long time.
25 BEN: I think he, yeah, I think he told

1 me you can only do like 250, or 50 -- five or 500 apiece.
2 TODD: A day or.
3 BEN: For each of them a day, yeah.
4 TODD: That's what he did.
5 BEN: So you'd have to create like a crap
6 ton of them and they're really hard to do because they
7 verify everything with like phone numbers and stuff.
8 TODD: Right. You have to pay for phones
9 and all kinds of bullshit, so.
10 BEN: [redacted] did, like had to pay for phones
11 or whatever?
12 TODD: I think so.
13 BEN: Yeah, you probably have to have
14 some burner phones to -- what did the, did they say they
15 wanted something?
16 TODD: They didn't say anything. They
17 wanted a response, I didn't respond. I don't respond to
18 stuff like that.
19 BEN: Yeah. Yeah. That's messed up.
20 TODD: They don't want us there, dude. I
21 mean it's not, you know, that whole thing with Tristan
22 Cole up north and you just, I mean they absolutely hate
23 it. The Speaker, he's got a wound in his side, you know.
24 They're not there, they want something from us. They
25 want us dead.

1 BEN: Does your family know?
2 TODD: About that? No. Will I have to
3 tell them? Probably.
4 BEN: Cindy's family know?
5 TODD: Cindy's family, her, her husband
6 knows. They're working through this stuff.
7 BEN: How'd he find out?
8 TODD: They called him.
9 BEN: Whoever?
10 TODD: Whoever.
11 BEN: I mean what did you think would
12 happen? I mean.
13 TODD: And they know I'm potentially
14 running for Congress.
15 BEN: You can't run for Congress.
16 TODD: Right. I agree.
17 BEN: You can't do this anymore. What do
18 you have in mind, what's the e-mail? Did you write it
19 yet?
20 TODD: It's already written. I didn't
21 print it (inaudible). I don't know what God'll do,
22 buddy, I don't have an idea on that. I thought I was
23 dead several times before already so not going to --
24 "Todd Courser caught on tape behind Lansing nightclub.
25 In truth Courser secretly removed from caucus, caucus

[redacted]

[redacted]

several weeks ago due to a male on male paid, paid for sex. (Inaudible) prominently in some nightclub. He is a bisexual porn-addicted sexual deviant." And then you just get nasty about it. "His cock is hanging out all over Lansing since the election, that's why he was thrown out of caucus."

BEN: Are you serious, what are you talking about? That's ridiculous.

TODD: It is ridiculous. I need it to be over-the-top.

BEN: Nobody's going to, nobody's going to believe any of that.

TODD: You're correct. No, they'll believe some of it. They'll believe some of it. He's a freak.

BEN: They're not going to believe any of that stuff. Why would anybody believe any of that, I don't. That not the point?

TODD: I'm not a homosexual.

BEN: I know that.

TODD: That's, you know, probably part of the problem because they can't, you know. I, I don't do alcohol, I don't do drugs, right.

BEN: That's what I mean, that's why it's not believable.

TODD: Right, but they don't know that. Now anything that comes after this is part of the, is part of that. It's a burn. And then people go I'm not listening to that, that's bullshit, who would do that to somebody. It's awful. They're attacking him, right. Now it goes further. Work with me Benjamin, okay. Been thinking about this since I ran for office two years ago or three years ago, whenever we did the last time out, okay.

"Gun-toting, Bible-thumping, cock-sucking freak. He's not standing for smaller government, his whole personality is a sham. By the government (inaudible) build big government. He's a tool and a pawn of the establishment. In past election he was accused of child molestation and he's done things that should have him in jail. He doesn't work in Lansing, he's just there feeding his habit of alcohol, drugs, and illicit sex. Most days he is high, stoned on drugs and alcohol while he is supposed to be voting. In between he's seducing and taking advantage of Rep Gamrat between votes. The people deserve to know the real reason she was thrown out by the Speaker is because she wouldn't stop being Courser's toy in caucus. She shouldn't have been trusted as State Representative or National Committee Woman. She's a tramp, a lie, and a laugh for this bisexual

monster, this tea-bagger. Takes his title seriously moaning and groaning," blah blah blah blah blah.

BEN: You talk to Cindy about this? What?

TODD: This is all new to me, Todd. Just take it from the top.

BEN: Take it slowly, I don't --

TODD: What does this do? I need to, if possible, inoculate the herd against gutter politics that are coming. Unless they have something really awful, which I do not know about, okay.

BEN: Todd, this is really awful.

TODD: What's that?

BEN: You and Cindy.

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: I mean how much more awful, how much more awful could you get? I mean yeah, that shit's, that shit you came up with is pretty awful but like.

TODD: Ben.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: We decided to destroy ourselves. If this is the lead in, we go for the sham, the scam. She's working through with her husband and they've been working through it. I'm going to go into all the details I can go into. What happened and how, I'm going to do

what I can.

BEN: I don't want to hear the details.

TODD: This is the best we came up with. Neither one of us want to be on somebody's leash. Neither one of us really want to be in Lansing if this is how we have to do it.

BEN: You could just quit you know.

TODD: I might have to.

BEN: Probably all go away.

TODD: Hmm?

BEN: Probably all go away.

TODD: I don't know. Dude, I don't know what they have.

BEN: Well you got to assume that they have everything. I mean you can't --

TODD: How far back?

BEN: Doesn't matter how far back, Cindy's enough. I mean it doesn't matter. Could be high -- it doesn't matter if it was a hundred other women, Cindy's --

TODD: The woman.

BEN: The woman, the State Rep, the cohort, the conservative, the Christian, the -- I mean I can't -- so I mean it doesn't matter to have anything go further back, it's --

[redacted]

[redacted]

TODD: So we have to assume what, they have video?

BEN: I think you should assume the worst I guess. I don't -- I mean I assume getting video would be hard but nothing's impossible with money, resources, and plenty of time. Like they've got to have video or something. Videos, pictures, audio, I don't, eyewitness statements, I don't know.

TODD: That would be hard.

BEN: Well.

TODD: I'm just saying --

BEN: I was only half being sarcastic but.

TODD: I'm just saying it would be hard but not impossible.

BEN: To have an eyewitness statement or all those other things?

TODD: I don't know what, I don't know how it goes, okay. I assume there's video, okay.

BEN: Then this isn't going to work.

TODD: It won't work but it will on the front end unless it's that.

BEN: Video. Not pictures or audio or anything?

TODD: If it's pictures or audio what

would that do?

BEN: I don't know. I mean it's evidence I guess, I don't. Text messages, e-mails.

TODD: Her husband has all those.

BEN: Between you two?

TODD: Yeah. All of them for -- what I'm saying is there's no, there's none of that history of, there's nothing like that that I'm aware of. Like there's not even any inappropriate e-mails and texts. That's a whole 'nother story is probably not one you need to know but you probably can know it. They have been on the verge of divorce for I don't know how long.

BEN: Hmm.

TODD: She has a husband who is, Joe is who he is, right. Those -- I'm not, I'm not condoning any of my actions for -- I'm not condoning any of those. I'm not blaming her or blaming anyone. I'll take responsibility for my, and I may still have to come out and make some sort of public statement if they come out with whatever they come out with. If there is something, okay. Or is it just they're, they're threatening, you know what I'm saying, like they --

BEN: And who is texting, that's the problem.

TODD: It's the, it's --

BEN: Did you look at the number?

TODD: No.

BEN: It's probably not helpful anyway, but. You said they texted Joe or called Joe or whatever?

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: Sure it's not Joe texting you?

TODD: We're pretty sure. It wouldn't be past him to do it, he could do it, this could be him, he could be threatening that.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: You want me to tell you about Joe Gamrat?

BEN: I don't --

TODD: You want, just --

BEN: I don't know, I just, if it is him though he's not, I don't, he has no -- would he really do that?

TODD: You want to know what he's done? You don't really want to know.

BEN: I don't know --

TODD: Okay.

BEN: -- that's essential to the narrative.

TODD: Kind of essential. He's been audio taping her and tracking her, every conversation she

has, for years. She has to give an account of what she's doing, what she's been doing. Completely controlled.

BEN: How does, how does he, what do you mean how does he --

TODD: He has tape recording devices in the house, tape recording devices in the car, tape recording devices in her office. Now she's removed them.

BEN: She knew they were there?

TODD: Part of it she knew they were there. Public official when she's meeting with public, other officials.

BEN: So does he have audio of you guys?

TODD: No, not that we're aware of.

BEN: He sounds like a crazy guy.

TODD: Yeah. Call hyper controlling --

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: -- power guy. Every time, every GPS of her he waits in that parking structure by the Radisson.

BEN: Oh, yeah.

TODD: You probably didn't know that.

BEN: No.

TODD: Most, yeah, most days when she gets out. You got anything else?

BEN: I don't know. What do you mean got

[redacted]

[redacted]

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1 anything else?
2 TODD: Any other -- you're, you're
3 itching a lot. That always bothers me when you're
4 itching.
5 BEN: Well I mean, I mean one way or
6 another this kind of shit always comes out. Especially
7 if you don't suck --
8 TODD: Well it will.
9 BEN: -- suck the establishment's pee
10 pee.
11 TODD: Yeah.
12 BEN: If they, if you were buddies with
13 them they would fix it but obviously you're not.
14 TODD: So, so what's, so let's say
15 nothing come, comes up. They don't got, let's say they
16 don't have anything. What's the harm in doing it? It's
17 going to look really off key, right?
18 BEN: It's going to look --
19 TODD: I mean holy shit.
20 BEN: It's going to look --
21 TODD: Look what?
22 BEN: I don't know, it's going to look
23 weird.
24 TODD: It's going to look weird.
25 BEN: Some people will print it.

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1 TODD: Some, some people will probably
2 print it. Brandon Hall will probably pick that up.
3 BEN: Brandon Hall, The Collective blog.
4 [redacted]
5 TODD: He might. The problem with that
6 is that it's rough.
7 BEN: Yeah. He can allude to it though.
8 TODD: Let's say he alludes to it. What
9 do people say?
10 BEN: Sexually explicit e-mail accusing
11 Todd Courser of bisexual sex and --
12 TODD: It's salacious. What happens?
13 Does his credibility go down? At that point aren't they
14 trying to verify this, will they be trying to call the
15 Speaker's office and say is there, Rep Courser been
16 removed from caucus, if so why? Why hasn't he been in
17 caucus the last four or five weeks?
18 BEN: Yeah. That would probably happen.
19 TODD: And so they're going to come to me
20 and say what?
21 BEN: Is this true?
22 TODD: Were you removed from caucus
23 because of, and I'm going to say what?
24 BEN: No.
25 TODD: Hell no, I wasn't removed from

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1 caucus
2 BEN: I haven't gone. I --
3 TODD: Haven't gone because Rep Gamrat
4 has been thrown out, I've been doing kind of a silent
5 protest. What happens?
6 BEN: The, the -- a lot of times even the
7 hint of scandal is enough. I mean --
8 TODD: I don't want a hint, man.
9 BEN: No, I know what you, I get it. But
10 it's enough to -- I mean why try to destroy yourself when
11 you can just quietly go away, I don't --
12 TODD: Because I don't know they have it.
13 I don't know what they have. You can't, I can't quiet,
14 how can I quietly go away?
15 BEN: I don't know.
16 TODD: You, you're, this is me.
17 BEN: I don't want you --
18 TODD: How, what do I say? Hey, I don't
19 like it here, I'm just going to quit now?
20 BEN: Say you have some horrible disease
21 that you have. You -- oh, geeze. It's like the movies.
22 In the movies you would request verification of evidence.
23 TODD: But even if they give it, what do
24 they have?
25 BEN: I know, that's why you figure it

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1 out.
2 TODD: Well yeah, but what I'm saying is
3 they're not here because they want something from me,
4 they're here to destroy me and do it publicly.
5 BEN: So then why give you warning, why
6 don't they just do it?
7 TODD: I don't think they're that smart,
8 because they went to Joe first.
9 BEN: Yeah.
10 TODD: And Joe says what?
11 BEN: I suspected it.
12 TODD: Well they --
13 BEN: Because he's kind of neurotic
14 anyway.
15 TODD: They already have been working
16 through that.
17 BEN: Oh. Oh, he says he already knew.
18 TODD: He doesn't say that to them but he
19 already knew.
20 BEN: Oh.
21 TODD: Their concern, the two of them, is
22 not for so much for each other, their concern is for the
23 three children.
24 BEN: Yeah, I can understand that.
25 TODD: Okay. So I can take the heat,

[redacted]

[redacted]

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1 right. If something comes out it's focused on me.
2 Anything short of --
3 BEN: What about your kids though?
4 TODD: I already -- I don't know if the
5 younger are a little more insulated.
6 BEN: Yeah. They might not be as
7 insulated as you think. Parents always think their kids
8 are more insulated than they actually are.
9 TODD: I would assume.
10 BEN: Yeah. I was far less insulated
11 than my parents thought I was.
12 TODD: You can get in my parenting stuff.
13 BEN: No, I don't need to get in your
14 parenting stuff.
15 TODD: No, no, it's totally fine. I have
16 a great relationship with my children.
17 BEN: Yeah.
18 TODD: Okay. I have to have a
19 conversation with my wife and I might not be married
20 after this but, but, Ben --
21 BEN: Hmm?
22 TODD: -- my wife's not oblivious to it.
23 BEN: Willingly oblivious?
24 TODD: She is. Ten years ago I had to
25 decide, do I stay married or do we get a divorce. I had

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1 to decide. You know, now that you have a son, you have
2 to make that decision. She wanted it, she wanted to be
3 done, I adjusted as much as I could to do to adjust from
4 that. When I go home and there's no, there's nothing
5 man. I mean it's not a bad way, there's just nothing.
6 You know, not that I hate her, I still, we have it's very
7 clerical relationship. Does that change because of this?
8 I don't know.
9 BEN: You want to do this tonight?
10 TODD: I do. You're not going to work
11 tomorrow.
12 BEN: All right.
13 TODD: You're going to be sick.
14 BEN: Okay.
15 TODD: Got it?
16 BEN: Yeah. I'm not going to work, what
17 am I going to do tomorrow?
18 TODD: Well you're going to, you're going
19 to be at home after this.
20 BEN: I don't know what you mean.
21 TODD: You're going to do this and then
22 go home.
23 BEN: Take the day off, paint my room.
24 TODD: Paint your room. Are you sharp
25 enough to be able to do this, can you do this?

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1 BEN: I can figure it, I mean I can
2 figure it out. It's, the easiest, quickest, best way
3 would be just to hit all the media, don't worry about all
4 the other people.
5 TODD: I need the other people though
6 because, because I want them to be insulate, you're
7 inoculating the whole herd.
8 BEN: This is a crazy way to deal with
9 this situation. Normally people just like front it off,
10 head it off themselves and say hey, this happened, or
11 quietly resign and go away. Like that's usually what
12 happens with this type of situation so this is kind of a
13 crazy way to do it.
14 TODD: Hey, we agree.
15 BEN: Who?
16 TODD: Cindy and I.
17 BEN: On this?
18 TODD: Yeah. It's what they won't
19 expect. At that point if they don't have some really,
20 really, really offensive stuff, right, if they don't it
21 will be tough for them to bring it after this, right?
22 BEN: They have to have hard evidence. I
23 mean if they don't have hard evidence they can't do
24 anything in the first place, but.
25 TODD: But you know they can't --

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1 BEN: It's just idle threats.
2 TODD: I mean that might be.
3 BEN: Possibly, you never, I mean --
4 TODD: I don't think it's idle, I don't
5 think they get to that spot.
6 BEN: Yeah, they --
7 TODD: I don't think people start telling
8 me watch my back, you know, your children, you know what
9 I'm saying. People kill for less than that. The budget.
10 I just don't --
11 BEN: Budget?
12 TODD: Well because we oppose them on
13 this --
14 BEN: Oh, that was --
15 TODD: -- prop budget.
16 BEN: -- that was a different text
17 message or call or whatever?
18 TODD: Call, yeah. These just happened
19 man, there's a -- so.
20 BEN: Can I think about it for a minute?
21 TODD: I'm, I'm here until it's done,
22 buddy.
23 BEN: I mean can I go for a drive or?
24 You're kind of asking a big thing here, I mean.
25 TODD: What are you thinking?

[redacted]

[redacted]

BEN: I don't know. Like you're giving me a lot of crap, I don't know how to process it.
TODD: I just need to burn down, buddy.
BEN: This is a weird way to do it, buddy.
TODD: I don't --
BEN: But you're not burning yourself down because you're putting out ridiculous stuff, you know what I mean.
TODD: What I'm trying to do is inoculate the herd against everything but, like almost egregious whatever. Just do it. You run a story if they're going to do it, now they got a story, you know, on the heels of everything that's happened to her and all the things that we've pressed back on, how do people see this?
BEN: I don't know. People don't necessarily need to believe it, they just need to have doubt.
TODD: Doubt about?
BEN: Or I mean they just have to have -- what are we talking about here, votes or I mean public opinion?
TODD: I don't know that I can, Ben, I don't know that I can survive. I'm not saying, I'm not saying that, okay.

BEN: Yeah
TODD: I'm not saying that is that I'm, I'm, that I can survive. I'm not saying that she can survive. She wants out. After the caucus thing? Look, she's wanted out. She's like look, I should just resign. That was after the caucus thing. She's like I don't want to be here. She says in spite of that if you're not here I don't want to be here.
BEN: Might be the smarter play.
TODD: What's that?
BEN: Resigning. I don't know, if you resign you're not a threat anymore, you're not the one on the side of the Speaker. Nobody needs to mess with Cindy or her family or your family or you.
TODD: But what if they don't have it?
BEN: I don't know, I feel like we have to assume that they do. You just said that they're not going to do idle threats.
TODD: I think they got something.
BEN: That's what I mean.
TODD: But I don't know, if it's pictures what is it?
BEN: I don't know. You going into her hotel room late at night, her going into your hotel room late at night, whatever, one of those things That's

probably be the best that they could do as far as pictures.
TODD: I've stayed in 80 of those hotel rooms.
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: I'm just saying.
BEN: I mean PIs, they, they would have hired a PI, you know what I mean. They can -- I mean have you seen the show Cheaters on TV?
TODD: No.
BEN: I don't even know if they have it on TV anymore but they have P -- they follow people around and discover if their spouses are cheating on them or whatever. But they take video. They normally confront them because it makes for good reality TV, but.
TODD: I need it done, buddy. I do. Whatever comes after that comes after that.
BEN: We didn't call, have you called Ike? You called Ike, he wouldn't answer?
TODD: He might be, you know how they take him away?
BEN: He was, we were commenting back and forth on Facebook earlier today.
TODD: Today?
BEN: Yeah.

TODD: What was he doing?
BEN: He's, he was complaining about Facebook e-search something or went to some web site about something and then it was re-advertising on his Facebook and he thought that was slightly creepy.
TODD: Hmm.
BEN: So we were talking about like Facebook advertising.
TODD: I didn't tell him why so that could be, it could be that. He does a lot of boating but I don't think he's booting today as cold as it was.
BEN: No, it's too cold.
TODD: He's got a new wife, or not new wife, a girlfriend.
BEN: Does he have a new house?
TODD: Yeah.
BEN: Is he living with her?
TODD: Yeah, he's down in Rochester.
BEN: Okay.
TODD: He's trying to take on a new life is what he's done.
BEN: I saw that.
TODD: Which is kind of different. Which is good, he seems to be enjoying it.
BEN: Good for him I guess, I don't --

[redacted]

[redacted]

TODD: Yeah, good for him.
BEN: So can I take a drive, clear my head? I mean this is a lot of stuff. I don't know how to process it all right now.
TODD: What are you thinking?
BEN: That I don't know how to process it all right now, that's what I'm thinking.
TODD: What are you thinking, what are you thinking though? Because if you can't, if you can't do it I don't know how I, how I do this. I need this stuff done. Either help me process it further than what I've processed it with Cindy and her husband.
BEN: He read that?
TODD: They actually wanted it slammed more towards her.
BEN: To like inoculate her?
TODD: So that she would take more of the responsibility. You think this is so over-the-top that it won't be picked up but anything after that. It's crazy to think that way --
BEN: It's crazy.
TODD: -- with him and her.
BEN: Yeah. I mean what is --
TODD: What is what?
BEN: I don't know how Joe thinks, why

would her taking more responsibility be better for her?
TODD: That's the best I could write it.
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: I wanted it over-the-top, I wanted it to be really --
BEN: It's over-the-top.
TODD: I wanted people to go is that true? But tied to the caucus a little bit. So if there is a question there's a hint of, you know. She feels like and they feel like it's coming out, whatever it is. Feel like if you do that, you do the controlled burn on the front end, that unless it's really, really egregious, like unless it's something really salacious, that by that point people will be like that's just what they hate about politics. Cindy.
BEN: Go ahead, you can take it.
TODD: Hey, how are you? All right. Ben and I are sitting here, he's trying to, trying to mentally process everything I've just told him, so. So trying to find a different way, so. What are your thoughts? You can't really because then there's a record of it. And I'm not, I'm not there. No, I haven't. I'm still heading in that direction if -- Ben was trying to figure out if there's a way to, and I think it's good, I'd rather have him question all the, the route of it but

you see another, another option here, Cindy? Okay. Can I call you if we have any other questions? If I have any, I won't call unless I do. What's that? No, I'm just saying that because I'm sitting here right now is what I'm saying. I'm saying do you have any other thoughts on it is what I'm asking you. We're still talking about it here. Okay, bye-bye.
It's a lot of opportunity to change it or adjust it, you think it needs to be adjusted in some way? You would never recommend this stuff, would you?
BEN: No.
TODD: You see why I'm doing it?
BEN: I guess. I don't think it's a proven method.
TODD: Has anything I've done been a proven method?
BEN: Not exactly. All the stuff Josh and I did to win your campaign, that was a proven method. You know this is why Josh quit, right?
TODD: Yeah. Well me mainly.
BEN: No, you and Cindy.
TODD: Yeah.
BEN: He suspected.
TODD: Yeah. Well that's what he said was the reason he quit, you know.

BEN: Yeah. I mean you want to go more or, more over-the-top, less? I don't --
TODD: I'm not asking you --
BEN: (Inaudible) here.
TODD: -- I'm asking for your --
BEN: I don't know, it's way over-the-top.
TODD: You want less over-the-top?
BEN: I don't know.
TODD: I want people, I want people to delete it and mark it as spam when it's done because they're so, they're so F'ing pissed that somebody sent that piece of garbage into their inbox. That's what I want. Does that get it there?
BEN: I guess but it still hit the media.
TODD: I want it to hit the media.
BEN: (Inaudible.)
TODD: But I don't think it will be credible.
BEN: I know but.
TODD: Will it be credible?
BEN: I don't know. I don't know what's credible anymore anyway. Freaking Brandon Hall is quoted in the Detroit Free Press as a source. He's on Off The Record, like --

[redacted]

[redacted]

TODD: Right. I know.
BEN: I don't know what's credible anymore.
TODD: I don't know either.
BEN: I should start a blog and start saying bullshit about people.
TODD: Yeah. Part of me wonders if he's involved in it.
BEN: I don't know. He's, he's too much of a retard. I don't know. He could be an evil genius though.
TODD: No, like they use him to do it.
BEN: Oh, yeah.
TODD: The cadence and the speaking.
BEN: On there?
TODD: And, on, it didn't, it didn't strike me as not Brandon Hall. On hers. Mine's too short but hers was like that long.
BEN: Hmm. Same one, same number?
TODD: Same number. I don't hold you accountable for the results.
BEN: (Inaudible.)
TODD: If God wants to raise me up again after this, like in this capacity, in this spot, where I'm at.

BEN: I'm just not sure it's the best way to protect Cindy and her kids and family and stuff. I just, you know.
TODD: Hey, we got through that.
BEN: Through what?
TODD: We already talked about that part.
BEN: I know but I feel like it --
TODD: We felt like on the front end, I'm just telling you we felt like on the front end they would never expect this. So she can come out and say --
BEN: No, they would never -- no, they would --
TODD: She can say, what can she say?
BEN: Totally, totally ridiculous.
TODD: I am not even going to respond to that.
BEN: Right, it's ridiculous.
TODD: I'm, you know, the ridiculousness of the whole thing.
BEN: No, they never expect but they also never expect you to resign either.
TODD: What that was?
BEN: This house makes weird noises.
TODD: It's a little different.
BEN: It was slightly different. You

want to check and make sure nobody's out there?
TODD: Unless you unlocked it.
BEN: No, I locked it. I think I locked it.
TODD: I'm just asking you to help me destroy myself here.
BEN: I'm not sure this is going to destroy you.
TODD: Well --
BEN: It's too, it's too ridiculous.
TODD: You want less ridiculous? That's what I said, do you want less?
BEN: I don't know. I get what you're, I get what you're, I get what you're saying here, but.
TODD: You do scorched earth.
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: You do it before them.
BEN: Um-hum.
TODD: And then they come in, if they're going to come in.
BEN: Can you show it to me again? It went to sleep. Hit that, hit that button on the keyboard.
TODD: Is that how you do that?
BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: Did not know that.
BEN: You do click a button on the mouse too, that sometimes does it. You did save it, right?
TODD: Um-hum.
BEN: Okay.
TODD: Will it be there?
BEN: It should be. Is it start -- is it coming back up?
TODD: The computer's on.
BEN: Yeah. It will turn on. Well you, it will come back on auto recover but is the other screen on? I can't see it from here. Oh, okay, there we go. Oh, that's right, everything in here is Windows 7 now.
TODD: Is it cold in here?
BEN: A little bit but I have shorts on. It's cold as heck today.
TODD: It felt good outside.
BEN: It felt good outside last night. I was up at 2, 2 -- 1 in the morning cleaning that carburetor. I'm really proud of myself on that carburetor.
TODD: You are.
BEN: I am. I mowed my, mowed my lawn today too. First time mowing the lawn.
TODD: That was the credit card machine.

[redacted]

[redacted]

BEN: Is it printing?
TODD: Prints the statement at night. I know you don't, you're not going to, no way I can explain all that, Ben, and have any of it --
BEN: I mean kind of, you're kind of asking me to try to cover up what you did.
TODD: I might have to, I might have to actually come out and just say hey that's what happened and resign.
BEN: Well I mean you're trying to avoid doing that though and I don't -- I never want you to do, don't want -- I don't know. I could have a lot, I have a lot invested in this thing too.
TODD: I know. What do you do though? What do you do? What do you do with a life and a wife and a marriage like that, what do you do? You divorce?
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: What do you do? What does Cindy do?
BEN: I don't know. Her kids are close to being out of the house.
TODD: They know that.
BEN: Well how old is the youngest one?
TODD: 15 and then 16.
BEN: You still got ten years.

TODD: "Breaking scandal, State Rep Courser caught on tape behind the Lansing nightclub."
BEN: You can't say on tape.
TODD: Why?
BEN: Because there's, because there's no tape.
TODD: "Behind a Lansing nightclub Truth is Courser secretly removed from caucus several weeks ago due to male on male paid-for sex behind prominent Lansing nightclub. He's a bisexual porn, porn-addicted sexual, sex deviant." And then you go, "His cock has been hanging out all over Lansing since the election, that's why he was thrown out of caucus."
BEN: Wait did we already say secretly thrown out of caucus? Oh, yeah, (inaudible).
TODD: Since the election. "He's a freak. He's a gun-toting, Bible-thumping, blah blah blah freak. He's not standing for small government, his whole personality is a sham. Government to build big government. He is a tool, pawn of the establishment. Past election he accused of child molestation."
BEN: Why the big government stuff?
TODD: You can get rid of it. What do you like, you want to just stay on point?
BEN: I don't know, it just seems odd

(inaudible).
TODD: Sham. Okay. Sham. "In the past election he's accused -- in the past election he's accused of child molestation, he's done things that should have him in jail. He doesn't work in Lansing, he's just there feeding his habit of alcohol, drugs, and illicit sex." Illicit is spelled wrong. "Most days he's a high stoned -- is high, stoned on drugs and alcohol while he's supposed to be voting inside the State House. In between all of those he's seduced and taken advantage of Rep Gamrat between votes. The people deserve to know the real reason she was thrown out by the Speaker is because she wouldn't stop being Courser's toy in caucus."
BEN: Toy in caucus?
TODD: Toy, say toy. "She should never have been -- she shouldn't have ever been trusted as State Rep and National Committee Woman. She's a tramp, a lie, and a laugh for this bisexual cock-sucking monster. This tea-bagger takes his title seriously, moaning and groaning, F'ing and screwing man on man, whoever he can pay. Pictures and video, YouTube tell the whole story and all of his exploits behind the nightclubs and hotels at some of the best and worst places in Lansing."
BEN: Pictures, YouTube?
TODD: What's that?

BEN: Are you implying that there's video or?
TODD: Yeah, I'm saying there is.
BEN: So people will look for them. And whole is spelled wrong.
TODD: Yeah. "Behind night clubs and hotels at some of the best and worst places in Lansing. With all the grinding, hot, sweaty sex and drugs used it's too much to hide anymore. He's a scam."
You want to just walk out buddy?
BEN: I'm going to think about it. Can I go for a drive? Stick my head out the window like one of those dogs (inaudible).
TODD: If you need to go for a drive go for a drive. That seems to be where you want to go. I just, I know you're not going to understand this.
BEN: I don't think that I do understand (inaudible) before but it's a little different.
TODD: This is a little different. If God wants to raise me back up, buddy, fine. I'm not perfect at all. You know, I don't know if our founders were perfect.
BEN: They weren't. Nobody is.
TODD: You know. I obviously am retarded and.

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 BEN: Okay.
2 TODD: Here's another government one.
3 BEN: You put more government in there?
4 TODD: Yeah. (Inaudible) small
5 government, his personality's a scam.
6 BEN: Okay. Let me think about it, I'll
7 be back. You're not going anywhere, are you?
8 TODD: Waiting here. This is the best I
9 had. I tell you I, I feel, you know, I wouldn't ask you
10 to do it if I really didn't think it was necessary.
11 BEN: All right.
12 TODD: Okay.
13 BEN: Yeah. (Inaudible.)
14 TODD: Sorry.
15 BEN: All right.
16 TODD: We'll talk more.
17 BEN: All right. Well hey (inaudible).
18 TODD: You think that's weird you should
19 see the relationship with my wife.
20 BEN: Yeah, that sounds weird too.
21 TODD: It's unfortunate, but.
22 BEN: All right, I'll be back.
23 TODD: Once you have children there's not
24 a whole hell of a lot you can do.
25 BEN: Yeah.

1 TODD: You have to decide how to handle
2 that and, you know, you make choices. And she[redacted]
[redacted]
7 BEN: Yeah. All right. I'll be back.
8 TODD: All right. I'll be here.
9 BEN: Okay.
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1 CERTIFICATE
2 STATE OF MICHIGAN
3 COUNTY OF [redacted]
4
5 I, [redacted], and Notary Public
6 in and for the County of [redacted], State of Michigan, do
7 hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and
8 complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the
9 time and place hereinbefore stated and they were
10 transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision.
11 The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not
12 made under my direction or control.
13
14 [redacted]
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[redacted]

[redacted]

Page 1

Audio Recording
From: 5/21
Duration: 1:07:44

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Page 2

* * *

TODD: Hey Ben?
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: You want to chat now because I think that that probably --
BEN: We have time later?
TODD: -- (inaudible) 11:00 thing and just chat for a few minutes? I don't know if you're --
BEN: You don't really have time right now.
TODD: Well just for a few minutes. I think it'll be --
BEN: Think it's a half an hour discussion? I got to prep you guys for session.
TODD: We don't have to chat but I think if we go to session we've stuck here until at least, we've been stuck here after 5:00 each time so.
BEN: All right.
TODD: Leave you an hour and a half introduction to that place. I'm not kidding.
BEN: Not always.
TODD: Sometimes. And then yesterday they had an hour of speeches (inaudible).
BEN: What, what were they speech,

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speechizing about?
TODD: It was that one bill, that local, that local --
BEN: Oh, they smacked that one down.
TODD: Yeah. I think (inaudible).
BEN: I don't know, I'm torn. (Inaudible.)
TODD: I don't think he left.
BEN: I don't (inaudible). (Inaudible.) At least give us an update on it.
CINDY: Oh this -- yeah, this is -- good. Okay.
BEN: This[redacted]?
CINDY: Yeah. I just have (inaudible) for a long time. He left me a note saying Mr. [redacted], [redacted], called.
BEN: Yeah, I saw an e-mail to me yesterday. I don't know who that is.
CINDY: Oh, [redacted] mailed you this?
BEN: Yeah. E-mail to voice mail messages.
CINDY: Okay.
BEN: Or messages.
CINDY: (Inaudible) about a month ago (inaudible).

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BEN: I'm not sure where that is, I have to go look through my records to see if there is a call from him. I'm just, I'll call him back today to see what is up with that. I don't really know what he --
CINDY: And Mr. [redacted] he Facebook messages me like every other day.
BEN: Yeah, he's a little off.
CINDY: Have you talked to him lately?
BEN: Not recently but I did get an update on what he needs to do, so. They're two separate, two separate ways to deal with his two separate issues.
CINDY: Okay. Can you make a call to him today?
BEN: Um-hum.
CINDY: (Inaudible) go over that?
BEN: Um-hum.
TODD: (Inaudible) what happened one more time then I will. Cindy, based on, you know, kind of the stuff that was happening with my phone, blowups, there was more of that, Ben.
BEN: What happened with your phone?
TODD: When you stopped in at the office Cindy only knows a little bit of that. You know, kind of the, the political side of all those pieces but obviously there's going to be, you know, there's going to be some

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 changes and there are some changes already occurring
2 between, you know, Cindy and I have been for a while
3 stuff that we talked about. You know, obviously what's
4 going on there, the question is who is it and why have
5 they done it. They didn't come forward with anything,
6 you know. The question is, is there, is there really
7 anything or is it something else that's going on. They
8 do have access to my phone and they have access to my
9 e-mails.
10 BEN: Access to your phone?
11 TODD: And access to my Facebook. So I
12 thought it was one of you guys, I thought it might have
13 been Josh that was involved in that. No, I mean access.
14 I thought maybe these messages that are already clicked
15 off in my e-mail, you know, you open it up and there are
16 all the new ones that flood in?
17 BEN: Um-hum.
18 TODD: And I open it up and they've
19 already been checked off in e-mail. Because I, you know,
20 and that tells me that somebody's already been --
21 BEN: Um-hum.
22 TODD: -- you know, was already been kind
23 of through it. And so and the person actually put back
24 tweets, I mean texts to me confirming that they were
25 reading my texts in my phone. One to (inaudible) and one

1 to someone else.
2 BEN: All right.
3 TODD: While they were texting me. So I
4 don't, I don't know who it is or what bullshit's going on
5 there but I spoke to [redacted] about some of that, you know.
6 And he just said, you know, you know, [redacted] is a great guy,
7 you know, obviously he would do things. He's, he's an
8 executor, that's what he does on stuff. [redacted] didn't know,
9 he didn't, you know, that's not really your thing but,
10 you know, [redacted] performed that and did it. Obviously it
11 was over-the-top and.
12 But I just wanted to sit down and
13 basically just give you an opportunity and if there's
14 anything you need to, you know, kind of divest inside of
15 that. I know it's kind of an awkward spot because one,
16 you know, we seem to be advocating for the right things,
17 at least I feel like we are, but there's also been a
18 heavy price in her family and also my family for the road
19 that I've taken.
20 I have some clear, clear issues in my own
21 house that have been there for a long time that people
22 don't recognize because we've done such a good job of not
23 making them recognizable. My mom has assisted in a whole
24 bunch of that in making sure that that's covered and
25 dealt with and has made that as manageable as possible.

1 And yet I do know that I still need to recommit, you
2 know, my effort, energy, and re-prioritize my time and
3 energy and make sure that's revisited and dealt with.
4 And I spent some time with mom, I visited
5 with her over the last two days and she, you know, she
6 agreed that, you know, some adjustments need to be made
7 and trying to, you know, try and make sure that I
8 prioritize things. It is, it's been, and you're not,
9 you're not in this side is a heavy weight, you know, the
10 stuff that we have to do and that doesn't justify any of
11 my actions or what I've done or been involved in.
12 And so, you know, I'm, I, I obviously
13 failed, fallen, and I don't blame anyone else for it,
14 even my wife. There's no, there's none of that but, but,
15 you know, I'm in this spot, supposed to do the best job
16 that I can advocating to the people I'm supposed to
17 advocate for even though I'm not perfect in any way,
18 shape, or form as I do it. And yet I can't condone or
19 allow my own self and behavior to, you know, be justified
20 because of, you know, X, Y, or Z.
21 And so when I came to you I knew it was
22 kind of a high bar and really a lot to ask and probably
23 was the wrong motive to do to kind of lay that on you. I
24 can see that as I laid it on you that there was so much
25 there. And I just want to really apologize to you for,

1 you know, kind of putting you in that spot. It was
2 awkward to say the least for you and, and I don't, you
3 know, I don't resent you at all for (inaudible) something
4 you can be involved in so. I, on the other hand, hope
5 you don't resent me at all because I went around you and
6 had it done anyway. But that's kind of sometimes that's,
7 that's how things, how things happen so.
8 BEN: I'm fine with it. I don't think
9 [redacted] should have done it, but.
10 TODD: Yeah. Yeah. Well you didn't do
11 it.
12 BEN: I don't think Ike should have
13 either, but.
14 TODD: Yeah. Yeah.
15 BEN: But that's his choice.
16 TODD: Yeah. Well he's done, he's done
17 other things in the past as well and he's the guy
18 obviously that, you know, I've done some things for and
19 he's done some things for me as well, so. You know, I,
20 the behavior how you, how you get to where you get to,
21 all I can really do is recommit from this spot to try and
22 do things right from here forward. But if you're a
23 member of the team and you're going to, you know, proceed
24 forward from here that obviously is something you were
25 probably working through yesterday and continue to work

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 through. And I know I've disappointed you and I've
2 broken that trust and I want to tell you that I'm really
3 sorry and I hope you can forgive me at some point for
4 that. And, and I just hope you can forgive me at some
5 point for that, so. So. And I know you may not have an
6 answer to all that today but I just wanted you to know
7 that and, so.
8 And I know that you have, you know, Cindy
9 has her own issues, her own family. Obviously they're
10 working through those struggles. Hers are a little
11 different than mine, you know. Not, not any less, you
12 know, significant or difficult to deal with but she still
13 has those and I don't want to speak for her on that side,
14 but. So I don't know if you, either one of you have more
15 to say on that regard.
16 BEN: I mean let's be clear here you
17 guys. You guys are having an affair. You've broken the
18 cardinal rule of politics. Never fuck your coworkers and
19 never fuck other representatives. Like it -- I'm sorry,
20 I don't, I don't know. I mean what are we doing here?
21 Like I've spent pretty much my entire adult life trying
22 to get you elected because I believed you were someone
23 who could be the politician that I thought that everybody
24 wanted you to be and it's obvious you're not that. I
25 know people, you know, we all make mistakes but this

1 isn't a mistake that someone in your position is, can
2 make. If you're just a small-town lawyer from Lapeer
3 nobody would care but, so. I don't know where we go from
4 here. I have to think about it. I mean I'm here today,
5 so.
6 TODD: Well I appreciate you coming today
7 and texting me back. You know, and I'm not perfect and
8 maybe that's something you're obviously, you know, you
9 felt I, you know, that's unforgivable or can't be dealt
10 with. You know, I --
11 BEN: I don't know, it's still kind of
12 fresh, so.
13 TODD: Yeah.
14 BEN: I mean how long has this been going
15 on? A year, two years?
16 TODD: No. No. I mean I don't want to
17 go through the circumstances of how that, how that
18 developed. Certainly doesn't go back to the beginning of
19 our situation there. It doesn't at all. So.
20 BEN: The Chair race?
21 TODD: No, not at all.
22 BEN: The summer after?
23 TODD: No.
24 BEN: During the campaign?
25 TODD: I don't know, I don't know the

1 specific date but it was, it wasn't back in the beginning
2 and it wasn't yesterday, how's that? So.
3 BEN: All right I guess.
4 TODD: So. But you know you, you, you
5 know, you can, you can pass judgment however you think
6 that fits and I understand. You know, some things
7 happened and some things happened and shouldn't have
8 happened and recommitting to try and, you know, try and
9 walk correctly from here forward is what is supposed to,
10 you're supposed to do, or at least I feel that that's
11 what I'm supposed to do, and take those steps, so. You
12 know, I think that Cindy's got to kind of decide that for
13 her own family what does that mean and, you know.
14 BEN: I'm, I'm not sure if you can
15 properly reconcile this by covering it up. It's going to
16 come out. I mean it's not -- this kind of shit never
17 stays hidden, especially when you got somebody on the
18 outside that's got something on it. I mean
19 TODD: Well they say they have. They
20 haven't offered any proof that they have.
21 BEN: Have you asked them for proof? I
22 mean we talked about that the other day, but.
23 TODD: They said they were going to offer
24 it. They haven't.
25 CINDY: Ben, there's no, there's really

1 no way to reconcile it. I mean there is, there is no
2 way. There --
3 BEN: I told Todd to resign and quietly
4 go away.
5 CINDY: You --
6 BEN: Mark Sanford has done it. He came
7 back later, ran for Congress, and won.
8 CINDY: (Inaudible) starting out with
9 family.
10 BEN: Uh-uh.
11 CINDY: And I can honestly tell you I
12 never thought I'd be in this spot. (Inaudible) spot.
13 There's a lot you don't know about my marriage and I kind
14 of brought it up that one night. It's something, it's
15 something that probably should have ended a long time
16 ago. Have you ever been in an abusive relationship?
17 BEN: Yeah.
18 CINDY: But it's something I didn't want
19 to end and I've tried really hard to not for my children.
20 I mean there are some really dark stuff there that I
21 can't tell you, I can't, can't (inaudible) more even now
22 just that than anybody.
23 TODD: I think even in your own family.
24 CINDY: It is something that should have
25 ended a long time ago but I didn't want to, I didn't know

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 how to. It's something I've tried to get help for, try
2 to heal from, while at the same time really feeling like
3 God was still calling me to do this.
4 So it's really hard when your life is not
5 really good and you're trying to work that out and you're
6 hoping you work that out as it goes, you're hoping. I
7 mean you are, you're hoping, you know, you're hoping that
8 you don't put the rest of your, the rest of your life on
9 hold but you're hoping you can work it out as it goes.
10 It's not, for me, about reconciling
11 necessarily for myself but it's for my children, you
12 know, and, and doing what I can now to protect them and
13 if there's some way I can do that. If this gets out then
14 all that other ugly stuff gets out. And I don't want
15 that for them either. It's just something really hard to
16 tell anybody, let alone my own safety now being at risk
17 if somebody knows. That's why I didn't tell you Ben, so
18 I don't tell anybody. So there's just a lot more to it
19 than what you know or what you see and --
20 BEN: I mean guys, I feel for you in that
21 you have --
22 CINDY: It doesn't --
23 BEN: -- some tough --
24 CINDY: It doesn't justify --
25 BEN: -- some tough situations, but

1 CINDY: Ben, I'm not saying it justifies
2 it, anything. I --
3 BEN: But like you, you guys are all
4 about like the cause and, you know, liberty and all that
5 stuff.
6 CINDY: That's all important stuff.
7 BEN: And Christianity. And to be honest
8 if this comes out, which it probably will, you will have
9 done more damage than any representative over there.
10 CINDY: What damage to who?
11 BEN: To the cause and to the Christian,
12 to the Christian cause most of all. I mean the two most
13 outspoken Christian conservatives in Lansing are fucking
14 each other? Like it's national news, Rachel Maddow is
15 going to be talking about it.
16 CINDY: Just because I sunk obviously in
17 my marriage and I can't figure it out and get it right
18 doesn't mean that marriage isn't something that's good
19 and worthy to be advocating for.
20 BEN: I know.
21 CINDY: There is nobody perfect that --
22 BEN: I'm just telling you, I'm just
23 telling you what, what's going to happen. I mean I'm not
24 saying it's not, that's how it is. And I'm not trying to
25 be combative here, I, so --

1 CINDY: You can be whatever you want to
2 be. (Inaudible.)
3 BEN: I'm not, I'm not trying to make the
4 situation harder I just, it's already hard enough, so.
5 TODD: Maybe mine should, maybe mine
6 should end ten years ago, you know.
7 BEN: I can't really say, but.
8 TODD: Well I'm just saying I mean you
9 didn't, you can't wait and there's, there's a pretty
10 clear call on my, on my life to do this. I mean hell, I
11 didn't, it just happened. You know, I get up every day,
12 stay up every night, you know, the flag and the cause and
13 you just keep going forward. And, you know, and that in
14 some ways provided the home life, because there was no
15 home life freed me up to do far more than I probably
16 should have, you know.
17 When you have, you know your wife doesn't
18 want you there and you really want to live a more
19 separate life and she's got a lot of her own issues
20 totally different than, than, you know, Cindy's
21 situation. But, you know, the uniqueness of her problems
22 gave me the freedom to be able to go and speak a hundred
23 times a year, you know. You don't have a spouse who you
24 go home and that spouse doesn't, does not speak to you.
25 And I don't say anything bad, I don't, there's not any

1 harsh word, we do everything clerically for the children
2 and that, that needs to change, it needs to be, you know.
3 And even though she's going to do that I need to take
4 steps to be able to straighten those things out, you
5 know, and like I said I work through that with my family.
6 My family's done a great job knowing all
7 of those problems, my immediate family, of being able to
8 shelter and, and shoulder that burden with my children
9 and with my wife. My mother's a great intermediary to be
10 able to do that. She stepped in, basically mitigated all
11 of her time into making that happen, and providing that
12 background for her son so that these things could move
13 forward.
14 It doesn't justify any of it, you know,
15 me, me being whatever my, my failings are as a human
16 being. You know, you still need people who are willing
17 to advocate for the right things. Even though I don't
18 meet that standard and I know, you know, I'm not as
19 legalistic maybe as others in regards to that. I don't
20 justify, I'm not justifying any of my, any of my actions
21 at all. It pains me that there isn't a close
22 relationship. I went through five counsellors, she's
23 gone on her own, you know. We've dealt with all kinds of
24 really, really tough stuff that I hope you don't ever
25 have to deal with.

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 I didn't know where the hell she was at.
2 I wake up and she's gone. She's gone to Flint, you know,
3 I don't know where the hell she's at. I didn't come
4 home, Ben, for ten years, I didn't come home wondering
5 whether or not the house was going to be clean or the
6 supper's going to be made, I came home wondering whether
7 she's going to [redacted]. You know, it was, it was just a
8 messed up thing, it's in a lot better spot now. You
9 know, in the last couple years is in a lot better spot
10 because I don't put any pressure on her whatsoever to do
11 anything. Not even stop by the office. She's, she's
12 given the ability just to kind of go the way that, and
13 it's turned into a maintenance that we do.
14 It doesn't make it right but, you know,
15 I, you know, obviously we're recommitting, you know,
16 she's going through the steps, it's all fresh and new to
17 try and take those steps back in the right direction.
18 What does that look like for her own family, I have to do
19 the same thing for mine. But that's an ongoing
20 discussion that we have to continue to do.
21 But on the flip side, yeah, protecting
22 ourselves with an e-mail that goes out to, you may not
23 agree with the steps, but, you know, if I can save my
24 children, my wife, you know, pretty much knows the man
25 that she's married to. I can save my children from a bit

1 of that pain and a bit (inaudible) that are there then
2 great. Have I written my apology letter? Absolutely.
3 Have I for public? Absolutely. Is it there? Sure.
4 Right. I've done it. But if you can avoid that in
5 trying to straighten those things out you're supposed to
6 do when it comes to privacy and you're supposed to deal
7 with privately, it's a public thing you deal with
8 publicly. If it can't be dealt with privately then you
9 have to deal with it publicly.
10 And then so I don't think that I, if I
11 have to be perfect before I can advocate for the things
12 that I advocate for I think that's one of the things I
13 advocate against. So I don't know if that's inconsistent
14 or whatever.
15 BEN: You don't have to be perfect you
16 just have to not do this, that's all. I mean it's like
17 the one thing you can't do. There's a couple others,
18 drugs, alcohol, booze, strippers, you know, but.
19 You got to go soon. Where were you going
20 from here?
21 CINDY: Ben.
22 BEN: What adjustments were you making
23 from here? I mean (inaudible).
24 CINDY: I don't know (inaudible), I don't
25 know that I won't resign. I don't know. (Inaudible.) I

1 don't know what is the best answer because if I did it,
2 I'd like to be able to work that through with my family
3 still privately as much as possible and still give it the
4 best shot I can. I'm sorry, I'm sorry we put you in this
5 position.
6 BEN: Yeah, I am too.
7 CINDY: I'm sorry for that. And so I
8 don't know what the answer is or what is the best way to,
9 you know, because of a mistake that we made and I would
10 rather try to correct that privately.
11 BEN: That's, that's your guys's
12 decision. I, I won't be involved in any --
13 TODD: Coverup.
14 BEN: -- any coverup. I will come to
15 work and do my job here, I won't be involved in any
16 outside extracurricular things. I'll be, I'm still
17 strongly considering whether or not I'll be here in any
18 long-term or short-term capacity, so.
19 TODD: Yeah, I think you have to kind of
20 walk it out. You know, I'm sorry, you know, it came down
21 to, came down to that. I think we know the situation or
22 how the texts are happening and, you know, pretty good
23 handle on, you know, where that's coming from, what's
24 going on there.
25 So I don't have a, I don't have an answer

1 for you, Ben. I, you know, and I'm really, I'm really
2 sorry as well. I know I said it but I'm really sorry
3 that you're in this spot. And I talked it over, I talked
4 it over with my mom, I talked it over in the past with --
5 BEN: Your mom knows about this?
6 TODD: My mom knows there's someone, I
7 don't speak specifically. I don't speak specifically
8 about this, I'm talking about, I can't speak specifically
9 with her. She just tells me, you know, it's, when I, I
10 mean she, she knows the past situations that have
11 happened. She doesn't know what's going on today with
12 this, I didn't share it with her, but I'm just talking
13 about that I get counsel from her, I get counsel from a
14 couple of others in my family in regards to the stuff
15 that's there and, and it comes to the spot where that
16 decision needs to be made in the family I'll seek the
17 counsel of people in the family and I'll do the same
18 thing as far as resigning.
19 So I have, I have to look at it and say
20 can I advocate, in spite of my failings, as long as I can
21 for the right things and do that as best I can, you know.
22 I'm not trying to justify anything that I've done and
23 take the right steps forward, each time just try to take
24 the right steps forward. If I can do that is the
25 district and is the cause better off by me doing that?

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 That's been a heavy price for my family but it is, it is
2 certainly the call of my life so.
3 Would it have been easier to be divorced?
4 Sure. Would that put more pressure on my children who
5 hasn't been through it? Absolutely. Do my children
6 know? They know that there's something wrong between
7 their mother and father, they have some (inaudible) you
8 know. They, they, they understand that, we've already
9 worked through it, they know the issues with their
10 mother, developed all kinds of workarounds for that kind
11 of stuff. So we came, come to that this is the best
12 solution that we have in our family over the last ten
13 years.
14 And it changes from time to time. You
15 know, she needs to get out and disappear for a couple of
16 days she does, shopping or whatever island she's gone to,
17 you know. You know, cruises. Try to create a little bit
18 flexibility in that platform to be able to let that
19 person have a little more latitude.
20 But, you know, the staff obviously
21 doesn't, wouldn't know this. A couple of close friends
22 would know it. Beyond that it's, you know, obviously
23 it's, you know, it's dangerous for everybody. So I know
24 it looks bad, it looks terrible, so.
25 BEN: All right. You've got, you've got

1 to go.
2 TODD: Well I don't. I mean I'll get
3 there (inaudible). We're doing a joint meeting, they're
4 actually going to cover some stuff (inaudible).
5 BEN: Yeah. I for, I forget what it was.
6 TODD: What you're, you're, you know,
7 you're really important to me. I know it's been hard as
8 hell and I'm not easy to deal with and I'll totally
9 respect you if you need to leave, I understand that.
10 BEN: Well this hasn't helped. I mean
11 looking back now I understand a whole lot more about our,
12 the past four or five months.
13 TODD: Ten years.
14 BEN: Six -- well --
15 TODD: Try ten years. You can look all
16 the way back now.
17 BEN: No, but -- well maybe.
18 TODD: It will make, it will make a
19 little more sense if you look further back.
20 BEN: A little bit.
21 TODD: But four or five months will
22 probably make a lot --
23 BEN: The last six or eight months make a
24 lot more sense.
25 TODD: So, well you, probably some of it

1 makes sense, it isn't quite the way you're --
2 BEN: It makes more sense.
3 TODD: Well you'll think every time that
4 we're not here that there's something going on when in
5 reality we're at Big Boy, you know, someplace else having
6 breakfast, you know what I'm saying. It isn't, hasn't
7 been quite the, you know, quite the (inaudible) you're
8 maybe thinking, but.
9 Anyway I just, obviously I just wanted
10 you to know, I wanted you to be here. I don't know if
11 this clears that you got to deal with what you got to
12 deal with and you got to decide obviously if you're, if
13 you're working for me or if you're working for the
14 representative for the district, you know. How does that
15 look because you know those issues. I know that's always
16 tough for the ladies in the office, it has been at times,
17 you know, Lynn, Karen, you know, whoever else has become
18 along the way where, you know, Lynn, Lyan says you know,
19 you are messed up, you know, you've got some flaws. She
20 said but you haven't worked for this lawyer, that lawyer,
21 or this lawyer. Compared to those guys you're a saint,
22 you know. You know what I'm saying, like there's a, so.
23 So.
24 Anything else, Cindy, in regards to that?
25 CINDY: You know, I think Ben what you're

1 saying is part of it is, you know, I'm pretty messed up.
2 Pretty messed up marriage and have had for a long time
3 and (inaudible). You know, but I just, I hope you can
4 forgive me. Maybe you can't, maybe, maybe you're not
5 messed up in any way or --
6 BEN: I'm not --
7 CINDY: -- and don't know what that is
8 like but if I can try to, and I have been trying and it's
9 been really hard, you know, knowing what I've been living
10 with (inaudible) still do these things. Still felt God
11 calling me to do those things and I still do. And maybe
12 he's got a reason for some of this, maybe he can redeem
13 it in some way. I don't feel right now like I'm supposed
14 to resign, I don't. And I know you're saying can you
15 even be Christian. Yeah, I'm a Christian. I believe in
16 God because I'm so screwed up.
17 BEN: Well I'm not, no, I'm not saying --
18 CINDY: It's not because I'm perfect.
19 BEN: I'm not saying that, I mean.
20 CINDY: But does that happen? I don't, I
21 don't know, maybe. But if, if not and if you can't work
22 here I understand, okay.
23 BEN: All right.
24 TODD: I would just second that. I mean,
25 you know, obviously I mean you look at it you just say

[redacted]

[redacted]

hey what's the, you know, what's the situation there. And, you know, I'm not quite as, I used to be really legalistic about all that. I'm, you know, [redacted] obviously isn't quite as legalistic and yet completely a believer in Christ and, you know, and he, you know, and I said hey I need you to do this and he said I understand, you know. He executes and does it because I've asked him to do it. I said, you know, I said do you need, do you need to know why, he said I already know why, okay. Thank you. You know. He's a, and then he just said what the hell did you think was going to happen.

And I thought, well maybe he was thinking, he said you've been (inaudible) down here for a long time, he said it's not even safe for me to talk to you on the phone anymore. He said they're tapped in everywhere on you, you know. So, you know, so there is a, there is an awareness that that is the, that's the situation. But it doesn't mean that I'm not supposed to continue to go forward as best I can and just assume that, you know, my failings, you know, my failings are my failings. And, you know, I don't advocate, you know, I try not to be in my, in my messaging or my speaking in some way, you know, act with arrogance or hubris even though people think that, but I'm just a sinner saved by grace, you know. I'm just as screwed up as anybody.

And if you put that impediment and your life has to be straightened around, everything in your inbox has to be cleaned and everything in your life has to be straightened around and nobody ever does anything because that's the impediment in front of that they say well I can't do it unless I have this, this, and this. Unfortunately my life, her life, you know, I don't know about your inbox because I don't know your inbox, I don't know what goes on in your life.

BEN: I'm not perfect.

TODD: What's that?

BEN: I'm not perfect.

TODD: Not perfect, right. The nice thing you have though is nobody looking, right?

BEN: I'd rather keep it that way.

TODD: You'd rather keep it that way. Well my children would rather keep it that way too, you know. They love their anonymity and my wife does as well. They cherish it because they haven't had it. And there's probably a harder, the harder deal there but, but I lost it a long time ago. I'll tell you I had an arrogance about marriage, that I'd done it all right, everything was right, everything was, you know, it was other people that were screwed up and, you know, you just realize it's not that at all because yours is then at

that point is totally crushed and shattered. And wasn't by, wasn't from my end to my understanding.

What the person just says they, you go through those steps and after that you just walk around and say hey, I don't know where you're at, but you know, you know, Jesus loves you and God bless you and just do the best damn thing you can do today to try and do it right. And I got that my advice from my mom as I was going through that because honestly I didn't want to live, you know. It was a really messed up spot and this is before politics happened and you had to finally get to a spot where you realize you couldn't be good enough. You couldn't. And after you got to that spot, you know, you, you, you realize and then God kind of brought in this next thing and you're supposed to step forward. And as I'm stepping forward I'm thinking if anyone knows how messed up my family is, you know, my marriage situation at that moment, if anyone knows that I shouldn't be, I shouldn't be elected or put on stage anywhere. That goes all the way back to the beginning, you know. And yet for some reason God continued in that direction, you know, he's continued to open doors and organize things and, you know, continue to lay on my heart the plight of the country. And in that is sort of that revelation that is can't be solved without God. It can't. So. My failing,

my failings don't diminish that. I think that's (inaudible).

CINDY: God still works through imperfect people, (inaudible) people. I still, I still want to be used by God as the one doing things that God is calling me to. But I would, I would ask you, Ben, to just keep this private. It's not just about protecting me, it's also about protecting Joe and the kids, but him as well and so. And maybe I've been doing that too long and maybe that's part of the problem is I can't seem to get beyond that step. Because if something happened, you know, and that gets out and, you know, sometimes you can have good parts in you and not good parts.

TODD: In Joe's situation it would end up being some legal stuff, so.

CINDY: But you still kind of have hope for that person and you still try, you know. You don't want to just -- so.

TODD: One of the issues is that the, the contact I'm about 90, 80 to 90 percent sure is Joe himself trying to get her --

BEN: Text messages?

TODD: -- trying to get her to resign.

CINDY: Yeah.

TODD: And inside of that there's

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 actually nothing more than that, it's just trying to
2 bring that, bring her to that spot. Which is messed up
3 all in of itself, but, but he's obviously into my phone
4 and to wherever else. And he's a pretty, pretty crafty
5 guy when it comes to all that. But he's also been
6 involved in some things that, that are highly illegal and
7 the Attorney General would get certainly involved in, in
8 what has happened. So it's past all this when it comes
9 to what she's had to deal with in regards to that. It's
10 been going on a lot longer than her and I have, you know,
11 her and I have been going on.
12 So the person has, has convinced me, and
13 I think they're absolutely right, that, that someone in
14 this office is connected to them and giving them
15 information. And the only person that I can see that
16 would have done that in the relationship, I don't see you
17 connecting with Joe because I don't think you're very
18 fond of him. Keith, Keith connects with Joey but I think
19 that kind of got shut down as far as specifics. This
20 person knew where we stayed in Washington and that Don
21 and Ray were there.
22 BEN: Hmm.
23 TODD: And they knew where we were at and
24 they were there. So this goes --
25 BEN: Dan, Dan and Ray were there? I

1 don't think you told me that.
2 TODD: Right. You know who, you know who
3 told me that they knew? Josh. The day after we came
4 back.
5 BEN: I don't think he talked to Joe.
6 TODD: I'm just telling you there's --
7 BEN: If they had a PI on you they could
8 have followed you to D.C. and.
9 TODD: It's not that easy to do.
10 BEN: Well if they had your phone tapped,
11 your e-mail tapped.
12 TODD: They, they could, however they did
13 it --
14 BEN: You guys set up meetings over
15 e-mail, right?
16 TODD: We, you go --
17 CINDY: Can I --
18 TODD: -- you doing the same thing we did
19 first.
20 CINDY: Can I ask you a question?
21 BEN: I'm just thinking it through right
22 now.
23 CINDY: On the calendar Ben.
24 BEN: For today?
25 CINDY: No, just my calendar.

1 BEN: Yeah.
2 CINDY: Who sees that? Oh, I guess I
3 would.
4 BEN: You can look. You're the only one
5 who's getting permissions for anything. I don't even
6 have the, I don't have the password to your, to that
7 gmail account to even give or take away permissions on
8 your calendar anyway.
9 CINDY: I'll look it up and see.
10 TODD: Do you have permissions to my Tod
11 Courser blog?
12 BEN: I did, I don't know if I still do.
13 TODD: Right.
14 BEN: I mean I --
15 TODD: So you're, you know what I'm
16 saying. I, I, when I looked at you you're not --
17 BEN: I mean I have all your, I have all
18 your passwords.
19 TODD: You know where they're at.
20 BEN: I know where to access them.
21 TODD: That's the problem with tech
22 people because they don't really think of things as
23 private, it's just information that you shuffle from
24 place to place. You know, you just kind of like yeah, I
25 need the info and I get here and I throw it here and I

1 just kind of move it around. Other people think wait,
2 you know, shit.
3 BEN: Yeah.
4 TODD: You know, but, but the person knew
5 that the day after we got back. They knew all those
6 details.
7 BEN: They been texting you since then?
8 TODD: No, they, they're giving me that
9 they knew when, how we got back, they knew all of the
10 steps of that.
11 BEN: But they told you this the day
12 after you got back?
13 TODD: No, they told me this.
14 BEN: Oh.
15 TODD: They knew the infor -- they knew
16 the steps. So my sense was, and Josh gave me some, it
17 felt like Josh had been communicating with this person
18 unknowing, either, one, they don't know that it's this
19 person or, two, that it was Joe. Those were the two
20 spots I got to because when Josh left he said, you know,
21 I heard that you had taken [redacted] and [redacted] to D.C. and that
22 was some good -- well nobody knew that. I didn't share
23 that with you guys.
24 BEN: Well Georgianne knew I guess.
25 TODD: Correct. I'm just saying

[redacted]

[redacted]

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1 politically --
2 BEN: Yeah.
3 TODD: -- I asked on my side don't say
4 anything about that.
5 BEN: Hmm.
6 TODD: For one I didn't want anybody to
7 know we went to D.C.
8 BEN: Well I knew that, but.
9 TODD: Well you knew we went to D.C.
10 because it was on the calendar. I'm just saying somebody
11 had access to know where, what hotel we stayed at, what
12 our itinerary was, all of that. Which was fine because
13 there's four of us bumming around D.C., we had, you know,
14 we had a good time, we got to see all, you know, not all
15 the monuments but a lot of them. And it was good to have
16 the two of them there.
17 I tried to on the front end, these were
18 steps being taken months ago so, you know, say hey, you
19 need to put in, you need to put in some things to try and
20 change that dynamic, but also I need to make that
21 decision if I was going to take those steps forward I
22 needed to make that decision with the fact that the
23 family's involved. [redacted] are well aware of the
24 fact that it's a difficult situation with my wife. Very
25 difficult situation. What I'm telling you is, what I'm

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1 telling you is that the family has, has done the, what I
2 would say is just an enormous amount of work to try and
3 make that as, as easy as possible.
4 And honestly, quite honestly, in the last
5 I would say year and a half or two years my wife has been
6 the best year and a half or two years of when what we're
7 talking about here. Even though there's no, there's no
8 real physical connecting or spiritual connecting or
9 mental connecting or any of that sort of thing, I'm just
10 saying she just functions the best that she has in, in
11 years with the children and everything. Not that you
12 need to know that, I hope to God I hope you never go
13 through any of that with your, you know, your son and
14 your wife, I hope that you guys have the perfect marriage
15 and you guys are able to --
16 BEN: It's not perfect.
17 TODD: Well I'm just saying I'm hoping
18 that you don't have and you don't face anything, you
19 won't face, you know, the situation [redacted]
20 [redacted]. But I, I hope you don't
21 face the adversity that, you know, the levels of
22 adversity, you know, that we've had to, that we've had to
23 deal with. And --
24 CINDY: Maybe later Ben you can show me
25 how to tell on the calendar. I can't --

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1 BEN: It's pretty easy.
2 CINDY: You can, yeah.
3 BEN: I can show you now. It should be,
4 as far as I know it's just you, Todd, me, Keith.
5 CINDY: I don't know if Josh was still on
6 there.
7 BEN: I don't know, I haven't removed
8 him. Have you removed him?
9 CINDY: Okay. So that's what I was going
10 to check. I --
11 BEN: Yeah, I mean I can't, I don't have
12 your --
13 TODD: You probably need to do that and
14 begin the process of pulling him out of that. I don't
15 know how he's doing. I know that, you know, there's, you
16 know, some whatever there's the issue, you know, those
17 issues that are there with him.
18 BEN: I don't think he would have
19 anything to do with this.
20 CINDY: I'm not --
21 BEN: I don't think he --
22 TODD: I don't think he, I don't think he
23 had anything to do with this, I'm not saying he had
24 anything to do with this knowingly. I wasn't suggesting
25 that he had.

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1 BEN: He's pretty careful, I mean.
2 TODD: He is but he also loves the inside
3 stuff.
4 BEN: Yeah, but.
5 TODD: So. He is. I'm not, I'm not, I'm
6 not hostile with Josh. I'm just telling you if he's
7 communicating unknowingly information with someone is
8 what I was referring to.
9 BEN: I have no idea.
10 TODD: Or they're communicating with him
11 somehow, so.
12 CINDY: He is on here.
13 BEN: Um-hum.
14 CINDY: Josh is on (inaudible). I just
15 hit, I just hit the trash can to remove him.
16 BEN: Oh, did you?
17 CINDY: Yeah.
18 TODD: So --
19 BEN: (Inaudible.)
20 CINDY. Now it's Keith, Keith, Todd, you
21 so that's it. Okay, Josh was on there.
22 BEN: Yeah.
23 CINDY: All right.
24 TODD: So I don't know where we really go
25 from here. You obviously make your decision, I respect

[redacted]

[redacted]

you either way on that. And, you know, you obviously there's some stuff you'll have to work through and now if you can't work with me with the expectation of perfection then I, I don't, you're entitled to whatever your expectation are, I just want to tell you I'm really sorry, so

BEN: Well I didn't think you'd be perfect but it wasn't exactly something that I --

TODD: I'm less than perfect.

BEN: -- considered.

TODD: Yeah. Well I don't know, you probably didn't consider any of this, so.

BEN: No.

TODD: Right. Probably not. So.

BEN: I really didn't think my life here would be like an episode of House of Cards.

CINDY: (Inaudible.)

BEN: You haven't seen House of Cards so you wouldn't --

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: -- you wouldn't --

TODD: I haven't seen that.

CINDY: I don't, I don't need any of this.

BEN: Yeah. Guess you're not going to

your thing, huh?

TODD: I guess I missed it.

BEN: You're 17 minutes late.

TODD: Yeah. I don't need to go. Do I?

BEN: I don't remember what they were talking about but it didn't sound that important.

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: You're already late so I would say it's better to be not there than walk in --

CINDY: 20 minutes.

BEN: -- 20 minutes late.

Let me look at these bills so I can tell you guys what's up with that. Can you throw up the explanation so I'll print them out?

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: Then we'll go over that.

TODD: If there's anything else on that Ben, I mean I don't know what it is. I'll just continue to work through with my, you know, with my family and everything and, you know, and I know you said that hey that's what Josh or whatever thought and whatever else it is. You know, and there was some issues obviously with Josh and I don't know, I wish I could have worked those out but, you know, it just didn't, it didn't work. I thought he was unfit for the situation we had regardless

if any of this was here and my assessment of that still is the same in regards to him. But I still love the guy, I absolutely do, and I think he's got some really cool talents. I just don't think they were necessarily suited to an administrative (inaudible) situation. I just didn't see it.

BEN: I thought he did all right.

TODD: Yeah, well you weren't in Muskegon, drive over there, you know, five hours to --

BEN: I know. It wasn't exactly his fault or any of our faults to be honest with you.

TODD: Well it's always the thing --

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: -- there's one person whose fault I know it's not, mine.

BEN: Huh?

TODD: And I'm the one --

BEN: Fair, fair enough.

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: Fair enough.

TODD: Yeah, you know, so that was on the heels of --

BEN: We chewed out some other staff over that, so.

TODD: Yeah, I'm just saying on the heels

of --

BEN: And I actually feel bad about that, because [redacted]

TODD: Oh, the guy, (inaudible) guy?

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: Oh, I'm sorry.

BEN: [redacted]

TODD: Yeah.

CINDY: Can I just, I just want to --

TODD: Yeah.

CINDY: -- I just want to ask if just would just pray about it and, you know, grace is something that is undeserving. You know, I certainly don't deserve your forgiveness or grace but I'm asking you to give me a try. I want you around still, you know. If you're willing to extend that second chance.

BEN: Yeah, I appreciate that.

CINDY: But if you can give us, you know, that as you're deciding or making some, you know, some, let us know so he can -- like Josh left and he's gone. I wasn't expecting it at all so (inaudible) with that.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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BEN: Yeah, I, I really don't know right now, so.

TODD: Well some on, on, obviously the understanding the transfer, you know, you know, those are pieces, you know. They, it's, it's if you're here, if you're here because I'm, you know, I'm perfect or that I'm infallible or won't screw up again then I would just say turn in your two week notice because I'm going to screw up again. I don't think like this necessarily but it will be something. I'm not --

CINDY: My marriage might not last, I don't know what happens there, you know, so if I, I'm the same way. If that's too much for, I can't really tell you the details of that.

BEN: It's fine.

TODD: There's a lot more people involved when you start getting out a little wider than that anyway, so. But I have to look at it I say well you and me screwed up, is it better than Peabody, or is better than whoever else, you know. You know what I'm saying, you able to do the right things and voice the right things.

BEN: Yeah, she is an idiot.

TODD: (Inaudible.) Right, well that's what I, you know, so I have to look at it and say yeah,

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you're screwed up, but when you compare yourself to the alternative that the district would have had and you have to suffer under that, you know, I, that's how I, you know.

And, you know, when I screwed up and, you know, the situation what I have, you know, my, you know, my, you know, you just, you just get up and you say, you know, just try to do some good today, you know. You just try. You know, try and get it right, try and do some good, and try and take some good steps forward. And you can't, you know, you can't do that then, you know, I don't know, the country have much, much chance of surviving any longer anyway. But you have to have people who are willing to set aside their own failings, you know, their own repercussions, their own, you know, scandals and potential scandals and what people are going to say about them. You have to have people who are just going to set that aside and just say I'm just going to, I'm just going to keep clawing forward and trying to say the right things and trying to live the right way.

CINDY: I'm, I'm convinced that I've always, I've always wondered why do people turn or, you know, you're like why would they vote like that or why -- none of us are perfect and I think everyone has got something that maybe they're not proud of or, you know,

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whether it's a business, something in business that they did or finances or a relationship or I, you know, whatever, alcohol, drugs, you know, like you said. But I, I wouldn't doubt it for a minute that that's not what's going on here and at the U.S. Capital. That stuff is, what, however they need to they dig up whatever it is on anybody, and that's how you win. That's how they win because there is no perfect person in there.

TODD: You become so --

CINDY: And that's how they win.

TODD: Yep. And you become beholden to your own public image in a way that, you know, you just do. And I think that the reason, honestly I think one of the reasons that I lost 47 times before I got here, I think God was dealing with all of that on the front end. It's like, you know, they can say whatever they can say about me. I don't think I have a whole lot of, there isn't a whole lot of me left. I know I can't do a damn thing over here or here that's going to have any meaning whatsoever long-term at all if God isn't in and he's not the one doing it.

And, you know, I, I go with the Scripture, a lot of people go for Scripture looking for all the successes and I go in there and see one failure after another. Absolutely abject failure from the first

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moments in Genesis to the end, you know. It's just one failure after another in story after story after story and, you know, and yet God called those people to do stuff, you know.

He called David to do amazing things, you know, in spite of his own failings, you know. And there's only, there's only (inaudible) something bad said about him in the Bible. And just very few people, Moses, you know, his family, Ramses. So you, you, what you become acquainted with is you walk along and maybe you're not there but at least I have read Scripture and that's what I do mostly on the House floor. That sounds crazy. I have it on my phone, you know, but, what I have become more acquainted with is the failure in the Bible because during that, you know, that isn't those people doing it, it's God in his, you know, his awesome beauty and majesty and, you know, his brilliance and perfection. And he's doing that with people that are completely incapable of carrying any of that themselves, you know. So, so that's, maybe that's what I've learned along the way.

CINDY: Yeah. And I think it's through sometimes failure that you prove the most, you know, because it's hard, you know, you grow in a lot of ways. The one thing if, if we do leave or resign, they win what they wanted from the beginning. I don't know, is that

[redacted]

[redacted]

the answer? You know what I'm saying? They win.

TODD: In, in worldly terms they won already anyway, you know. Like they, we might stop a bill and we're only going to stop it for a few minutes of history before they'll bring it again and, you know, wave it through and then, you know, wireless, wireless will come back again, you know.

BEN: It will be back in lame duck.

TODD: It will be back. And, you know, we'll just bring it back.

CINDY: (Inaudible) the one they used to --

TODD: But our success, you know, isn't -- they design success by what they decide in the system success is which is getting bills through the system in their process that they have all the doors closed for where they want them closed. And the way they do that is, you know, suck up and do all the steps to make sure that you, that you get those done and they define what that success looks like. And we are offensive to that, you know.

Unfortunately the one friend I have in this situation is her. And likewise her, she has a few more friends than I do that will help out on things, you know, but. But they design what success looks like.

Unfortunately that success, you know, we're not here for that, you know.

I mean the idea of tearing down, how you tear that institution down, one of it is that you need to make kind of like with a Chair race, you need to make them bleed. You need to make people see that you can actually stand against that and refuse to submit to their subtle, you know, their subtle insinuations because they get you everywhere. And we've done that and done it repeatedly and then just sort of in-your-face coming back at them and challenging the speakership and leadership. That in and of itself, it sort of cracks that foundation of what I see is just that whole, that whole machine.

And you just do the best. I think that's really the, the, you know, the -- and I don't know that's all of it, I'm just saying tactically those are some of the things I have to look at because I can't look at bill successes being my reason for being here. I have to look at it for something else that there's a way to be able to bring this down and how do we do that. How do we make this, you know, this process less theater and really more in line with moving liberty forward, so. And that's been hard because I want to see things moved. I'd like to, you know, have success in my terms and just be able to do it but I just know now there's very, very difficult to

see that, to see that happen, so.

CINDY: Yeah. You're, you're going to, you're in a position right now that is unique and no one else is, is honestly in your position. This right here right now. You know, maybe there's something that you can glean from it, Ben. And we know that's part (inaudible) bill, I don't know, but no one else is going to, no one else knows what you know like this and what I have shared especially. So I would say if something can come from that with your wife and your future and, you know, I would just say the things, if you see things going downhill take care of them when they're little, you know. (Inaudible) maybe you can learn that from both of us and glean something from it, because it's not something you plan on, you know. For me and my situation it's something that has just built and my, my, not my children but my extended family, they've been worried and concerned and they do not know the details of it.

TODD: And yet they know something because they're (inaudible) for ten years.

CINDY: They have wanted me to leave him for a long time.

TODD: And then [redacted] who's, you know, in a nursing home. Or not nursing home but, you know, is --

CINDY: [redacted]

TODD: [redacted]

CINDY: (Inaudible.) What, I think what, what the picture you might paint or if others, if it's not the picture that you think. It's just not.

TODD: So I think we have, you know, we proceed forward and at least until, you know, and that's how I proceeded forward anyway until something comes forward that you can't proceed forward with.

CINDY: Well I really, I do think that this, this is Joe. And it's just hard for me to wrap my head around.

TODD: You said if this is Joe?

CINDY: Um-hum.

TODD: Yeah.

CINDY: If this is Joe. I don't know what that means.

TODD: The issue with that is that if it is him it's assured mutual destruction because of the other issues that are there, so is it just torment? You know, what is, what is the --

BEN: Well maybe he doesn't think it's mutual destruction.

CINDY: I, I think --

BEN: Nobody usually does.

[redacted]

[redacted]

CINDY: -- Ben is right. Ben is right.
TODD: He doesn't see that the other stuff will come out.
CINDY: Right.
TODD: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. But you start looking at his livelihood, his job, his career, I mean all of that is, you know, it's all opened up now, so. So that affects obviously financially, you know, their lives, you know, their lives and, you know.
CINDY: I can handle it better than you (inaudible). And I obviously have, you know, haven't done it right or done it well and I probably should have just gotten a divorce a long time ago, you know.
TODD: Mine was a conscious decision, you know. It was a constantly conscious decision with, that I ran through, you know, several people whom I consider to be obviously, you know, hey [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] and I have a group of people that are both in my family and outside my family that I get counsel from. And (inaudible) obviously if I'm home he's there at least once a week and is, you know, pastor and has been a pastor to one person, you know, for, for going on ten years and it's me, you know. And [redacted] takes on that role as well and they, you know, they both just been huge supports for me personally. I don't have the same

relationship with my own pastor, you know, for some, some, you know, for some different reasons but, but anyway that just gives you a snippet. And I don't know where that all goes and so, you know.
Anything else that we've got to talk about? I know we have to kind of duck tails, switch gears if you got to --
CINDY: I know. (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah. Keith wrote it I just couldn't, I --
CINDY: Can I use the bathroom real quick? Are we done?
TODD: Yeah. Yeah.
BEN: I got to go print the stuff Keith --
TODD: Anything else on that Ben, you know?
BEN: I don't know right now
TODD: Yeah. Well you don't have, I don't need your, we're not looking for your commitment to stay or whatever, I'm just going to respect, respect that, you know. You know, I wouldn't, I know you got to, you have to decide that for yourself and I completely understand how, you know, give you that. That's your (inaudible) that's your life so you got to decide where

you invest your time and your energy. I know you invested a lot in me and I know you're, I know you're really disappointed with me so. So.
BEN: All right
TODD: All right.
BEN: I don't know when I'll know, so.
TODD: You think you'll be, it could be today, it could be six months from now, you know. If you can communicate a little bit of that where you're at with it and how that's going on that would be helpful. Obviously, you know, we're, we're short-staffed around here, talk about some more people to come and interview.
CINDY: I don't know Keith he set up an interview with that other lady, Ben, do you know?
BEN: I do not know.
CINDY: Huh?
BEN: I do not know. The [redacted] lady?
CINDY: Yeah, her. [redacted] lady.
BEN: I don't know. He, I know he mentioned her but I don't know if --
CINDY: You don't know if it's (inaudible)
BEN: I don't know if he's actually scheduled anything.

CINDY: Is he coming in tomorrow do you know, Keith, or is he taking the rest of the --
BEN: I don't know.
CINDY: Oh, he's got the wedding.
BEN: He's got the wedding, I don't know when the wedding is. It's like --
TODD: Got it figured out that --
CINDY: I'll be right (inaudible.)
TODD: Yeah, that's fine.
BEN: What about?
TODD: Basically this building shuts down on Fridays and, you know.
BEN: It's pretty dead, yeah.
TODD: Yeah. You know, so.
BEN: There's not many people around.
TODD: Yeah. So it's kind of weird, weird spot I know staff-wise. And then some of that might be even staff-wise to look at as far as changing some of the dynamics here. You guys seem to like to work together and it seems to have that part of it. I thought originally when we came in we would be rotating from here to there a little bit, you know, like more both sides. But honestly I think what we've done is we've centered around Keith as that for the most part. He's here, you know, so we, so it's kind of just become here. And I

[redacted]

1 don't know if that's right or whatever, but. And I'm not
2 saying it's bad I'm just saying it's, it is what it is.
3 BEN: Yeah. All right, let me get the
4 thing before we actually go and vote on some crap.
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1 CERTIFICATE
2 STATE OF MICHIGAN
3 COUNTY OF [redacted]
4
5 I, [redacted] and Notary Public
6 in and for the County of [redacted] State of Michigan, do
7 hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and
8 complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the
9 time and place hereinbefore stated and they were
10 transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision.
11 The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not
12 made under my direction or control.
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Audio Recording
From: 5/26
Duration: 38:20

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* * *

BEN: I will. What's up?

TODD: So where did we want to go from there? We're talking about the linking and syncing. If, if my calendar is shared with her calendar is that giving the person access to my information if they're linking and syncing with her stuff?

BEN: If they have her password they can look at your calendar if you shared on it here.

CINDY: If I were to change my password how (inaudible).

BEN: Acquire the new password? You need a keystroke logger. So like it's, it's a small piece of software that runs on your computer that keeps track of your --

CINDY: Okay. There is not one of those (inaudible)?

BEN: I don't know. I think [redacted] would probably be a better person to ask about that. I mean I know that there are keystroke loggers, that's all I know. I never used one, I don't know how to use them, but I mean you, you're much more, with passwords you're much more secure if you use like pass, a pass code phrase as opposed to like a short password. So like several words

together.

CINDY: Yeah.

BEN: Or stuff like that.

CINDY: I did just change all my passwords or whatever. Although Keith is still able to post something on Facebook and I said how is that, and he said (inaudible) administrator so can you show me how --

BEN: Oh, I'm not --

CINDY: -- to check who my administrators are?

BEN: On your page?

CINDY: Yeah.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: (Inaudible) got in my calendars and change my e-mail to see the, to see the actual people --

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: -- so can you see on hers on her gmails?

BEN: I don't think I have access to see -- see I have, I have access to sharing ability on your calendars so like because I'm, because I was able, because I did all the sharing, Ike did set up the whole thing. So like I can manage the sharing settings on yours. I don't, I can't manage the sharing sets on

Cindy's. So if you go to your page.

CINDY: Cindy (inaudible)?

BEN: Your, your other page, your public figure page.

CINDY: Oh, public figure.

BEN: Yeah.

CINDY: Okay.

BEN: Keith should just have access to this, or your public figure page.

CINDY: Okay. Does everything (inaudible) or (inaudible) personal.

BEN: All the stuff we post goes to your public figure page because we don't have access to your personal page.

CINDY: Okay. So you can separate them.

BEN: Yeah.

CINDY: Okay. All right.

BEN: Your --

CINDY: So if I change my personal one no one has access to my personal?

BEN: No, unless you give them the password.

CINDY: Okay.

BEN: Click on setting.

CINDY: I want to make sure you and Keith

[redacted]

[redacted]

both have access to it.
BEN: Um-hum.
CINDY: I don't know who, I don't remember over the time period --
BEN: Yeah.
CINDY: -- (inaudible).
BEN: Click on page role. And that's who has access to your public figure page.
CINDY: Okay. See Joshua's still kind of in, in all my stuff.
BEN: Um-hum. You can get rid of that too, I don't think you use that anymore.
CINDY: Okay.
BEN: I don't know --
CINDY: It says Joe.
BEN: Okay.
CINDY: He (inaudible).
BEN: He never, he never confirmed it so he never actually had access.
CINDY: Okay. Okay. So (inaudible).
BEN: So it's just me, you, Todd --
CINDY: Yeah.
BEN: -- and Keith. And you locked in your password.
CINDY: Okay.

BEN: To finalize it.
CINDY: (Inaudible.) Okay. Okay.
BEN: Yeah, your personal password. So you want to look at your page?
TODD: Yeah. We know we just looked at the administrators on pages, you know, kind of (inaudible) but, you know, really it's kind of saying okay, so what are we really looking at, you know. Like I'll say oh, click those people off the calendar but we still don't really know how they, if a person accesses it through iTunes or, which I know is possible, you know. If they have the iTunes password for it.
BEN: I think I have to be on my computer to change the admin preferences for your page. What's up Cindy?
CINDY: Do I have two separate passwords, one for public and one for private?
BEN: No, it should be the same as your private.
CINDY: Okay.
BEN: There's no, there's no real passwords for the public figure page.
CINDY: Okay.
BEN: Since it's kind of a --
CINDY: It's a one-off of mine.

BEN: Yeah. People are given permissions, they don't need a password.
CINDY: Okay.
BEN: I don't have my computer but I can check on who has access to your public figure page, Todd. I assume it would be same as Cindy's. You, Cindy, me, Keith, Josh. I don't think, I don't think there's anybody else.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
TODD: Well I think for the time being, you know, it's, it's probably next stop there so. Because we have those, those overlaps between pieces.
CINDY: Yeah, I mean (inaudible).
TODD: That part's done but is there, who else, who are the administrators on your, I know we looked at your administrators on your e-mail or administrators on --
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
TODD: I'm thinking for you as well, are there other people on your, as administrators on, in any of those that you're feeling that give you some sort of exposure on them?
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
TODD: Okay.
BEN: Why is the internet service up here

so bad?
TODD: So that takes, so you, you said there was a syncing thing on Cindy that you, you know how, is there a way to see that? Because if that's the situation on yours should it be checked on mine as well.
BEN: Syncing thing?
TODD: Or no, you don't -- I'm sorry, you don't --
CINDY: Just a phone, when you plug a phone into a laptop for -- I don't know how to get back to it, but. You know how you, Ben, when you plug a phone into a laptop.
BEN: Um-hum. I, iPhone or they sync.
CINDY: Through iTunes?
BEN: Yeah.
CINDY: Somehow it shows that, I don't, it says if it was under Safari browser instead of -- it looked like maybe it was done remotely. (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah, I'm not sure.
CINDY: I, I believe it (inaudible). You know what I'm talking about (inaudible)?
TODD: Yeah, because if it's on yours I'm wondering if there's on mine, because I did the same sort of connecting steps and where do we find the spot where yours has a, you know, obviously to try and snip some of

[redacted]

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those so that we, it's not from one side or the other that they're actually hearing through you to see my stuff which apparently is there.

BEN: I mean we can take her off your calendar.

CINDY: (Inaudible.)

TODD: I think you took me off your calendar, Cindy.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: You're still on my calendar.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: Because we just, we left it on mine.

CINDY: Well take me off then, I don't care. I'm just saying if you're worried about access from my direction I took you off. So if someone's accessing do whatever. If you need to take me off, take me off. I mean from my side --

TODD: Well to be -- we didn't, we didn't, we didn't as of yet so I'm just trying to make sure --

CINDY: Well go ahead.

TODD: I'm not trying to do that. I think there's still some reasons to have that in the moment but I'm trying to sever the pieces where there

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could be some, where those, there are these electronic holes and I don't know what those are because I'm not, you know, I'm not in the spying game on people, so. What's that?

BEN: This is funny.

TODD: What's that?

BEN: You're not into the spying game.

TODD: As much.

BEN: Yeah.

TODD: Well electronically you can do a whole bunch but you --

BEN: I guess. Yeah, I don't.

TODD: You can do a whole bunch once you --

BEN: I bet you Ike would know more about that than I do.

You said you deleted whatever that was, Cindy? So you said it was something related to your phone being connected to the computer and Safari? Yeah. I'm not sure what's up with that. I don't know much about iPhones or Safari or any of that. I specifically avoid iPhones at all costs.

TODD: Yeah. I get that but I don't think it's just iPhones, I mean you start looking at the just, you know, the gmail account, the iPhones, the --

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BEN: Yeah.

TODD: So if there's a way to sync, that's why I said in that there's to see in an audit we need to know on those three platforms Outlook, Go Daddy, and then gmail.

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: Are you thinking (inaudible) --

BEN: And (inaudible).

TODD: And (inaudible) so there's four platforms now. And then are there, who are the administrators on my Facebook?

BEN: I just looked it up and changed it. It was just you, Cindy, myself, Keith, and Josh. I took Josh off so it's now just you, Cindy, myself, and Keith.

TODD: Okay. Have you spoken to Josh? I mean I'm sure, you know, I'm sure you're speaking or back and forth with him a little bit.

BEN: We talk about some business stuff, we're trying to rap that up.

TODD: Okay.

BEN: We'll hear soon anyway on it.

TODD: What's that?

BEN: We're just trying to figure out what we're going to do with the business for the --

TODD: You have the next season or

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whatever?

BEN: Yep. I haven't seen or talked to him that much since he left, it's me being so busy with the house and everything. But we, we chat occasionally about the business.

TODD: And he doesn't bring up any of this stuff here and you're not disclosing anything as far as that stuff?

BEN: No.

TODD: No?

BEN: No. I think he, I think he kind of wanted to, I think he kind of wanted to just get away and concentrate on his own stuff. Which is probably why he left so abruptly.

TODD: So any other thoughts, Ben, where that, and obviously there's a server password at my office, right, to get into that so you should be able to see the Outlook but if you see the Outlook can you see the, the same -- how do we, obviously deal with the easy stuff. We're dealing with administrators and who's on, who's, you know.

BEN: Um-hum. I mean you got Nation Builder accesses all the way around.

TODD: Okay. So let's, let's walk through that for a few minutes.

[redacted]

BEN: Uh-huh.
TODD: Okay. Who has access to my Nation Builder?
BEN: Which one specifically?
TODD: All three of them. Or now you're doing another one but we haven't done anything with that one, or I'm assuming you were doing another one.
BEN: The, should be you, Cindy, Josh, myself, Keith. I don't even know if Keith does to be honest with you. Georgianne. I think that's about it but I can look into it.
TODD: So we, we have a series of people who have access so I need to kind of, is there a way to see those or is, if we touch those on this computer here what does that, what does that do? Because we do know that other people have gotten into at least, at least one of the databases.
BEN: Okay. What do you mean what does that do? I can change the, I can change all the information so it's just like us and Keith --
TODD: Okay.
BEN: -- totally have access on that. And it, it shows like a list of who has access so I can go in and say oh, get rid of these people and we'll just let this group of people have it.

TODD: Is there anymore people besides -- who besides the four of us have access?
BEN: Probably Josh still does. I think your mom does, I think.
TODD: We probably can leave mom on there.
BEN: Yes.
TODD: So.
BEN: I think that's, that should be about it. I know that ones that we use here in the office is just, it's just you guys and Josh, Keith, and I. And then the campaign ones I think it's, I think your mom is on those and Julia might still be on the big list possibly now that I'm thinking about it. And --
TODD: Can you --
BEN: -- I think that's it.
TODD: Can you change --
BEN: I can look it up.
TODD: I mean how tough is it to change those now so that we're done?
BEN: It's not hard. I have to do it on the computer.
TODD: Can you do it?
BEN: Yeah.
TODD: I appreciate it. Cindy you have

those databases (inaudible).
BEN: If you (inaudible). It probably needs to be restarted.
TODD: You want to just tell me when you're --
BEN: Yeah, I'll tell you.
TODD: -- (inaudible) on it?
BEN: Yeah. I'll probably restart it.
CINDY: Ben, can you (inaudible).
BEN: On your Nation Builder? Yeah, let me, I had to restart my computer. Very similar (inaudible). So go to People and More and down to Appoint People. And there will be a list of anybody that is in there.
CINDY: (Inaudible) just --
BEN: To, to address those you just click on the little edit button there and it will take you to their record and then you'll set their, scroll down, you can set their permission to everything. You click the X to get rid of permissions and then they won't have any and then click saved on there.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yes. Yep. And then you can look at that (inaudible) show you it who's still on it.
TODD: (Inaudible.) I'm not kicking, I'm

not kicking him off my (inaudible). (Inaudible.)
Ben, what is calendar (inaudible)?
BEN: Calendar (inaudible)? It just lets you access your calendar.
TODD: Isn't it, why don't I just go in through the browser and --
BEN: (Inaudible.) You need to go in that browser too. If you want to go in through the browser you just have to keep that browser window open all the time.
CINDY: (Inaudible.) (Inaudible) we don't have it.
TODD: In your gmail account?
CINDY: (Inaudible) I don't have (inaudible).
TODD: What would be the --
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
TODD: What would be the harm in just removing that?
BEN: Look at it through the browser the access makes it a lot easier.
TODD: Hopefully we go back to it at some point.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Other than what Todd and I talked

[redacted]

[redacted]

about, gmail, Outlook, that kind of stuff, I can't think of anything.

All right, it's just us four. And I left, I left Tracy and your mom on your State Rep one for your donations and such. Because Tracy gets the donations information on there.

TODD: Yeah. I don't think they're the issue.

BEN: No, I don't think so.

TODD: I don't think --

BEN: I think they should be fine.

TODD: I think they should be fine. Now we're, Ben, on these we have now we have, if a person knows the password to, you know, toddcourser@gmail.com or to team@cindygamrat.com or team@toddcourser.com who are the people getting those, those forwards?

BEN: Team e-mail?

TODD: Yeah.

BEN: Just us four. I think Georgianne is on yours.

TODD: Is Josh still on there?

BEN: I don't believe so.

TODD: Can you check that for teamgamrat and teamcourser?

BEN: Uh-huh.

CINDY: Will you check mine just to make sure it's just my cindygramrat80 (inaudible).

BEN: Yeah, I think we, I think we checked that last time but I can --

TODD: Well if somebody's going in they can put those things back on if they have a password. What happens one password leads to another password. You set the key logger, a key logger in place for a short time and you cause a person to, as they're starting to feel that, they change all their passwords which gives the person all the passwords again.

BEN: If there's a key logger.

TODD: If there's a key logger.

BEN: Yeah.

CINDY: What is key chain --

BEN: Key --

CINDY: -- mean? Key chains? Key chain access? Do you know what that is?

BEN: Not really. It's like a web term?

TODD: Is it on your, is it on there?

BEN: (Inaudible.)

TODD: Can you have him look at it for a minute or you want to look at it.

CINDY: No, you can look at it.

TODD: Please do.

BEN: Is it a web technology thing or.

CINDY: I went under finder, finder, and finder gives me all the --

BEN: All the --

CINDY: -- (inaudible) utilities. And I saw key chain access and I didn't know what that meant so I clicked it and I don't know what all these -- they might be normal things that happen with every time you --

BEN: Yeah.

CINDY: -- access the internet. I don't, you know what I mean, they might be just normal things or.

BEN: Yeah. Yeah, (inaudible). I mean let me Google it, key chain access.

CINDY: You know what I mean, it could always just --

BEN: Um-hum. Yeah, I have no idea.

CINDY: I mean it looked like (inaudible) have access to --

BEN: Um-hum.

CINDY: -- like the GOP database is on here, you know, just from the access (inaudible).

BEN: Yeah. I think it, I think that's the program that stores your, the passwords and stuff for internet browsing. You know how your browser will

sometimes store the password so you can log into it later without having to put in the password? I can probably tell you how to reset it. Hey Keith.

KEITH: Hey beautiful.

BEN: How was your meeting?

KEITH: Am allowed to I call you beautiful, I was just with the HR people.

BEN: Oh, did they tell you not to sexually harass me? I keep telling them to tell you that and.

KEITH: They told me my investment strategy was very suspect.

BEN: Did they?

KEITH: It made me susceptible to wild fluctuations in the market.

TODD: How are you doing?

KEITH: Good, how are you guys?

BEN: Do you just have a 401(k) or do you have other investments?

KEITH: No, it's the 401(k) but I put 90 percent of my 401(k) in gold and they said nope, that's the Ron Paul strategy.

TODD: My mother and my wife are in a meeting.

BEN: Cindy, you can reset that thing.

[redacted]

CINDY: Do I need to reset (inaudible).
BEN: It stores your password so like if somebody had your computer.
CINDY: Oh, okay. So it is good to reset it. Okay.
BEN: Probably.
CINDY: Good. How do I do that?
BEN: Open key --
CINDY: It's been a long time since I've done that.
BEN: So open, you have key chain access open. From the key chain access menu chooses preferences.
TODD: Doing all right?
KEITH: Yeah.
TODD: Are you?
KEITH: Yeah.
TODD: You look better.
KEITH: I am --
TODD: (Inaudible) losing some weight.
KEITH: Trying to get ripped, man.
TODD: You are ripped.
KEITH: Trying to get that Courser vibe.
TODD: You haven't seen --
KEITH: No, it was something else, dude.

CERTIFICATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF [redacted]

I, [redacted], and Notary Public in and for the County of [redacted] State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the time and place hereinbefore stated and they were transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision. The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not made under my direction or control.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Audio Recording
From: 6/9
Duration: 2:11:55

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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* * *

KEITH: (Inaudible.)
BEN: You like that doc. (Inaudible.) Hey, did you get that (inaudible).
TODD: (Inaudible.) People (inaudible).
BEN: It surprises me (inaudible). (Inaudible.)
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
TODD: (Inaudible.)
KEITH: Everything up to second reading is the entire (inaudible) amendment and.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: (Inaudible.)
TODD: But not today.
KEITH: The second reading.
BEN: Second reading.
TODD: Okay, so the whole (inaudible).
KEITH: 13 bills.
CINDY: Do you remember the House policy (inaudible).
TODD: Is it a special thing? Work ethic man.
KEITH: I don't know.
CINDY: Yeah (inaudible).

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(Inaudible conversation.)
BEN: I can find out, you want to go?
CINDY: Does it take a long time (inaudible) now and then we --
TODD: If it was, if it was at 5 then yeah. If it, you know, it looks like 6:30 is the presentation so I might just stop by.
BEN: Yep. The test drive is from 5 to 6:30.
TODD: Oh.
CINDY: Oh, you can test drive them?
BEN: Yeah.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: (Inaudible) reserve your test drive.
TODD: Oh.
CINDY: Okay. Cool.
BEN: But you have your (inaudible).
CINDY: I do but I, I didn't know if I could do both or (inaudible).
TODD: I wasn't invited?
BEN: No.
CINDY: It's a women's --
TODD: Unbelievable.
CINDY: It's a women's thing.

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TODD: Oh, okay.
BEN: Representative -- or Senator (inaudible) invited.
CINDY: Yeah (inaudible).
BEN: You want to, you want to go I'll --
TODD: You don't have to RSVP, let's just see how this goes.
BEN: I don't know, I don't know where it's at.
CINDY: Will you find out where it's at because I don't know.
TODD: (Inaudible.)
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Keith, can you call for me Hiller and figure out where the test drive for the Tesla, where the Tesla's test drive are located?
(Inaudible conversation.)
BEN: No, leave that open. We're not sure if she's going or not yet.
KEITH: It's 1:00 today or tomorrow? (Inaudible.) All right, we'll be in touch with you (inaudible) call back that work for you? All right, thanks. Bye.
Okay. Only availability is 1:00 today or 1:40 to 2:00 tomorrow.

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BEN: 1:40, 2. Today?
KEITH: Today's just 1:00.
BEN: (Inaudible) and they have 1:00 available today and 2:40 tomorrow.
CINDY: Where is it at though?
BEN: (Inaudible.)
CINDY: Oh, (inaudible).
TODD: Me?
BEN: No, you too.
CINDY: He isn't talking to you.
BEN: I'm talking to both of you.
TODD: (Inaudible.) What about me?
CINDY: He didn't say that.
TODD: Oh. All right. Just making sure. (Inaudible.)
BEN: (Inaudible.)
CINDY: (Inaudible), I'm going to ask you to go down and get me a Coke. You want anything?
BEN: Nope.
TODD: I'll have a Coke.
CINDY: You want a Coke? You want an enchilada (inaudible) enchiladas for lunch.
TODD: I'll try it.
CINDY: You want an enchilada?
TODD: I'll try it, yeah.

CINDY: Huh?
BEN: You have like an (inaudible).
CINDY: No. I can, it's not a death allergy with that stuff (inaudible) but they might have tacos and the corn tortilla. It gets complicated, doesn't it?
BEN: Yeah, it does.
TODD: How are they so good at picking establishment candidates? How do they know that Chatfield or Miller are going to be with them with no -- just curious, you guys got any thoughts on that?
BEN: I mean it probably varies by candidate I guess. Like, like Chatfield they totally got him elected, like there's no two ways about it.
TODD: Right.
BEN: So, you know, we can get you elected, we can not get you elected. Now Miller is young and ambitious so he's going to do whatever it takes to get where he wants to be.
CINDY: Miller?
BEN: Aaron Miller.
TODD: (Inaudible.)
BEN: No, I'm not reading anything I'm just --
CINDY: (Inaudible.)

BEN: Yeah. But I mean it depends on, it depends on the --
TODD: The person?
BEN: Depends on the person what they got you for. He was ask --
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: No, he was asking how do they, how do they pick establishment candidates, how do you know, how do they know if they're going to be with them or not. And they don't always know, but pretty, it depends on the person what they, exactly they have their hook on them for. Like if it's pre, if you're a County Commissioner and you've been a reliable vote on the things that they like you to be reliable on then you're pretty predictable. If they got you elected like Chatfield they kind of have you. If you're Miller and you're really, you're ambitious and you want to go far, young and ambitious then --
CINDY: Young.
BEN: -- you're going to suck up to whoever you need to suck up to to get where you want to go.
CINDY: Um-hum. (Inaudible) this morning because of being kicked out of caucus and I've been trying to just, (inaudible) my hardest to try to connect

with people individually and just let them know why I do what I do and it's not a personal thing, I don't have any, you know, just to kind of clear the air a little bit and connect. So I'm not like a (inaudible) and (inaudible).
BEN: Um-hum.
CINDY: And one of the common themes that I said is, you know, this is a team, we're a team. And sometimes you have to carry the water, you know, for the team.
BEN: Um-hum.
CINDY: And so, you know, they, there's some feeling that they can't count on us and what, and then others are a little upset sometimes because, because we vote no. If it starts getting close at all they don't have that freedom, they feel, to vote no. So then they of course (inaudible) vote yes because the leadership's not going to come to us to change our vote because they know they won't be able to (inaudible). Does that make sense, like?
BEN: Interesting.
TODD: (Inaudible.)
CINDY: The other guys make them -- yeah.
TODD: Essentially those hard votes --
CINDY: I didn't think that way.

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TODD: -- only got five votes left --
CINDY: Yeah.
TODD: -- sacrifice.
CINDY: So there's some animosity because we kind of vote the way we want to vote.
BEN: Kind of, it's kind of petty.
CINDY: Huh?
BEN: I said that's kind of stupid and petty. I mean I think, I think the team, the team argument holds more water than oh, I can't vote no because you're voting no and then I'm going to get pressure.
CINDY: I wouldn't --
BEN: If you want to vote no, vote no, don't worry about.
CINDY: That's how I see it. But for whatever reason and then if you're part of leadership you can't vote against leadership. Like that doesn't look right, right, because --
BEN: Yeah.
CINDY: -- you're part of leadership. So there's all these, I don't know. So unless you really carry the water and if you want to be part of the leadership then you have to be voting, voting along with things that you might typically be against. And for some

people they can do that, they can justify it. And I wish I had, I really wish I could do that (inaudible).
TODD: Part --
BEN: Got the votes?
KEITH: There's only one. There's only vote.
CINDY: Let's do today's vote and then if we can talk about the road plan thing (inaudible) that's coming down the pike here.
BEN: Can I print myself a copy of that?
KEITH: Yeah, you can have a copy.
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
KEITH: You can just look at mine.
BEN: I'll just share. I don't have a pen, I'll give you a pen.
KEITH: The one today is just a self-explanatory it's just a technical change to property tax bills. Like right now you have lumped mixed use property like agriculture and forestry, you have to kind of do each packet separately and define the land for what is what and this just lets you lump them together and get your property tax exemption.
BEN: I can't read it when your hand's in the way.
KEITH: Sorry. And the other three are

just changes to the Senate to the one no vote. The other two were all unanimous except for Robinson. But the no one was the raising the fees on agricultural feed operations. We voted no on that the first time, they didn't change it to make it better, so.
CINDY: Um-hum. But we voted yes on those ones?
KEITH: Yep.
CINDY: Okay. I've been taking my computer diligently to session and reading analysis of the bills and --
BEN: That's good.
CINDY: -- and sometimes testimony. Yeah, (inaudible) better job. I always try to get it done before we come here. Like last night --
BEN: You have some time on the floor.
CINDY: Yeah, yeah. We do seem to have time on the floor so that's where I kind of read it. But it is good to have that time to talk about it here. It's kind of like we have our own little caucus, you know. Our own little liberty caucus.
TODD: (Inaudible) lack of (inaudible). You can't trust (inaudible) reasoning, or at least I can't, how it gets there.
BEN: It's slightly erratic.

TODD: It is. It is.
KEITH: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Hmm?
KEITH: The road funding package is 12 bills.
CINDY: All right, Keith --
BEN: No, that's 11.
KEITH: No, it's 12.
CINDY: You want to --
KEITH: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight --
BEN: Okay, you count that one.
CINDY: Are you able to quickly separate them out between like right away ones that have red flags and ones that might, you know, might be okay but --
KEITH: 4612 is the --
CINDY: The reason I say that is because if we can look at the red flag ones now, and if you're on the floor and you say you can have my vote but -- because there's a lot of amendments that kind of happen there.
KEITH: Uh-huh.
TODD: Especially on these.
KEITH: They haven't submitted any amendments for these yet.
TODD: Especially on these.

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CINDY: Yeah. And, and say --
KEITH: They haven't, there haven't been any registered yet for amendments.
CINDY: You could, well what I'm saying is if we were to bring up something that said hey, this concerns me but you can make it a better bill, you have my vote if we change this thing about it.
KEITH: Um-hum.
CINDY: You know.
BEN: It's really these ones and --
KEITH: No, it's --
BEN: -- that one.
KEITH: It's 4612 increases vehicle registration for hybrids and electric vehicles.
CINDY: That's hard to go, get behind that.
KEITH: Yeah. Then the other one is 4614 and 4615.
BEN: And 4616.
KEITH: I don't know if tying the fuel or tax rate to inflation is necessarily a terrible, but it would probably result in and overall --
BEN: It would result in increase at one point or another.
KEITH: Um-hum. Yeah, in the last three

4614, 4615, and 4616 are the tax increases essentially.
CINDY: Hmm. It's really hard to make those any better without cutting the whole bill and just making (inaudible).
BEN: Well they're calling it diesel tax parity.
CINDY: Uh-huh. So they don't have (inaudible).
BEN: Which sounds nice.
CINDY: See that caucus passed on to two person consensuses and.
BEN: I mean diesel's already higher at the pump than it is for unleaded.
TODD: I know. Most of the, most of the years.
BEN: I mean I don't think I've seen it lower in a long time.
TODD: Is that right?
BEN: Um-hum. I mean I don't buy it.
TODD: (Inaudible) in the winter.
CINDY: You know, you know what else? When we did the, when we did the conference, what was that committee that --
BEN: Revenue Estimating Conference?
CINDY: Yes. And I still have the

paperwork. What they do is they kind of look ahead at the future and they, it's guesstimates, right, it's their best guess at how all these variables are all going to play out from what's happening across the nation to in our state. And based on that they project this growth. I mean it's, it's kind of crazy really. I mean it's really a guess, an estimate, so -- hey.
BEN: (Inaudible.)
WOMAN: Is your, is your office open now?
TODD: It's open. Well the front door is not open but the, but you need to go in I can give you my thing.
WOMAN: No, I mean for the --
TODD: My back office.
WOMAN: -- for the class to come in and look.
TODD: Yeah. Yeah. But you probably need this to get in because I think you locked it, right, Ben?
BEN: Yeah, I should. Yeah, I usually do so.
TODD: (Inaudible.)
WOMAN: (Inaudible) class?
TODD: Go ahead. Are they here right now?

WOMAN: I was going to call them now.
TODD: Go ahead and call them. Yeah, go ahead. If I'm still here I'll, I'll, once they've gone, you know, you get them, I'll just go up and say hi.
CINDY: So at the Revenue Estimating Conference one of the variables is the price of gas. And they actually estimated the price of gas is going to go up by -- markedly. Like I think it was, I mean I think if I pull it out it might even have been two dollars a gallon. Like you know how it's (inaudible).
BEN: Two dollars a gallon?
CINDY: Um-hum. I'll look it up.
BEN: They can't really, they can't really know that. Nobody knows --
CINDY: I know they can't know it. But all this stuff is a guess.
BEN: That's a huge guess because you're trying to --
CINDY: Yeah, I know.
BEN: -- you're trying to decide if Saudi Arabia is going to finish --
CINDY: Exactly.
BEN: -- their game of chicken before, by next year.
CINDY: All of it is a guess. And so --

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KEITH: Yeah, but these people are paid to make them. I mean this is, there's a lot of people who have interest in analysis.

CINDY: But what I'm trying to say is no one talked about, no one even -- it was on my chart and on my graph, no one mentioned it. And I'm thinking if the price of gas jumps and we are about to raise -- that, you know, at that point Proposal 1 hadn't passed, you know. We're going to raise taxes on gas, you know, so --

BEN: That's, part of Proposal 1 was making it flat instead of tied to the price of gas.

CINDY: Okay.

BEN: So it was like a --

KEITH: Wholesale.

BEN: It was a wholesale tax so it would be less depending on the price of gas or something.

CINDY: But it's really the vary, the amount of variables if you look at this that they try to forecast from weather to, I mean it's just crazy. To how the Consumer Price Index, unemployment rates, how the Big Three are doing, the sales of cars and trucks, bills and interest rates. I mean.

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: I wonder if they ever hit their mark, you know, if they actually are right on this stuff.

CINDY: It's just a guess. I mean they try, I mean I think it's, I can see the value in trying to --

BEN: I mean you got somewhere to start I guess.

CINDY: Exactly. Having, trying to do some kind of projection to have some kind of thought of where things might go, but. If I can find the one, there's all kinds of different ones. I might have filed it because I had a whole bunch of sheets.

TODD: It looks like there's a couple good things in it, is that what I'm seeing, Keith? And then --

BEN: There's some decent good stuff. Yeah, there's some decent stuff in there.

TODD: And bad stuff in it?

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: So what they'll do is everybody will get to pile on for the good stuff and then on the bad stuff they'll just go across the aisle to get the votes they need.

BEN: Well they'll probably, the thing is the other side of the aisle isn't, isn't going to go along with the whole package unless, correct me if I'm wrong Keith, they're not going to vote yes on the tax

increases if the earned income tax credit is cut.

TODD: Hmm.

BEN: Right? So they'll say no to the whole package if they --

CINDY: So the Democrats will try to play ball that way?

BEN: Oh, yeah. They'll try to do all what they want and they'll end up getting it.

TODD: So the earned income tax credit won't get cut?

BEN: Maybe. They'll get something. But it probably won't be, we'll probably pass it out of the House before that actually happens. And it may happen in the Senate or it may happen on conference. Because even last year the House passed the Bolger Plan through. Might be a little harder this time. But they, the Speaker can't count on votes on the other side of the aisle for this package.

CINDY: I don't have it here but the gas price is going up, they forecasted.

BEN: Two dollars, goodness.

CINDY: Well it was, it looks significant to me.

BEN: Yeah.

CINDY: I can pull up the thing, so.

BEN: I'm actually surprised it's been at 2.50 for this long. I mean it's been --

CINDY: And then at worst --

BEN: -- six months a year maybe.

CINDY: -- it has a lot to do, it has a lot to do with international (inaudible).

BEN: I read an interesting article on that. Saudi Arabia's playing a game of chicken with the other Middle Eastern countries on that.

CINDY: But it also has to do on our own energy production and how much we need to --

BEN: Yeah, (inaudible).

CINDY: -- depend on other countries.

BEN: (Inaudible) some of that stuff.

CINDY: Um-hum. All right, so Keith, are there any bills that we would be borderline that if, if something changed in them that you can see we, we could support? I can't support tax increases. Like I just can't.

TODD: (Inaudible) for sale Keith.

KEITH: Okay.

BEN: What's an RFP process?

TODD: She's going to be a hard liner, I'm going to be (inaudible).

CINDY: Are you really?

[redacted]

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TODD: No.
CINDY: You are. Okay, I'll negotiate.
KEITH: (Inaudible) competitive (inaudible).
BEN: Okay.
KEITH: Yeah. You know, limiting the earned income tax credit is going to be a huge tax hike for lower income people.
BEN: It's not a tax hike, it's a -- we're essentially --
CINDY: Eliminating a subsidy.
BEN: -- we go from, I read yesterday we go from the middle of the pack as far as progressive income tax to number 7 as far as progressive. Or we'd be one of the least progressive states in the country for income tax.
TODD: So, okay. Meaning we're better.
BEN: More, more regressive which is what, yeah.
TODD: So it's actually --
BEN: Little more flat.
CINDY: Conservative.
TODD: In a weird way it's actually raising taxes.
CINDY: Getting rid of the earned income

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tax credit.
BEN: It is. It is kind of but these people don't usually pay taxes in the first place.
TODD: No, no, I get that.
BEN: It's like a, I mean you're, you know.
TODD: I know. They don't have any tax and therefore --
BEN: But they get another three thousand on top of it because they're poor.
TODD: In this one though the, it's the state (inaudible) tax credit, do we get federal dollars that matches that, Keith, is there some --
KEITH: There's a federal earned income tax credit.
BEN: There's no match, it's just federal. They get it regardless of what (inaudible).
TODD: So ours is just separate from that.
CINDY: Okay. There he is. You're awesome, thank you.
STEVE: So for the enchiladas the best thing to do is (inaudible) the meat and cheese and some salsa with it.
CINDY: Hey, that's awesome. That's

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really, really great. Thanks.
BEN: Thanks Steve.
CINDY: Yeah.
TODD: Looks like an enchilada. Is that mine?
CINDY: I believe so.
TODD: That's awesome. I don't know what that even is but kind of cool.
BEN: That looks like, that looks like poo poo.
CINDY: (Inaudible).
BEN: They're trying, they're trying to do a better job down there.
CINDY: It's a new group.
BEN: I know.
CINDY: It's a whole new group.
BEN: I'm kind of disappointed.
CINDY: Are you disappointed? They didn't have oatmeal for me this morning.
BEN: It's expensive.
CINDY: It is expensive.
BEN: It's more expensive so like --
CINDY: It is.
BEN: -- this is supposed to be like quick cheap. If I want to get something and pay money

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for it I go to Zoup or wherever.
CINDY: Right, you go to a restaurant.
BEN: Right.
CINDY: Yeah. Yeah, I kind of hear you. When I, it was like a lot this morning.
BEN: Um-hum. And they don't, like if you get a sandwich, I've gotten try to get a sandwich a couple times and they don't have what I want or the guy doesn't know how to make it or.
CINDY: Yeah.
BEN: It's a learning curve.
TODD: Lord, we just praise you and thank you for this food and this day and we ask your blessing on it and we ask you just guide and direct our votes today and guide and direct our steps. And thank you so much for your loving kindness and your grace and your mercy in our lives and your forgiveness. Praise you and thank you. Thank you for who you are and (inaudible).
BEN: (Inaudible.)
CINDY: Um-hum.
BEN: (Inaudible.) I'll throw that in her box I guess. I'm actually going to go to that, he's a former client of mine. He's (inaudible).
CINDY: (Inaudible.)
BEN: No, it's somebody dropping off a

[redacted]

1 letter for Keith (inaudible) politics fundraiser thing
2 we're doing.
3 TODD: We've talked about -- can we
4 switch gears on the bills or no? Are we done with that
5 or are we going to go further with that, what's the deal?
6 BEN: I think you've got all the bills
7 under you.
8 KEITH: Yeah, there's like none today.
9 TODD: Cindy sent an e-mail, so obviously
10 I sent an e-mail as well. I, just on her e-mail. I
11 don't know how we split, split this, just the two of you
12 guys, but we split. You guys have any thoughts on that
13 as far as duties and space? I know the ladies are down
14 here, you guys are up here, I think that's okay.
15 CINDY: Do you mind if I (inaudible),
16 actually I'll just move my chair.
17 TODD: Do we do the part that seems to
18 be, Keith, the, that I keep coming back to that I have
19 difficulty with is the legislative votes and stuff.
20 Because I've learned to trust your judgment on that and
21 that you work for her so, so I'm not exactly sure how to,
22 how to address that.
23 Administratively I think that what I've
24 kind of envisioned is to take and bring in Karen as a
25 step to start to do administration on that side. And

1 obviously now the issue is is that she likes working with
2 Anne so that's kind of creating --
3 CINDY: Uh-uh. Boys versus girls?
4 TODD: A little bit. A little bit. So,
5 so if you guys have some, I don't know if it's all kind
6 of fresh or whatever but if you had any thoughts on it.
7 Obviously we've been dealing with for a couple of weeks
8 on how to, how to address it or if there's a way to
9 address it, taking those steps in that direction. So
10 just wanted to hear from you guys if there's some
11 thoughts on it, you know, a good way to do it, bad way to
12 do it, anything else we need to know to kind of discuss
13 in that regard, so.
14 I'm thinking with the e-mails first,
15 obviously taking care of that will give us a front line
16 where essentially she's just kind of documenting those
17 things and we'll determine if those things need, are just
18 something that need to be responded to with a happy note
19 of sorts or does it need further attention on that and
20 how do we move those things obviously from there to
21 messages to, to all of it. So she's not here all the
22 time, she still is looking at part-time and, you know,
23 you guys are full-time, so. So anyway, any thoughts on
24 that?
25 BEN: I, I don't know what you guys are

1 trying to accomplish, so.
2 TODD: Well I think the staffing-wise
3 I've got, I've had for quite a while felt like I wanted
4 to bring somebody in in regards to Karen to allow the
5 administration to happen so that I know it's happening.
6 I had three of eight of my people say (inaudible) that
7 they had contacted the office. Now I get it, we do
8 contact these people back and they don't get it or.
9 BEN: Do you have, do you have names?
10 KEITH: Yeah, we need to have lists of
11 those in the future.
12 BEN: We've talked about this before.
13 KEITH: Yeah, we've talked about this.
14 Like if you guys are going to say that you got to give us
15 a list. I don't --
16 TODD: Well that --
17 KEITH: No, no, I'm just saying, those
18 e-mails --
19 BEN: You guys get all bent out of shape
20 (inaudible).
21 KEITH: -- (inaudible) last few days,
22 they reflect a stunning lack of trust. Now I don't see
23 how you can reread those e-mails and not see how
24 absolutely insulting that is to us. And I don't feel
25 that this lack of trust came from anything that Ben and I

1 have done here except try to do the best job we can do.
2 I sensed immeasurable amount of hostility in them. I
3 admit reaching the point where on Tuesdays through
4 Thursdays I don't want to walk into my office anymore.
5 Some of the things in there I just is stunned and --
6 TODD: Like what in particular am I --
7 because I wasn't, there was no hostility when I wrote it
8 at all, so.
9 KEITH: Then you need to reread your
10 stuff. And I got to tell you I don't want to, from now
11 on like I don't want any e-mails on my personal account.
12 Send them to my House e-mail because I can't, I can't be
13 getting this stuff at 10:00, not sleeping all night,
14 coming in furious, trying to get -- I, I just want to do
15 my work and focus on that and I just can't -- I just, it
16 was just, I'm stunned.
17 I read those things and it's, you know,
18 well these constituents aren't getting contacted. Well
19 give me the fucking names. That's all I have to say
20 because I, we have a system, we have redundancies. We
21 bring in Anne to look at our processes and systems and
22 she sits here and says why the fuck do you do all this
23 stuff. And we say well this happened, this happened, she
24 says it doesn't make sense. Like well, like, so I don't
25 even know what to tell people anymore about this stuff.

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 We have back stops for this. If three out of eight
2 people, if constituents, if a pastor who's not in the
3 district is letting you know something you have to let us
4 know so we can check our system. We're following our
5 processes. We established a process guide.
6 BEN: As best we can. We've been
7 understaffed (inaudible).
8 KEITH: Um-hum.
9 TODD: I get that, I mean that's why we
10 brought them in. I, it wasn't really, I, maybe you guys
11 are saying hey, there's no, you know, we're not missing
12 things. What I heard is that we were and I, that's only
13 one spot of it. I've also been here on, I've been here
14 on at least three Fridays where nobody's here. I came
15 here with my children, we walked to the Capital, we went
16 over to Michigan State one time and I don't, I don't have
17 any notice that hey is the office staffed or not staffed.
18 KEITH: Yeah. We were here for a whole
19 spring break waiting for you guys to show up for meetings
20 marked on the calendar that no one came in for. We don't
21 know when you're going to be late. We have, we have
22 meetings and calendars that are missed consistently,
23 every day. And we don't sit here and hammer stuff for
24 it, but I'm not going to get hammered for stuff. And I'm
25 sorry, like, reading about Ben taking a nap in the

1 office? I have walked back here numerous times, I've had
2 you sleeping on the floor, had Cindy sleeping at her
3 desk. You can't set this kind of tone and then trash a
4 staff member for this. It's just, it's unacceptable and
5 I, I can't get these kind of e-mails anymore. I mean I'm
6 stunned.
7 Yeah, I printed out some of the things
8 I've gotten over the past couple months and I'm just
9 looking at this, like -- this is to us. "We now
10 completely no longer are trusting your intentions and
11 that your actions are in line with the responsibility of
12 a representative. We feel that our trust and confidence
13 has been violated. I find out about things after the
14 fact in the press or from outside sources. It has left
15 nothing short of a feeling of deception, betrayal, and of
16 course conflict of interest. Your actions have shown a
17 clear conflict of intention, intellectual energy, and use
18 of your time constraints. My confidence in all of you is
19 gone and my faith as well. I cannot believe that any of
20 you would think that these actions were not in conflict.
21 I was stunned that this has not been brought to my
22 attention for discussion before now. This hurts to say
23 the least and I feel completely blind sided. A
24 discussion about something like this would have been
25 appropriate and is absolutely necessary for many reasons

1 and as many levels.
2 I have a ton of questions in my mind of
3 trust and not sure that any of us are on the same page
4 for what the first six months of this team should look
5 like. As far as confidences and sharing team approaching
6 projects it is obvious we are far apart on those areas.
7 This decision was made for us, not by us. We need an
8 open and honest discussion together about all this and
9 where we go from here. These offices and positions are a
10 huge deal to us personally and to all those represented.
11 We have put everything we have on the line for this and
12 poured everything in, so how we do these things and what
13 we do is extremely important to us. This is a huge
14 deal." That's from January 14th, 2015. Both of you
15 saying that to us.
16 CINDY: That was from me?
17 KEITH: Both of you. Two e-mails here,
18 one from Todd, one from Cindy. I've highlighted those
19 passages.
20 CINDY: Keith, my e-mail that I just sent
21 you, I, it was in no way personal or had anything to do
22 with trust or attacks. For me it was we're bringing on
23 new people, we've been short-staffed, how is the best way
24 to do this. How is the best way to -- you guys have been
25 pulling the load for all of it and, and I'll give you the

1 names of the people as best as I can, I mean if that's
2 what your concern is. I didn't put Pastor [redacted] down
3 because that, that just happened but.
4 KEITH: It's not about the specific thing
5 it's just about like there's no way on a Sunday night I
6 should receive an e-mail like that. I, I think back to
7 just --
8 CINDY: Well some of the things I, like
9 when I said (inaudible).
10 KEITH: No, no. I think there's also the
11 issue of the fact that like you're talking about well I
12 came on a Friday you weren't here. Well what about like,
13 do we get comp time for those nights in the winter when
14 it's a blizzard outside and we're not driving home until
15 9 or 10 because you guys disappeared after session,
16 didn't come here until 7 for our staff meeting and we
17 stayed here.
18 TODD: Until 7?
19 KEITH: You know, I'm giving you -- I
20 have given what I consider to be an extreme amount of
21 grace. I read your e-mail yesterday, I was stunned. I
22 think I offered a lot of grace on a lot of these
23 different things, and to be attacked and to say I've
24 undermined or that I was unprofessional.
25 BEN: It's really, it's really rich

[redacted]

[redacted]

coming from you guys.

KEITH: It's just insane. I mean the issues of trust like to say you don't trust us is crazy. Like I think that we have kept our mouth shut. We have to walk through this building. We have careers in politics and then this, this notion in the e-mail you sent yesterday, I couldn't believe it when you said -- just imagine how I hear when I read this. Where was it, the line. "I will be glad when there are more capable liberty voices to carry this message forward, but as long as I have breath I am going to do it to decide for me (inaudible) all should have taken." I, I ran for office, I lost by a couple hundred votes. Like I consider myself a pretty capable liberty voice.

TODD: You're a youth liberty voice.

KEITH: And that's, but it's stunning to me that I have to take any kind of crap like this.

CINDY: But can I add something?

KEITH: I think it -- no, no, I think it --

CINDY: When I read that I thought he meant the other reps down there.

KEITH: Well I don't care about the other reps, I don't work for the other reps.

CINDY: I'm just saying -- no, no.

KEITH: No, no, there's a certain point where you guys want to bring people into this situation; Ben and I don't feel comfortable in this situation. We feel like we live in an environment of hos -- well I'm not speaking for him. I feel like I live in an environment of hostility, I work in an environment of hostility. I'm scared when my phone rings, I'm scared when I get e-mails. And these kind of things, you can say however what you meant them. The way I took it was just absolutely this cuts to my core questioning my professionalism. I mean how, how could my professionalism ever be questioned? You, I go through every vote you take. You trust me on that.

TODD: I do. I do. I completely do.

KEITH: I get forwarded from reporters now e-mails like this that are lewd and pornographic. I get questioned by people from the Speaker's office about things I don't ever want to even know about. I get calls from people in your families that I have to lie to because I've been told don't give them schedules, don't give them this kind of thing. These are the positions you've put us in, so what I'm asking for is we're going to keep working. When you asked in here what's your decision -- well I'm not saying we. I'm sorry, I, I don't mean to speak for Ben at all I'm speaking for

myself, and I haven't got a chance to say this stuff. But I will be on board, I will help you with any of this stuff if you need an amendment, if you need to know what's going on on the floor, if you need to know my take I'm proud to give it for you, I'm proud to serve the tax payers, I'm proud to serve the conservative movement on a higher level, but I can't be a part of anything like the soap opera stuff, any of this crap. I can't be a part of trashing other Reps for anything anymore.

I just don't, I feel like I've done, I feel like I've committed a sin in some ways by aiding and abetting something that, through my inaction, through my things, I just feel like I, I've done something wrong. And I, those e-mails I think I said, they just rocked me to my core and I can't remain silent and not say anything about it.

BEN: And to get accusations of unprofessionalism from you guys is really rich.

CINDY: I don't think I did that but (inaudible).

BEN: From Todd, okay. Todd says it was just from him. That's extraordinarily rich considering the way that you guys have conducted yourselves.

TODD: Well I don't know, you think it's appropriate to be chatting about following me to take

pictures while Karen's on the computer and she's watching the chat happen between the two of you.

BEN: I don't care what I was talking about.

TODD: You think it's appropriate --

KEITH: I can't even imagine what that was because I saw that e-mail I was like what the fuck is he talking about. I will tell you that when you said my car has a thing I didn't believe it. I do not -- that day -- because I will tell you this.

TODD: Yeah.

KEITH: I've been receiving anonymous phone calls, I've gotten text messages. A couple weeks back I waited -- Ben was sick or on vacation or something, he let us know, it was a Thursday. I sat and waited down here until 5:30 for you guys to come back for a meeting with me. We sat down here until 7, 7:30 I was glad to do it. I don't complain.

TODD: Here?

KEITH: Yes. And I got a text after that saying do you know where your bosses were during that time. Now I don't care, I don't judge people --

TODD: Last week?

KEITH: No, no, this was three or four weeks ago, three or four weeks back. I don't give a shit

[redacted]

[redacted]

what people do in their personal life, God knows I don't want people judging me for mine. And I've done things that I'm not proud of. But after that I couldn't help but think that my time had been abused, that I have been giving up time with my family and my friends as cover for something that I did not ask to sign on for.

So when I get stuff like that, when I see neglect your responsibilities as a representative, it is a guttural reaction as a tax payer and someone who ran so hard for one of those positions that I get sick on the inside. And I, yes, I shouldn't have, I'm sorry that I questioned, you know, if you were going to your tire thing or whatever but that's just the lack of trust there. I don't, like I just don't necessary believe if you guys say you're late or you're not here or something or if something goes on I, there's not that trust there to give you the grace that, that that's on the up and up.

And I'm not saying it was like, if you want to skip your committee meetings that's your deal, I don't mind. I'm not, I don't get to vote for either one of you. But I think there is, like, I'm sorry if Karen saw anything but whatever, I mean like it's not, when it comes down to like I mean she's going to have to decide too. It's her first or second day if she wants to have the other staff members trust her, I mean it's not.

CINDY: Keith?

KEITH: Yeah.

CINDY: And I think this is actually good conversation if we're going to allow it to be redeeming in some way, because for me I think, and I know we try to communicate but I still think there's a lack of communication because I don't know that you're here. Like, and I'm not, I'm not saying this to blame you, I'm just saying there's something missing because there are times when I do come back and no one's here, which is fine. I don't, because we're there late sometimes and I don't, I totally don't expect you to stay. In fact I assume you don't. (Inaudible.)

TODD: I assume you don't either.

CINDY: Instead of walking back over in my heels to like walk back over here, which, sorry, that's just my wimpyness or whatever, a lot of times I don't. If it's just for 15 minutes or a half an hour or whatever's left I go do my errands or usually I go try to eat something somewhere. And it's just a lot easier for me to leave from there where my truck is than to walk back over in my heels. And I assume -- so I apologize if you waited here until 7, I didn't know. I honestly didn't know and I would never --

BEN: No, what he means is he waited for

you guys to come back to have a meeting.

KEITH: It was when we discussed (inaudible) --

BEN: Like we've had Thursday staff, we've had Thursday staff meetings. Not recently but --

CINDY: But I guess what I'm saying.

BEN: -- but before where we've had a staff meeting scheduled directly after session and you guys come back three hours after session.

CINDY: But I, what I'm trying to say to you, Ben, I would assume that meeting's not happening if it's going to be starting at 5:00. In my mind I did not know.

KEITH: We've had staff meetings where you guys were on the calendar and we're waiting outside the door and you were in here and no one would answer the door when we were knocking. I mean it's not like --

CINDY: Now that's, and I'll just tell you that, I've never had that experience where I've never answered the door when you guys have knocked. So either I didn't hear you, I'm telling you --

BEN: I don't remember.

CINDY: -- nothing like that has ever --

KEITH: No, it was the day that you texted Josh and you said Josh, you got to go to the Farm

Bureau meeting. You texted, you didn't even open the door and say it to him.

CINDY: In fact --

KEITH: No, no.

BEN: I do remember that now.

KEITH: You're nitpicking here.

CINDY: No.

KEITH: There's a pattern here. Like we knew when [redacted] booked us a meeting we weren't going to be on time for that. It just was the case. We know with every one, because it never happens. This interview today didn't happen on time. And it's not like, I don't -- you can decide what's best to do your job. I mean and I would hope that you would give us the same grace too. Have you ever texted us with information that you needed a moment and it wasn't, like with maybe rare exceptions where it wasn't provided instantaneously. I mean we can pull information from anywhere. You wanted to destroy the cabinets because we're a 21st century office and then when we operate like a 21st century office it's why the hell aren't you chained to a desk. I mean it's just the rhetoric and stuff.

And you have to think from our point of view, we didn't get into this, we care -- I care. I don't know, I'm sorry, I keep saying we. I care about

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 conservatism, libertarianism, whatever. Like there are
2 certain things that we are going to be -- I might not
3 agree with you on every social issue but I'll be with you
4 on it and I'll learn your view and I'll make sure that
5 the bills go that way. But when it comes down to it like
6 I didn't come here to be, to be part of the rumor mill or
7 destroy any kind of career I have going forward, and
8 that's gotten to be the case where it's just like Jim
9 Runstead, pretty damn conservative guy. His staff
10 doesn't have a scarlet letter walking around the
11 building. They don't have to like be subjected to the
12 things we have to hear.
13 And I just think it's -- I'm sorry, like
14 I don't mean to, I don't know what I'm asking for, I just
15 don't want to get e-mails like that ever again. I don't,
16 like, I just think I've --
17 CINDY: So how, if I --
18 KEITH: -- have too much self respect.
19 CINDY: -- if I'm having, if I'm having,
20 if I'm having that happen, if I'm having people saying
21 hey, I contacted your office, how do you want me to tell
22 you?
23 KEITH: I want --
24 BEN: We talked about this before.
25 KEITH: -- we need a list. We need name

1 and we need -- we have a Nation Builder, we have every
2 back log, and redundant --
3 CINDY: Hey, it's not, it's not a
4 personal attack, okay. Let's just take that out of it.
5 How do you, just, it just kind of is what it is, people
6 are coming to me, how do you want --
7 BEN: Well you're --
8 CINDY: -- me to let you know the
9 feedback (inaudible) --
10 BEN: It gets down to a deeper level. It
11 gets down to a deeper level on that. Your first
12 assumption is not to ask us hey, this person said but,
13 you know, did you talk to them. Your first assumption is
14 well they, I'm sure they dropped it so we're just going
15 to have to adjust how the office works.
16 CINDY: I didn't say that at all to them.
17 BEN: But you did.
18 CINDY: We're adjusting the
19 office because --
20 BEN: But in your e-mail you said --
21 CINDY: -- we're short-staffed.
22 BEN: I understand that and I'm fine with
23 office adjustments.
24 CINDY: I mean --
25 BEN: But your first thought isn't to

1 come to us and say hey, this person said we didn't talk
2 to them, did you, you know, did you talk to them, what
3 happened with that.
4 CINDY: I just --
5 BEN: Which is something that we've
6 discussed before.
7 CINDY: I just left, left it open. I'm
8 just giving you, I'm giving you guys the feedback that I
9 have been getting and just how do we do it, how do we
10 address -- you guys need to know this, this is the
11 feedback I'm getting. It's not a personal attack.
12 KEITH: I would, I would re-review those
13 e-mails, imagine if we had sent something like that to
14 you and you wouldn't take it personally. I really would
15 re-review those, that's all I'm saying.
16 BEN: Well and it's not just those
17 e-mails too, it goes back, it goes back months and months
18 to previous e-mails that, so a little gun shy on a lot of
19 that stuff.
20 KEITH: When you say things like we're
21 not getting constituent work done because of
22 understaffing and stuff, Ben and I, I think see it as
23 what the fuck do they do in their districts.
24 BEN: Well you didn't care --
25 KEITH: We don't see --

1 BEN: -- about understaffing. We were
2 understaffed in the beginning and it took six weeks to
3 even think about replacing Josh.
4 TODD: We interviewed several people.
5 BEN: No, you didn't interview anyone I
6 think for at least five or six weeks.
7 CINDY: It, is there something
8 (inaudible).
9 BEN: In fact we didn't even talk about
10 it for five or six weeks.
11 CINDY: I mean because I'm kind of
12 confused here because --
13 KEITH: Well you never, you never, your
14 staffing approach has been like we decide what we needed.
15 You never asked like what --
16 BEN: Well Keith is supposed to be Chief
17 of Staff and from the very first --
18 KEITH: It's beyond --
19 BEN: -- from the very first hire --
20 KEITH: It's beyond that.
21 BEN: -- you were undermining him.
22 KEITH: Like we established processes
23 from before January. You guys never follow them. You
24 never follow them. It's true. Like if you look at our
25 process books the missed steps in the process is you guys

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 aren't invested in them. And then when we sit Anne down
2 we start running her through our processes, the person
3 who's supposed to establish our system and process, she's
4 just like, she was red-faced. She was pissed. She's
5 like why am I doing this. Well this happened once so we
6 had to change everything around to accommodate,
7 everything's been merged in a crises. So every process
8 we have isn't based on efficiency.
9 CINDY: Which is kind of why we're
10 reviewing things.
11 KEITH: No, it's not. Like it's like --
12 BEN: You're reviewing things so you can
13 put more checks and balances on trying to figure out
14 where we screw up.
15 CINDY: No, Ben.
16 BEN: Because your first assumption is
17 we're always screwing up.
18 CINDY: No, Ben, it's not. It's totally
19 not. I, I look at this like we all came in new not
20 knowing what we're doing, we all did the best that we
21 could just to keep our heads above water. Get through it
22 together whatever we could, we had to put out fires along
23 the way and focus on those things. We all worked our
24 tails off.
25 KEITH: That's just not true. We didn't

1 -- we came in, we came in pretty prepared. We worked --
2 CINDY: (Inaudible.)
3 KEITH: -- our asses off.
4 BEN: We were more prepared than any
5 office.
6 KEITH: The fires that came up were
7 friendly fire that was self-inflicted. I mean when we
8 sent the --
9 CINDY: (Inaudible) the two amendments on
10 the floor --
11 KEITH: Oh, my God.
12 CINDY: -- and committees and all that.
13 KEITH: That's a perfect -- the first
14 amendment we ever did, Todd, you went down in there in
15 front of (inaudible), I'm sorry that these are late, my
16 staff didn't get it done in time. Neglected to mention
17 you didn't ask for them until Monday morning at 3 a.m.
18 BEN: A holiday Monday. It was a holiday
19 Monday.
20 KEITH: Like come on. And you blamed us
21 in public on the record. I couldn't believe it. And
22 like these things have left scars, maybe you don't mean
23 it that way, we take it that way. I'm not talking about
24 amending on the floor is a self-inflicted fire. I'm
25 talking about the furniture gate, seat gate, all these

1 things that we've begged not to do to the point where we
2 don't give our opinions anymore. We just do what you
3 want.
4 BEN: And we're the ones that look like
5 idiots.
6 KEITH: And then we look like shit
7 because we have to sit around and like deal with the fire
8 department crew coming in. And no one does anything.
9 Like they, they, people reach out to us because they --
10 and we don't betray anybody. I can say that with
11 confidence. Like yes, I'm sorry if we joked around about
12 your tire thing. That was like --
13 TODD: I thought it was the funeral
14 thing, but.
15 KEITH: I don't know what the funeral
16 thing is, I didn't even know you had a funeral. But the
17 freaking whatever and I would never do that but the --
18 TODD: Belle Tire.
19 KEITH: Yeah. But the, we're under a lot
20 of stress, man. I mean it's just like, it's not just you
21 guys. I mean it's like the establishment's got us by the
22 short hairs. We work for the Speaker. Like I can't
23 like, we're stuck between a rock and a hard place and I
24 just need like, we need the grace that we've been willing
25 to give on some of this stuff because it's like, it's

1 very scary sometimes.
2 TODD: Keith, I don't, I don't care if
3 you guys aren't here on Friday.
4 KEITH: No, I'm not, I'm not mad --
5 TODD: No, just take them one at a time.
6 I don't. I care that stuff is done. I think that I see
7 myself from this perspective that I needed to bring
8 somebody in that can handle the constituent stuff and
9 just sort of focus on that. Ben, your strongest suit is,
10 to me is not administration and, you know --
11 BEN: I did fine with it, I did fine with
12 it until we were extraordinarily understaffed. And
13 Karen's already fricked up a couple things.
14 TODD: Fine, I understand that. I mean
15 she's new and it will take some time.
16 KEITH: Yeah, but when you say like --
17 BEN: But the problem is you give --
18 KEITH: -- when you say she reports
19 directly to you --
20 BEN: -- you go to Karen and you go to
21 Anne and you go to Steve [redacted] and you go to whoever
22 else you're thinking of hiring and you say well, you
23 know, my staff isn't doing things right or the processes
24 are broken and I need you to come in here and fix it,
25 that doesn't, that gives them the incentive to circumvent

[redacted]

[redacted]

us and go straight to you and modify things.

Like this whole school thing today, the Imlay City Schools thing. She got the phone call or whatever, didn't go to me with it, she went to you. She should never go to you on something like that because she'd come to me and she'd say oh, somebody wants to come and meet with Todd in like 20 minutes. And I'd say tell them we don't have time for a short meeting like really short notice like that. If they want to call up and chat with me I'd love to chat with them. But instead we're texting back and forth, she's telling the constituent yeah, you can come and then you're like no, I can't come and then she's telling the constituent no, she can't come.

And it, you, you're not in the office and like and this is goes back to the whole thing. You guys come into the office for a couple hours every week, you go to session, and then on weekends you think about how, you know, how to fix what's happening in the office and you don't know because you've never been in the office. You don't know how any of this works. You guys don't even know how to print something here.

TODD: I don't --

BEN: So like you can't, you can't say oh, we need --

KEITH: I don't blame you, I don't want to be in this office. I feel like I'm constantly -- I have reason to believe that I'm being bugged constantly.

BEN: We all do.

KEITH: And it's, like it scares the shit out of me. I don't like living in a surveillance state. I don't like, I don't like being blackmailed. I don't like any of this crap. It's just not what I signed up for. And it's not because you voted against a budget or anything, it's because of all this other bullshit that has nothing to do with what, campaigns or any of that crap. And it's just to me like, it's just such a fucked-up hostile environment. And it's just I like, like you can't be a happy warrior if there's no joy is how I feel. I like being a happy warrior. I don't like, like a dirge.

And I don't have anything like, I don't mean this like, these are just some feelings, some scars or whatever I'm showing because these e-mails pissed me off. And I don't mean to say this, I'm not trying to beat up on anybody, I'm not saying, I don't know what a solution is. I, it's going to take some time for me to think that out I believe.

I do think, like if I can give my opinion here, I think that right now I would seriously consider

what you do for constituent work over that break. I mean I would get down and dirty, town hall tours, whatever. And Ben had a great point on this to me the other day, he said the number one thing you can do to get re-elected, if that's what you want to do, is to get your ass out there and do constituent shit like crazy, because we're not going to get anywhere on the legislative stuff. I have been told point blank by people in the Speaker's office that they will not pass a single bill by either of us. And that is heartbreaking to me because I wanted to get here and actually pass conservative legislation, so.

CINDY: Will they pass one of Justin's bills? Just out of, I'm just, actually just out of curiosity. I assume they don't. I never assumed I'd get a bill passed.

BEN: Is he passing bills through there?

KEITH: Here?

BEN: Yeah.

KEITH: We're in the minority.

BEN: You're in the minority.

KEITH: I think he did.

CINDY: No, I mean in Congress. You know Justin is kind of like --

KEITH: He's passed bills.

CINDY: -- that black like, you know,

kind of --

KEITH: He's passed bills.

CINDY: Okay.

BEN: Well it's not, you guys think it's a oh, well they're not conservative enough thing, and maybe they aren't on some things, but they do not appreciate the way that you guys have conducted yourselves. I mean that's the long and short of it. And it's not, it's not policy for them, it's that you guys have --

KEITH: When Matt Golden's talking to me about where do I find a fucking police report I'm just sitting there like --

BEN: What are you talking about.

KEITH: -- you got to be kidding to me. Why is this rat talking to me in my life and why is he talking to me about this of all things. I mean it's just like -- and the weird thing is I don't even think they're gunning for you.

BEN: I don't think they care.

KEITH: No, I think that they think they just don't want the caucus embarrassed in any way, I think that's all.

BEN: They don't want the, they don't want the publicity.

[redacted]

[redacted]

CINDY: You think that's why they kicked me out a month and a half ago?

BEN: No, I think Al put pressure on that.

KEITH: No, I don't know what to think. I think it's our -- to be perfectly frank I've seen the way you communicate to us, I see the way you've talked to us behind closed doors. If you're that way around your colleagues I'm not shocked that they did that if they had the option. I, I got to tell you guys, I love you guys. I personally I have a lot of affection for you, I have a lot of fun with you guys, but some of this crap, like. And I tell you, it seems to me I'm this way myself, I blow off steam on the people I love the most and I understand that that could be some of the impetus. You know we can take it, we are pretty strong guy, like we got thick skin, that kind of thing. But I just think it's, in some way it's hitting a breaking point and some of it's just the outside stuff swirling around that just is --

CINDY: Yeah, when I sent that e-mail I wasn't venting off anything or attacking anything. It was, it was honestly, okay, we're trying to do this, this office stuff and bring in these new people. It was feedback in how are we doing to organize this. It had

nothing --

BEN: You guys don't want to ask us how to organize it, you want to tell us how to organize it.

CINDY: That --

KEITH: And it's, I'm, when there's lines in there saying like we aren't being effective in our districts I'll be like --

CINDY: No, it's not.

KEITH: -- well do you show up to shit on time, do you cancel things at the last minute. Because we cancel a lot of things at the last minute and we feel like assholes. People hate us. Like lobbyists hate us. It's insane. Me and Ben personally.

BEN: And it's not because we don't get back to them. How are we -- we're -- we -- how am I supposed, how am I going to call back a lobbyist and say yeah, we don't really care to meet with you. Because I'll call them back say I don't think we have time this week. What about next week? I don't think we have time next week either. What about next week? Probably not next time, next week either. You just want me to tell them oh, no, I don't think we're going to meet with you.

TODD: I haven't gotten any complaints on that side. You know, she's got (inaudible) on her side.

BEN: Why do we even care?

KEITH: Well we've gotten complaints when a lobbyist shows up for a meeting and there's a representative there they didn't know about. From both of you. They've said this shit to us. When I was calling people yesterday for those meetings you asked me to set up, which was awkward --

BEN: Did they ask if Todd was going to be there?

KEITH: -- they first asked me what's it about. I don't know. Secondly, is she the only representative that's going to be there? Yes. Are you sure? Yes. Are you really sure? I'm not sure, you know.

CINDY: Well each one of them want to ask me if I could bring Todd back into caucus. Which totally surprised me, by the way.

BEN: They asked it?

CINDY: That's what I -- yes. Yes.

TODD: Well they think there's something going to happen (inaudible).

CINDY: I'm just saying that, so I think --

TODD: And it's going to --

BEN: Why?

CINDY: They wanted me to convince you --

TODD: I've been waiting. I've been waiting.

CINDY: -- to, to try to get you back in caucus.

TODD: I've heard that too they --

BEN: Why?

TODD: -- (inaudible) floor. Because it --

CINDY: I don't think all is what it seems there. I'll just say that.

BEN: It never really is.

CINDY: I talked to a number of them today and the information I'm getting it's not all is what it seems down there. And when you say they're not gunning for you, I don't think that's the case at all.

BEN: Oh, they're gunning for you but it's not for the reasons you think it is.

TODD: No, I -- they -- it's actually kind of strange down on the floor. And it was strange in caucus because I know you're thinking there's some sort of hostility in the caucus.

BEN: No, of course there's not.

TODD: I was never any --

BEN: Politicos are never hostile to your face.

[redacted]

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TODD: I was never --
BEN: They'll fucking, they'll fucking stab you in the back as soon as humanly possible but they'll never say something to your face.
CINDY: When I say something, when I'm sending that back it's not a personal attack, it's not you guys suck and I -- it's not at all. It's like trying to have a conversation of, okay, this is what's going on, how do we, let's have a conversation, how do we do it. Now maybe that doesn't come through in an e-mail, maybe I need to call instead or (inaudible).
BEN: You, you've never, from the very start you guys have never asked, asked us to determine how best to run the office.
CINDY: That's not true. We --
BEN: How best to staff the office.
CINDY: You're the one who's put the processes together, not us.
BEN: I know, and the processes are all fucked up --
KEITH: This e-mail, this e-mail is from almost six months ago.
BEN: -- because we got stupid shit in there that wastes my time.
KEITH: No, no, this e-mail's from almost

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six months ago. The tone is fucking off the wall.
BEN: That's not even one of the worst ones.
KEITH: This isn't even one of the worst ones.
BEN: In fact that's a better one.
KEITH: It's just pertinent to me because I sat here and I read, I had to go look at this again because I couldn't believe --
BEN: Is that the one that talks about us being a reflection on them?
KEITH: How our actions, yeah, our actions reflect on the office and stuff.
BEN: Your actions reflect on us?
KEITH: Yes. It's like we aren't, we aren't no, we have no prominence.
BEN: Our political futures are very grim. Extraordinarily grim.
TODD: I think that e-mail right there it was, I could be wrong but that January e-mail was related to a December e-mail where I had asked for things to be done, not by you Keith --
BEN: No, it was about Keith being on Off The Record. That's what that e-mail was.
TODD: Oh, I didn't read it but Off The

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Record without, you know, us knowing and all that, but. So maybe there's some, maybe there is some, you know, lingering stuff on that. I, when I wrote it it was because, when I wrote that e-mail it was because for me it was kind of the straw that broke the camel's back where I hear from Karen, who's having a conversation with my mom and my wife, who are trying to, to, you know, trying to handle this situation. And speaking of Karen, obviously Karen knows me, you know, pretty darn well and she's --
BEN: I thought I knew you pretty darn well, Todd.
TODD: Yeah. I'm just --
BEN: So she doesn't, she doesn't know you that well.
TODD: Yeah. If, if, well I mean if you don't want to hear --
BEN: Go ahead.
TODD: No, I, I think you have to, you know, you have to kind of look at it and say if you're texting back and forth and saying those things and she sees it, could have been Steve or Anne, and maybe it was in jest, I mean you guys do joke and they do coarsely joke back here quite often and I said that, maybe that's what it was and I hope it was. You know, I thought it

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was related to the funeral when I went to the funeral and then I went to the tea party, you know. I mean, you know, not I'm showing up to the tea party late because I'm at a funeral. So I obviously had that part wrong. You're saying it was that morning with the tire and I'll get the receipt for the Belle Tire thing.
KEITH: No, I don't -- it's not that.
TODD: But --
KEITH: It's not.
TODD: Hold on. Hold on. So I'm saying so in the backdrop of all of that it just felt like that, you know, if that's going on and I do know that, you know, one of you was, has at least spoken to my brother or is speaking to Josh or whatever else related to this and I'm just asking you to just kind of consider that.
And Ben, I feel like there is some, there's some hostility or some disdain for me that you have. It goes back well before any of this and it might have been to the beginning when, you know, when we decided to take this on. And I felt like that that's been there for, for the whole time. It's like you're kind of offended by the way that I have operated, not even talking about personally but just politically, and, and, you know, so I don't always take your advice and I certainly haven't and --

[redacted]

1 BEN: I was fine when you didn't take,
2 when you -- there was times in which you didn't take my
3 advice.
4 KEITH: I will tell you --
5 BEN: -- but you respected it.
6 KEITH: I will tell you I do not, I do
7 not know the depth of your relationship or whatever. I
8 don't. I'm a relative newbie to this. I have never
9 heard him speak about you in less than glowing terms. It
10 was less than a month ago he was talking about how Todd
11 Courser --
12 BEN: I defend you guys constantly.
13 KEITH: -- was the first person when he
14 ran for office he sat me down and he made me feel like I
15 was an important voice. He said that. I was touched, it
16 was touching.
17 BEN: That's why, that's why this is
18 extraordinarily disappointing for me. Because --
19 KEITH: And I can't, I cannot help what
20 Josh does. He is bitter and he's angry and I understand
21 why he is that way.
22 BEN: Well sometimes he is.
23 KEITH: Well, no, I mean like in the
24 sense of like --
25 BEN: I don't think overall.

1 KEITH: -- angry what happened with his
2 employment here. He quit his job. He can go and do
3 whatever the fuck he wants and none of us can stop him.
4 TODD: Well I understand.
5 KEITH: And I would say it was a massive
6 strategic error to let him get to that point. And he
7 talked about these things with you and he was blown off.
8 BEN: You guys laughed at him.
9 KEITH: Laughed at him. And now we hear
10 about things from Wendy [redacted] And I'm sitting here
11 thinking no one comes to me and tells me anything.
12 Nobody has the grace or the decency to be honest with me
13 so I have to hear everything secondhand that I don't want
14 to hear in the first place. And so I --
15 CINDY: Sorry, I am kind of lost. When I
16 talked to Josh I was disappointed that he, he didn't
17 bring anything to me. Like I was totally unaware and I
18 really caught off guard with all that. What did you hear
19 from Wendy too? I'm not really following you exactly
20 what you're, what you're referring to.
21 KEITH: I would just say --
22 CINDY: Like about Josh or what, I'm not
23 sure --
24 KEITH: No.
25 BEN: No, about you and Todd and your

1 relationship.
2 CINDY: Oh, okay. I thought you were
3 trying to say something more about Josh there, I'm
4 like --
5 BEN: No.
6 CINDY: -- I'm not following all what
7 you're talking about.
8 KEITH: I don't think if Josh goes and
9 talks to your family and he has a relationship or
10 connection to do that, there's nothing Ben and I can do
11 to stop and it.
12 TODD: I'm not, I'm not telling you --
13 KEITH: And we're not responsible at all
14 for that. And it's, like I said it's a strategic error
15 to let someone get to that point where they might want to
16 do that kind of thing and --
17 CINDY: I didn't know he was at the
18 point, I never saw Josh.
19 KEITH: Yeah.
20 CINDY: Very rarely did I ever see Josh.
21 Honestly. I mean I was in the cabinet most of the time
22 and when I did come, you know Keith, I'd ask you where,
23 he's working on, whatever. I didn't, I didn't see him
24 much. I didn't.
25 BEN: You -- you guys should --

1 TODD: You guys I'm not --
2 BEN: You guys should have seen it. But
3 the, to go back to your point Todd --
4 CINDY: Well maybe I should have. Ben,
5 you could be right. Maybe I should have, I'm just saying
6 --
7 BEN: Well you guys were kind of off in
8 your own little world.
9 CINDY: Yeah, I was off in that world,
10 Ben.
11 BEN: I don't think you were as off in
12 that world as you think you were.
13 TODD: She was over here --
14 BEN: If I can be, if I can be --
15 CINDY: So you know --
16 BEN: -- blunt.
17 CINDY: -- what world I was off in, is
18 that what you're saying, Ben?
19 BEN: I know what you guys --
20 CINDY: Is that what you're telling me,
21 Ben?
22 BEN: I know what you guys have been
23 concentrating for the last six, six months.
24 CINDY: And it hasn't been over there?
25 BEN: It hasn't been much as you think it

[redacted]

[redacted]

has.
CINDY: But you know.
BEN: I know --
CINDY: But you know.
BEN: -- as evidenced by exactly what happens all around this office and since we've been here for six, for six months.
CINDY: That's okay. That says a lot. Just hearing you say that says a lot to me.
BEN: I can, looking, looking back I'm like why, you know, why are Cindy and Todd not coming back here for a legislative meeting, you know. They like, they're like all this we got to talk about the staffing stuff and now I look back and I --
CINDY: Hey, you can look back on everything.
BEN: -- I'm like oh, okay. I got it. I know where they were. I know what they were doing. Makes sense.
CINDY: Go ahead.
BEN: Because I'd like to think that than think you guys, that -- I don't know. The reason this is so disappointing, Todd, is because when I was 18 years old I had barely, I had just getting involved in politics and you said to me, you said come, we'll have lunch,

we'll go to Taco Bell, we'll talk. I was 18 years old, nobody gave a crap about me. Like nobody, nobody. And you're like, you wanted to come talk to me, you were running for office, I was extremely flattered. We came, we sat down, you, you treated me with respect that no one ever else did, and I devoted pretty much my entire adult working life to getting you elected. And now here we are. I mean and now I don't know where I'm going from here. I mean you guys are going to lose your re-elections so at most I have a year and a half left. And where am I going to go from here? Everybody in this whole building hates us. Not because we stood for good, for, you know, for good, sound policy. I'm fine for standing with good, sound policy. It's all the other shit. It's just --
TODD: Furniture, seat gate.
BEN: Furniture, seat gate, your guy's relationship.
TODD: (Inaudible.)
BEN: You, you've, you've conducted yourself in a way that is unbecoming of a representative in a lot of fashions. You, you, your arrogance has blinded you to the fact that there are some representatives here that do know some stuff, more stuff than you do. I mean you bring lobbyists in here that

have been around for 25 years, they were former representatives, they've been here for more times than we can count, and you tell them how Lansing works. You don't know how Lansing works, these people know how Lansing works. And, and they go on, and they go --
TODD: I tell them how it works?
BEN: Yes. You said no, this is how it works, guys. I don't know how many meetings I've sat in there like no, this is how it works. You know, they come to you, they twist your arm, they do whatever, what, you know, whatever you say, but you, you know, you always think that you know better than all those people. And you, the best thing for you would have been to come in, take four or five months to just sit down, get to know your colleagues, figure out if you could glean some knowledge from them, because they do have some knowledge, whether or not you agree with them politically or not.
KEITH: Yeah, but we can't rehash -- it's not necessary to rehash the past --
BEN: I don't need to rehash the past.
CINDY: Okay. (Inaudible) how we should have done it.
TODD: He's, he already knows how we should have done it.
CINDY: It's all right.

BEN: I don't know exactly. That's a suggestion.
TODD: How we should have done it, also where my focus was for the last five months when I was running a business for 40, 50 hours a week when I wasn't here, being lambasted why I wasn't in appointments here. Still having to run, you know, a sizeable operation with five employees on that end and still doing that and doing appointments while --
BEN: Are you guys seriously saying your relationship was not a distraction from everything that we do here?
TODD: I, like I'm not going to get into, into, into all that. I mean you obviously have already decided what all that means, you decided that basically what I did, I came in wasn't the way you should have done it. I'm saying is I think, and maybe I'm wrong, that I'm offensive to you.
BEN: I'm disappointed.
TODD: I think I'm offensive to you.
BEN: I don't think that's the case.
TODD: I think you're offended with the way that I, the way that I conducted myself even without any of the other personal stuff. I think as a representative I was offensive to you. And so with seat

[redacted]

gate, you know, with furniture stuff, with me attacking immediately the governor and the response with all these --

KEITH: I don't care about that.

BEN: I don't necessarily --

KEITH: I don't care about that.

TODD: (Inaudible.)

KEITH: No, no. This e-mail was beyond the pale. This was pornographic.

CINDY: How (inaudible) talking about? Apparently you get a whole bunch of stuff that I don't get, Keith, all right.

KEITH: This isn't about, this isn't about attacking the governor. This was beyond the pale. And I can't, like I'm just saying like we can get into the fact whatever we should have done and stuff, whatever. If I had gotten elected Rep I would have probably gotten burned a couple times myself. I would have done some stupid shit and I could easily have been the one getting kicked out of caucus. There's no doubt. I was angry after what they did to me with Glep. I would have come in guns blazing. But there still like is a certain thing, like there is decorum. There is things that we have -- it does make sense to respect the other people's districts. It would not be fair if Mike Calton,

I'm just throwing as an example, came into Todd Courser's district and said why Courser was such an asshole kind of thing.

TODD: I don't, I don't do that to anybody. I don't.

KEITH: No, I know. I'm saying, I'm just saying like, I'm just saying like there is --

TODD: As a matter of fact I --

CINDY: I don't do that, do I?

BEN: He's going extreme with an example but.

TODD: Right. I've had, I've had people in my district. (Inaudible) come in my district and does events and he fundraises --

KEITH: Right.

TODD: -- in my district. We have the situation where LaFontaine was at the, she's like the key note speaker at the dog thing --

KEITH: Right.

TODD: -- and didn't ask. You know, multiples of them came (inaudible). You know they don't, they don't ask me to come into my district. That rule's put in place for her and I.

KEITH: Right.

TODD: I think we can do all (inaudible).

KEITH: We're on the weeds, we're on the weeds and stuff.

TODD: Yeah, but --

KEITH: What I'm saying is that like what you guys do it reflects on us. It does. So please don't make us have to deal with e-mails that basically offend me personally at my core like these, like the ones to us personally, or things like this that I have to get and wonder what in God's name is going on. And when I have people from HRCC coming up saying what is this e-mail and I have to sit there and be like you kidding me. Like I think it's --

CINDY: The one I wrote?

KEITH: Yeah.

BEN: Is that it?

KEITH: (Inaudible.)

TODD: I know we have to, we're going to have to go and that's kind of awkward spot. Well I guess we have a little time.

KEITH: I don't mean to put you in a bad place, I'm just saying. I was very upset by those e-mails, that's all.

TODD: Well I --

KEITH: Very, very.

TODD: And maybe --

KEITH: And I ask for you please to think like, you have been given something I worked extremely hard to get. I mean I bled for this position myself too. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here but I don't want to see two people squander that because that makes me sick. That's like a guy, a paraplegic who has to watch Michael Jordan play and wish he could have been there. Like that's what it feels for me.

CINDY: Is that, is that what you think that we've done is set out to squander it like we're intentionally, with each of these things we're intentionally trying to do that?

KEITH: I, I don't know how -- your staff is getting like blackmail. Like I'm getting forwarded that e-mail from --

CINDY: Keith, I don't know (inaudible).

KEITH: I'm getting that forwarded that e-mail from HRCC and they say we know your boss wrote this.

CINDY: This is --

KEITH: And I get scared.

CINDY: This is the first I'm hearing about this stuff so I --

KEITH: What, what --

CINDY: Yeah, I mean.

[redacted]

KEITH: -- it would be unfair to like --
BEN: That's not true.
KEITH: Guys, like I'm going to cut the bullcrap here. Like I know what's been going on. It's not a big deal. I've given the grace here.
CINDY: I mean these, these e-mails and phone calls you're getting, I don't know about them Keith so you're, you're telling me this --
BEN: It would be unfair to say they set out to squander the opportunity.
KEITH: I'm not saying that.
BEN: We would never say that, it would be ridiculous.
KEITH: Get it back, we can help you get it back.
CINDY: Well separating offices is the first thing that's going to happen. If that's going to be met with no, we're not willing to --
KEITH: I'm not saying no.
CINDY: -- (inaudible) staff and I don't know what else to do about that.
BEN: We don't know what you, we don't know what you mean by that.
KEITH: Just tell us that. And what you can do is, and I will give --

CINDY: That's why I sent that e-mail, I'm trying to have that conversation.
BEN: What do you mean Todd and you won't be as personally connected, like you won't be sitting here together in the office?
KEITH: If you want us to separate the offices --
CINDY: We wanted to bring it to you and we asked your guys's input which is how this conversation started, what do you guys see it. Because when I see how Keith goes through the bills I like that. I like doing it that way. But if we have to split it we have to. So I think there's ways that make sense and maybe way -- we asked you guys.
KEITH: We have ideas on this too. We've talked about it.
CINDY: And that's how we open the conversation.
KEITH: I was, I was --
TODD: She asked me about sending an e-mail, I said just send them an e-mail we can talk about the ideas, putting the offices on what levels do we do it.
KEITH: Uh-huh.
CINDY: I didn't send that to Anne and

Karen. I sent it to you guys. (Inaudible) this conversation.
BEN: Yeah, but we know, we know both of you told both of them that they're -- that we're dropping the ball on things and the processes need to be adjusted. And that is a horrible way to start a new employee because they are constantly going to be questioning --
KEITH: We're undermined.
BEN: We're totally undermined.
CINDY: I told them we had to --
BEN: And we have to train them, we have to supervise them, and we have to make sure things are done properly.
KEITH: We have to be -- we'll tell you though the thing is that if you guys are not 100 percent on your game when it comes to your side of doing the admin stuff. And we've given you guys constituents to call before, they don't get called, you know. I mean like it's just like you guys were on the way to that Auto County Patriots Proposal 1 for them. Not only was a constituent who was supposed to get called on the way call us the next day and say oh, she never called me, we get calls from the event organizers wondering why they're 45 minutes late.
CINDY: And that was my fault because it

was my phone and it took me, and he was following -- I mean Jim knows. I mean I called I'm like Jim --
KEITH: Right. Imagine how we --
CINDY: -- (inaudible) phone it's going in circles taking me to Saugatuck, where do we go. So.
KEITH: I understand what you're, I know that there's cases that happen but get, like honestly though every time a constituent like says oh, like I didn't get a call there's probably a story like that behind it too, you know. And we need to be able to get the opportunity to do that. And you, I can very, I'm not going to tell you you need to do anything, I don't, I'm not that kind of person. I would very much appreciate it if in those situations you would say something like my staff is normally on the ball with this. I would be surprised if there was an oversight but let me double check with them. You know. Something like that would mean, I think it would mean the world to Ben and it would mean the world to me too.
CINDY: I said is okay, let me check on that. Is what I told the pastor is what I told everybody else.
TODD: I didn't tell anybody anything.
CINDY: So I --
TODD: When it comes to the three

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 constituents they just say yeah, called your office
2 several times, you know, and, and.
3 CINDY: I just say okay I'll check on
4 that. And then I give it back to you guys so I mean
5 it's, it's not a --
6 KEITH: What I would say is --
7 CINDY: I have to be able to have, I have
8 to be able to have that conversation with you guys and
9 start it and --
10 BEN: Well yeah.
11 CINDY: -- give it to you.
12 BEN: It's not --
13 KEITH: If you want to separate your
14 offices and your office operations, if that puts you in a
15 better position personally and professionally, we can do
16 that. You don't have to separate our roles from each of
17 you. We can do the same things for both of you. And
18 we'll be there for you but just give us with the
19 knowledge of what we need to do. We'll come up with a
20 plan. I'm not going to stop doing your committee stuff
21 or helping you with that.
22 CINDY: That's what, that's what we're
23 trying --
24 KEITH: Period. I like to do that.
25 CINDY: -- to do. Without knowing how to

1 do it.
2 KEITH: Yeah.
3 BEN: But what are we talking here, are
4 we talking are we separating the offices because you want
5 the offices to run more efficiently and serve the
6 constituents better or are we talking personally,
7 professionally it would probably be better if Todd and I
8 aren't so closely connected?
9 TODD: Both.
10 CINDY: I think both. I think that, I
11 think that as we do it we always --
12 BEN: What's so, what so funny Todd?
13 TODD: Well I can say both.
14 CINDY: I think we, I think it's always
15 arrogant to say that you've arrived and you do things the
16 best that you could ever do. I'm that person that is
17 always trying to improve on things. And so when I say
18 that it doesn't mean I think you're doing a terrible job
19 ever, it's just we always learn through the process and
20 we can learn how to do it better. So do I think we can
21 do it better, yes. And so as we're doing that I think
22 that we can probably put things in place that continue to
23 help us do it better. That's all that is.
24 KEITH: And we, if you want to separate
25 the things --

1 BEN: If, if you --
2 KEITH: -- we will come up with a
3 workable way to do it that doesn't, that doesn't cause
4 your professional stuff to suffer. If, you know, if we
5 have to duel up -- double up times on legislative
6 meetings or committee stuff we can do that.
7 Quite frankly I will tell you one thing I
8 learned from being understaffed is that we were only
9 really slightly understaffed. When we got someone like
10 an intern in here to just do the happy notes we can get
11 piles done because that's all he focuses on all day. I
12 think, I think most offices in this building are
13 overstaffed. I think they don't have enough to do.
14 Whereas we have a nice mix of having enough to do without
15 a bunch of extraneous, because -- I'm going off on
16 tangent but you get to that point where if you have, like
17 we had to, like another full-time person in the mix or
18 whatever we're going to be spending time trying to find
19 work for them to do and I hate that. That seems to me
20 like treading water, you know what I mean. And so either
21 way --
22 CINDY: I think it, I think it would be
23 nice if, to have somebody here answering the phones
24 Monday through Friday. And whether that's an intern or
25 whether that's someone who's paid part-time here on

1 Friday and you guys are working from wherever you're
2 working, I just think for two offices to just have one
3 person here --
4 BEN: I think that's good.
5 CINDY: -- Monday through Friday would be
6 the --
7 KEITH: That's why we said --
8 CINDY: Even sitting just there
9 (inaudible).
10 KEITH: That's why we first had the
11 discussion about staffing I said we just need a secretary
12 and that got totally dumped.
13 CINDY: And what are, what are we trying,
14 I mean we --
15 TODD: (Inaudible.)
16 CINDY: I know you guys don't want to
17 (inaudible) credit for what --
18 BEN: She's (inaudible).
19 TODD: What?
20 BEN: She's (inaudible).
21 CINDY: We are trying.
22 TODD: (Inaudible.)
23 BEN: I don't believe -- if you want --
24 KEITH: I don't doubt you're not trying.
25 I don't doubt that.

[redacted]

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BEN: If you, if you, if you want to, the offices to run efficiently and everything to be done properly and, and it all taken care of and you do want our opinions then we want full, we want full ability to structure processes, procedures, points of command on everything.

KEITH: That's not true.

BEN: Yeah, it is.

KEITH: No, that doesn't work. Dude, that doesn't work in a business.

BEN: I'm not doing, I'm not doing a log of four different types of contacts when we always, we log them in other places anyway.

KEITH: I think what Ben's asking for is that --

BEN: Anne's going to flip her lid.

KEITH: -- those situations where you ask for like a contact log or whatever, if you can give him the grace of saying, letting him walk you through Nation Builder, let him walk you through the process, it's pretty good. I like the checks and balances he's established. I think you can do it that way and that way it keeps things uniform. Before, and then say if there's any deficiency there. And that's what Anne asked for too.

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BEN: I know but --

KEITH: She said I want to know what the goal is so we can design, instead of speaking and this should be the process speak of what the goal should be and let the process --

BEN: She's good with processes. She's very good.

KEITH: Yeah. So like that's what I'm trying --

CINDY: She's got a ton of experience.

KEITH: I'm not being --

BEN: Well the thing is you guys --

KEITH: -- I'm just saying you don't get, you don't get a hundred percent goal (inaudible).

BEN: No, I mean --

KEITH: (Inaudible.)

TODD: (Inaudible) 30 years of experience in doing administration at the executive level and other levels of management I would be going to that person in conversation.

BEN: No, I'm good with that.

TODD: Or somebody that I've had running and taking care of down to the minutia of the legalese for better part of six years and has never missed one damn thing in six years, how I don't take their input on

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how to put processes together.

KEITH: I agree.

TODD: I mean I brought her in because I have complete confidence in her ability to be able to (inaudible).

BEN: I'm good with, I'm good with that.

TODD: I think that there are areas we can take off your shoulders and your shoulders that you're no longer accountable for.

BEN: Anne loves all my processes. She thinks that the redundancies that you guys put on don't make sense.

KEITH: Guys, no, no, no, no, no. Don't argue about this now. Set meetings next week once Anne gets up to speed and just discuss processes for an hour or two. You know, I'll sit on it, I'll moderate it, that's it. Like it doesn't need to be like the tit for tat on stuff. And that's the thing, like I don't want this to get into the tit for tat. There have been very frustrating moments for us, there's been very frustrating moments for you. I know you're dealing with frustrations that we don't see outside of this whereas our frustrations are mainly geared towards you two. And that's just the hierarchy of an office place, you know that. Like I'm sure your employees at Courser and

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Associates are not always happy with King Todd, you know. Like and so that's my -- if you -- we, Ben and I will work on coming up with a way to separate things that make sense and doesn't screw you over professionally.

TODD: I think the area that, you know, we obviously are going to, you know, be walking those pieces out, Karen put part of that. Electronically I think there's a lot she can do just keep up on top of it. I don't feel like that those things are being responded to. And she'll catch the calendared items whether we need them or not and so I don't, I don't think having that person brought in hurts us in any fashion at all. I don't think bringing in Anne hurts us in any fashion at all.

BEN: No, I didn't, I don't necessarily, I don't have a problem with Anne.

TODD: So on the one hand you have more electronic stuff probably on Karen's side and more, you know, more in-office stuff because Anne is closer to here. So immediately when I came in and I see you guys are up there and they're down here I'm thinking well okay, that doesn't, not exactly sure how that works. I mean that's okay, I don't mind. I mean you guys are welcome to, as a matter of fact you're more than welcome to be up in that space up there. I think that that's

[redacted]

totally, totally fits. It doesn't really deal with the, what I said and what I said for back and forth is it's been with me for some time is how do you, how do you handle the administration so that you know it's being taken care of. And we struggled with this, struggled with it with Josh, you know. And you have to have people who do administration and who don't mind responding with three or five sentences over and over and over and over again and documenting with 12 more clicks to make sure it's done. That's what they do, they just love to do that. And that's, Ben, that's not something that you love to do.

BEN: No, I freaking hate it.

TODD: And Keith that's not something that you love to do. And neither one of you really wants to do that.

BEN: I like to design the process but as far as clicking through all the e-mails it makes me want to shoot myself in the face.

TODD: So what I'm doing is I know that and so I've, what I've done is try to take steps to bring in somebody, from my side anyway. I don't know if Anne --

CINDY: Secretary.

TODD: To bring in somebody who can take

care of those administrative pieces and that I know they're done and I'll feel like that that's one less area we really have to be concerned about because we have somebody there who's taking care of that.

CINDY: (Inaudible.)

BEN: Well the issue is you started out by telling Karen, you're telling Karen that things are being dropped and the processes aren't being followed and then she, she should really be coming to me with stuff before it comes to you with stuff. So like I don't know what happened yesterday but there was somebody who asked to come in and talk about skilled trades or something later in June and Karen told them you weren't going to be in the office for a whole week and she said staff wouldn't be in the office for a whole week, which is unacceptable. Like if we're not going to do a meeting we're not going to do a meeting but we can't be telling people that you won't be in the office for a week and we won't be in the office for a week.

KEITH: Yeah.

BEN: Because then it sounds like --

CINDY: Is that true, there's a week where no one's going to be --

BEN: No. She never talked to me about it. I don't know if she talked to you about it.

TODD: I don't know.

BEN: But that's the thing, if you give, if you, if you give her the assumption that I don't --

KEITH: It's a lack of institution.

BEN: -- I don't know what I'm talking about or I'm not doing what I'm supposed to do, she's going to go off on her own and do things and things are going to be fucked up.

TODD: Karen had the chance to sit next to you for two and a half years.

BEN: Um-hum.

TODD: Karen witnessed you from one desk to the next for two and a half years. Karen knows, Karen knows you pretty well as far as your work style and your ability to be able to manage multiple projects and follow up. She's witnessed it. I don't have to tell her anything. She saw it herself.

BEN: I would say she witnessed me in a different environment but okay.

TODD: I'm just saying she had --

BEN: Have I not been different in this environment than I was before though?

TODD: I think we all are. I think we all are.

BEN: The thing is she --

TODD: (Inaudible.)

BEN: The thing is she, she's, because she perceives that I do not know what I'm talking about or don't, aren't doing what I'm supposed to be doing she's going to go off and do her own thing and stuff's going to get messed up.

TODD: I think, I think some of that, but what I'm saying is I think some of that's going to get settled out and it will.

BEN: But when you send an e-mail that says she doesn't report to you guys, she reports directly to me.

TODD: I want you to know that she reports -- I'm the one responsible for my district and --

BEN: I'm aware of that.

TODD: -- I'm not comfortable, I'm not comfortable anymore having begging to have stuff done.

BEN: Well then you're not trusting your staff and you never have been.

TODD: Look, I asked for happy notes, Ben, and I've been asking for them and I've been asking for them and I don't get them.

BEN: I'm understaffed.

TODD: And I don't get, and I don't get a daily e-mail. Is that understaffed? I don't and so I'm

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 saying I have to have --
2 BEN: It is a giant --
3 TODD: It is a giant weight to do one
4 e-mail to tell me what to do.
5 BEN: It's a huge time suck.
6 CINDY: Do we have to check in, just
7 question, on 1:30?
8 TODD: I'm saying I brought that person
9 --
10 KEITH: I would.
11 TODD: Yeah, probably need to. Look,
12 there's a lot we probably can go through inside of that
13 and their role and how to do that, how to do your role.
14 I, I realize there's a lack of trust on both sides and
15 you guys are dealing with a lot stress related to us. I
16 just want to apologize to both of you. I do. I do. I
17 honestly do. I want to apologize for those areas where I
18 don't, I'm not necessarily even aware the times that that
19 has created weight for you guys. Some of it is me just
20 leaving, you know. Basically I get in my truck and I
21 take off and I'm gone. I don't go to the events she goes
22 to --
23 BEN: We don't care about any of that.
24 KEITH: Seriously, I don't care about
25 that. I really don't care about that. Like I'm not

1 saying like I need you here to hold my hand or anything.
2 TODD: Hold on. Hold on. I didn't, I
3 didn't -- okay. I didn't know you were waiting here
4 until 7:00 waiting for me. I didn't get a text to know
5 that, I didn't know that that was the deal, so. Probably
6 is, probably on both sides it needs to be done better. I
7 just know that to, to me if somebody sees that in a text
8 back and forth and with you guys, you know, and with the
9 other stuff going on --
10 KEITH: It was, it was not right for that
11 to happen and I apologize for that.
12 TODD: And so if my e-mail was a reaction
13 on that and --
14 KEITH: Um-hum. I understand how that
15 personally would hurt. I'm sorry about that that I
16 caused you to feel that way.
17 TODD: Inside of that. And yet I'm still
18 not hostile because I do honestly want you guys here.
19 But I think Ben, I think there is some, some animus, I
20 do, and maybe I'm wrong, there's some animus that you
21 have towards me. Or maybe you're just hostile or
22 offended towards me and maybe I'm wrong on that.
23 BEN: I'm not usually a hostile person.
24 This is not a usual situation for me to be in.
25 TODD: I get it, I'm not trying to say it

1 is.
2 BEN: I'm not -- I don't -- it's not that
3 I hate you it's just I'm very disappointed, I mean. And
4 I don't know how, I don't know how I feel because there's
5 a lot of, lot of feelings going on right now. And I, I
6 don't need this in my life right now. I have a lot of
7 other personal things I have to, I have a house and baby
8 and.
9 TODD: A life.
10 BEN: Yeah.
11 TODD: You have a life.
12 BEN: Stuff that I need to do. But now I
13 don't know where my political future lies.
14 KEITH: Like that's not, we have like,
15 they have, you guys have to go check in two minutes. I
16 hope that we can consider this a good opening, more
17 honest trusting relationships, you know, between all of
18 us. We'll figure it out more on stuff. Like I don't, I
19 hope you don't take any of like what I'm saying as
20 animosity either, I just, it's just things that building
21 up I needed to say.
22 TODD: No, I don't (inaudible).
23 KEITH: We can talk more about it going
24 forward you know, and that's, we'll talk more about it
25 and we'll work this week on trying to figure out, you

1 know, a plan for separating some of these things that
2 make sense for you guys and for your districts. And I
3 can understand now your e-mail. If I don't read it with
4 animosity like I see what you're saying, you know, like
5 it's just, maybe that's just my personal thing.
6 TODD: I think there's some, like I do
7 personally I know that there's, you know, outward in the
8 world and all that sort business separating and trying to
9 create. I think some of the baggage of me has affected
10 her. I'm sort of surprised they want me back in caucus
11 but they have said that repeatedly on the floor.
12 BEN: It's weird.
13 TODD: And I think they're just not sure
14 how to handle all that. So I don't know what all that
15 means, I'm not exactly sure. I'm just, I've been nothing
16 but a gentleman to each one of them personally. Other
17 than Kevin with whom I was not quite the gentleman but
18 all the rest of them I have been nothing short of,
19 nothing short of gentleman and been friendly with them --
20 KEITH: I believe that.
21 TODD: -- both publicly and privately.
22 You know, I'm disappointed obviously in them, you know,
23 the lack thereof of whatever, but. And so I'm not sure
24 how to operate in this environment. And it's been six,
25 you know, going on six months now and, you know, you

[redacted]

[redacted]

1 know, I've never felt comfortable here at all. I'm not
2 comfortable here. It's not my leather chair in my
3 office, you know, with my shoes off and, you know,
4 just -- I'm not. And, and yet I feel like that there's
5 some stuff I'm supposed to do here.
6 I never expected to get a bill passed. I
7 expected though that I would have a solid set of bills
8 that were offered up so that going forward those things
9 wouldn't seem like such extreme ideas when they've been
10 given time to be able to ferment a little bit, whether
11 it's one cycle or maybe, you know, a year or longer, and
12 that it would kind of as a, as a sort of a stake in the
13 ground maybe cause other legislation to be more
14 conservative as it went forward. And that's a pretty low
15 bar but that's kind of where I, I set it.
16 I personally was really, really
17 disappointed, and this isn't you guys, it's just sort of
18 the lay of the land. And I don't know if it's, you know,
19 depression or what, but you spend five F'ing months to
20 try and fight, you know, the fiscal conservative stuff
21 and really pushing hard to try and, to try and make a
22 dent and you end up with the biggest budget in state
23 history. And everybody votes for it, you know. So you
24 kind of feel like you're shooting bb's at, you know, at
25 freight trains that aren't going to stop anyway and you

1 think what, what am I doing this for? To get the ire of
2 the people who say they're in the conservative cause as
3 they do it.
4 You know, the hostility it's cost my
5 family, basically everything I have financially to do
6 this. Every damn dime, every damn minute that I have for
7 the last six and a half, seven years. Or longer, now
8 probably eight, eight and a half years. And for what?
9 It wasn't to get elected, you know. I didn't come into
10 this to get elected. I never did, you know. It's kind
11 of kind of weird but I didn't, I didn't do it for that,
12 you know.
13 So I think on both sides there's probably
14 some -- and maybe I haven't voiced that as well. I
15 didn't mean hostility inside that. Maybe there was some
16 pent-up stuff, but when I saw that and heard it, it did,
17 it was, it was hurtful because I'm thinking you're
18 talking about, you know, the situation with the funeral.
19 And if it's the tire it's the tire, you know. I, if I
20 have a flat tire -- my truck has 270 thousand miles on
21 it. It now has transmission issues and it's got rear end
22 issues, do I want to get a new vehicle when I'm putting
23 50 thousand plus a year on it.
24 KEITH: I don't think it's a specific,
25 it's not a specific incident, like --

1 BEN: We have a very low level of trust.
2 KEITH: It's just a low level of trust.
3 And that will have to be rebuilt, you know.
4 TODD: I get that. I get that and I
5 think it's probably on both sides. And so I know you
6 guys don't get the, maybe as much of the constituent
7 pressure. If somebody tells me or stops in or mom has to
8 follow up or they're now stopping in the office to get
9 feedback or to get something and they're saying and
10 that's how I hear feedback is they have called and tried
11 to talk to Ben and he hasn't called me back, it, it
12 reflects on me.
13 BEN: Was it [redacted] that your,
14 [redacted] She has a truck issue? Engine?
15 TODD: I don't know that.
16 BEN: Okay. She's a nut, ignore her.
17 CINDY: (Inaudible.)
18 TODD: Yeah. I don't know [redacted].
19 BEN: [redacted] [redacted]
20 TODD: (Inaudible.)
21 BEN: Yes. Yeah.
22 TODD: Who is she?
23 BEN: She's a nut.
24 TODD: Okay.
25 BEN: She had a, she had a truck repair

1 that went, got, went bad and for some reason she didn't
2 turn in the warranty and then she blamed the, blamed the
3 place for not, you know, the repair place for not
4 volunteering to fix it when she did and she complained to
5 the AG and the AG -- or no, the Secretary of State. The
6 Secretary of State said no, they offered you a warranty,
7 you didn't take it. So now she's wanting us to fix it
8 and nothing we can fix. She already went through the
9 process and they determined that the repair place didn't
10 do anything wrong, so.
11 TODD: Yeah. A lot, you know, a lot of
12 the steps to try and, I'm just saying is that you guys
13 don't necessarily hear that because what happens is the
14 people back channel around this, like BAAA, you know.
15 They back channel around because they know that I'm here
16 (inaudible) so then but they don't get feedback from you.
17 It's still being handled. Mom's the only constituent job
18 pretty much every day so, you know, she just handles it
19 when it comes in.
20 BEN: She's supposed to tell us about
21 that.
22 TODD: She's supposed to but what is,
23 what she's got a sense of is that she's, obviously the
24 same, same sort of sense. So it's not just here, you
25 guys, there's, (inaudible) you know, whatever those

[redacted]

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1 issues are that we've already talked about. When I went
2 in there then I of course hear those, those issues.
3 BEN: We, you're always going to get
4 constituents who come to you and say hey, you know,
5 nobody's called me back, blah blah blah. Maybe they
6 didn't, maybe they did, you know what I mean.
7 TODD: But the other side is --
8 KEITH: I always take it as like they
9 called me back but didn't like the response.
10 BEN: Yeah. Or I called them yesterday
11 and I didn't get, or I called Friday and didn't get until
12 Monday.
13 KEITH: Or they called us, we get them to
14 the department, the department doesn't call them back.
15 BEN: Yeah.
16 KEITH: You know, and it's like.
17 TODD: It wasn't, I mean --
18 BEN: Or they expected a response when we
19 didn't think they did.
20 TODD: And maybe the gravity of all that
21 -- anyway. So I think we've talked all that out and, you
22 know, there's probably hours more we can do but
23 (inaudible). So anyway (inaudible).
24 BEN: Well I think he said we'll put
25 together what makes sense for operations on the office in

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1 here.
2 TODD: Yeah.
3 CINDY: (Inaudible.)
4 BEN: I'm good with (inaudible).
5 TODD: I'll be with you in just a
6 minute. Thank you.
7 BEN: (Inaudible) we like having Anne
8 here.
9 TODD: Oh, thank you. If I can get in
10 the building or whatever.
11 BEN: That would probably, that would be
12 helpful. How did that go?
13 WOMAN: It was fine. They adored Todd
14 so.
15 BEN: Oh, yeah.
16 WOMAN: The one lady has been to your
17 office. I don't know her name.
18 TODD: In Lapeer?
19 WOMAN: Um-hum.
20 TODD: Yeah.
21 BEN: Karen?
22 WOMAN: So there were about ten kids.
23 No, she wasn't. But they were a bunch of them
24 (inaudible).
25 BEN: But they were in town for something

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1 else?
2 WOMAN: I told them everything that I
3 could possibly think of to tell them and.
4 BEN: They, they were --
5 WOMAN: They were first graders.
6 BEN: They were in town for something
7 else?
8 WOMAN: They're going to the science
9 museum.
10 BEN: Oh, okay.
11 WOMAN: But they went to the Capital.
12 And then I said how many of you want to do this for a
13 job, or do you want to do this, work in a big office like
14 this? No. (Inaudible.)
15 BEN: Not one?
16 WOMAN: What do you want to be.
17 (Inaudible) --
18 TODD: (Inaudible.)
19 WOMAN: -- policeman, policeman and.
20 BEN: Race car driver.
21 WOMAN: Yeah. Vet.
22 TODD: Did I tell you my brother wanted
23 to be a garbage truck, (inaudible) ride in the back of
24 the truck.
25 WOMAN: That's what my daughter does and

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1 she still does the stuff where the standardized test
2 where --
3 TODD: Garbage rider?
4 WOMAN: -- interest stuff. Um-hum.
5 TODD: Wow.
6 WOMAN: Trash removal. She's like all
7 right, they told me I should be in garbage.
8 TODD: That's big money, there's big
9 money though in the garbage route.
10 BEN: Owning one, not working in one.
11 KEITH: Garbage (inaudible).
12 BEN: No, drivers (inaudible).
13 TODD: (Inaudible.) Okay.
14 (Inaudible conversation.)
15 BEN: We'll figure it out.
16 TODD: Yeah, right.
17 (Inaudible conversation.)
18 BEN: You got one no on the Senate
19 concurrences.
20 TODD: Oh, (inaudible).
21 BEN: Three yeses, one no.
22 What's up? What's that?
23 KAREN: (Inaudible) and first it came up
24 and it gave me like a tutorial or if I wanted to do that
25 which I didn't want to do that, so --

[redacted]

BEN: No, you didn't.
KAREN: -- I just closed out of that.
BEN: Yeah, so we need to, so we needed to --
KEITH: All right, we will.
BEN: -- open the contacts again because we lost --
TODD: You think we'll be over there for four hours, is that what you're thinking?
BEN: You'll be over there for a while.
TODD: A while.
BEN: So we need to call John to have him set that up.
TODD: Yeah, (inaudible).
BEN: What?
KEITH: She's been like writing her signature without the R (inaudible).
BEN: Is there an R? (Inaudible.) Maybe that's the way she signs it. No, it is --
KEITH: (Inaudible.)
BEN: What? Hold on one second. David [redacted]?
KEITH: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah. He's (inaudible) while ago and apparently --

KEITH: The phone number I had for him is different than the one, the guy that you had. So I don't know if they're different (inaudible) phone number.
BEN: We'll put that phone number in a note in the current file and then I'll (inaudible). It's got to be the same because there's a signature but I thought we had that resolved.
352 -- hey Don, it's Ben. I'm good. Every time I think I'm going to stop calling you I need to call you again. I need to pull in a database again for Cindy into file maker. By the way can we pull in, I know you're not supposed to support us in having shared staff but can we pull in a, like Todd's into that computer down here at Cindy's desk? I, I am an authorized, I'm authorized on their like O Drive and all that stuff. Um-hum. Oh, okay. I think I am because I have access to their O Drive and their printers and all that junk. Do I need to ask them to give me access to file maker as well? Um-hum. So we can't have like two -- one -- like both the 82 and 80 files on the same thing? Is that because the thing can't do it or you won't do it? I know. You, you got, you got to answer to people, it's okay. Nope, that's it. Um-hum. But the Reps can sign off on that, can't they? Oh, it's not for confidentiality between the Reps, it's like between the

data company or something? Oh, okay. Got it. Fair enough. Okay. That's, that's fine. I'm not going to give you too hard of a time on that, I know you got people (inaudible). Okay, can we pull this rep 80, can you walk me through that again?
Anne, would you mind setting that down for a second?
Hopefully we should have this figured out soon. We have new staff and they don't have logins yet and getting logins to where like, you know, (inaudible) different logins and you do that you have to reinstall it and open files and all that (inaudible) so. Okay, so open remote and (inaudible) specify. Okay, server (inaudible). All right. All right. Okay. All right. Yep. Uh-huh. DC. Oh, comma. DC equals MI House. Uh-huh. All right. You want to send that to me so I can do it myself? No, that'd be great. No, I appreciate it. For sure. Yep, absolutely. Cool. All right, thanks Don. Talk to you later.
Crud.
DON: Hello?
BEN: Hey, it didn't work. It didn't pull anything, so. 10 -- yeah, I did. 10.20.1615. Okay. And OU equals MDS underscore MI House. Uh-huh. DC equals MI House. DC -- oh, they're dash instead of

equal sign. A-ha. DC equals MI underscore DC equals gov. All right, comma, that's what I have, yeah. Okay, I put a dash, I think I put a dash -- yeah, there's -- okay. I got it figured out I just messed something up. All right, thanks man. Bye. All right.
There you go. (Inaudible.) We're all set with these to go. Yes?
KAREN: Did you say (inaudible), did you say that there was a day for me to get the addresses from some place at Todd's office?
BEN: Yes, there is. (Inaudible) how to do that. That's what I was supposed to do, I forgot.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: That's okay. Did Keith, did Keith --
KAREN: (Inaudible) a lot of them.
BEN: Who wrote all these, did you guys?
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: All right, so Keith's already read these and approved them? Okay. (Inaudible) same problem. (Inaudible) that. You want me to show you how to do that, okay. I did show you a little bit last week. Remember how we (inaudible) press (inaudible) button and put, type in the person's name.
KAREN: For the, for the file though.

[redacted]

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BEN: Yeah (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible) Nation Builder.
BEN: Todd for rep. So Todd for rep is the entire (inaudible). (Inaudible) voters and (inaudible).
KAREN: I think that's, I think (inaudible). Some of these things (inaudible).
BEN: I don't have a problem with that. I can show you again.
KAREN: So when I go in there I --
BEN: Uh-huh.
KAREN: -- I, am I just like searching the person, is that.
BEN: Uh-huh. Well you can, the easiest way to start it is just (inaudible) this box in the upper right.
KAREN: Um-hum.
BEN: Has the name John Smith. That will come up with a bunch of John Smith's.
KAREN: Right.
BEN: So you want to click, there's a, towards the middle of the page there's a plus button to add another filter (inaudible) filtering and you add another filter and narrow by city. There's usually like in the page they'll have the city.

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KAREN: Right.
BEN: And then you'll be able to trim it down a little (inaudible) what (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah.
KAREN: Okay. Todd, I said to him about how (inaudible) them at the office and they didn't do it (inaudible) and he said just bring the letter here and I said to Todd (inaudible).
BEN: That's a problem.
KAREN: It could be (inaudible) mailed.
BEN: Yes. It has to be.
KAREN: It has to be.
BEN: (Inaudible) send them (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Like if we've been (inaudible). I don't think it's a problem (inaudible) here.
KAREN: Yeah. And I don't think it's, I don't think it's that big of a deal. If I --
BEN: No.
KAREN: -- do everything there and I send it to (inaudible).
BEN: Well that's the thing, that's what I told him. That's what I told him. He thinks he knows how to do everything best to the office, so I trying to

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(inaudible) what would be best. So, so did you tell him that we were going to bring letterheads to the office?
KAREN: I did not tell him anything.
BEN: Okay. Yeah. I would say that you can take letterheads to the office but then you need a stamp and then I'm not sure the legalities of, of that because you're sending official mail with personal money.
KAREN: Okay.
BEN: And you're also using a personal printer to print official stuff. I think it's not, the making of them and the logging of them and all that stuff isn't a problem but the printing and the signing and the sending, that takes a couple minutes.
KAREN: Well.
BEN: It doesn't take a lot of time.
KAREN: And I have to save them on this thing anyway so if I just send them to myself and then I come here --
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: -- and he does them all on that O Drive and (inaudible).
BEN: Are you planning on coming here weekly, is that the idea like once a week?
KAREN: Well that's what we were just talking about.

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BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: So I think once a week. I think that's what it will end up to. I told Todd before that because we were learning stuff I didn't want you explaining things twice. I know it's more convenient (inaudible).
BEN: I miss (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible) still have to (inaudible). (Inaudible) said that he would like to get the administrative stuff, let us do it that, way (inaudible).
BEN: Yes. And --
KAREN: And that you should be knowing what Keith is knowing and doing more of that.
BEN: Yeah. We, we discussed that for a little while in there so what Keith and I were going to do is kind of think about that, feel out how that works because we might be separating a few of the functions of the office to become a little more segregated. Because they should part of the (inaudible) concentrate on Todd's stuff and (inaudible) just kind of staying on Cindy's stuff (inaudible) already. So we'll start to kind of figure that out.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: But I mean (inaudible) e-mail.

[redacted]

KAREN: And the phone calls.
BEN: Phone calls you might be able (inaudible) but I have (inaudible) do that because (inaudible). Intake e-mails and happy notes and the (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: I think that's what it was.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah, like, yeah, response to some (inaudible) that kind of junk.
KAREN: Now the, the thing that we don't know is when we have, I think I was in the office, Todd's there, (inaudible) there so (inaudible) but when Todd's not there we don't know how to do this (inaudible) at all.
BEN: No. I, for now I would say don't worry about that and that's something that I can handle.
KAREN: Okay, so (inaudible).
BEN: Yeah. For now I would say that. And if, honestly going forward if you're not (inaudible) because we don't have a phone and I don't want to be calling, like I don't want to call Keith and (inaudible) matters from Todd's office (inaudible) phone (inaudible) office.
KAREN: So, so like Anne (inaudible).

BEN: Yeah. Once, once she kind of, once she gets more time on (inaudible) then we'll start (inaudible).
KAREN: And then (inaudible) if I'm (inaudible) talk to Anne and say and she can --
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: -- (inaudible) whatever.
BEN: With the constituent thing?
CINDY: It's not --
BEN: It's not, it doesn't take a whole heck of a lot of my time. Sometimes it does but like at the beginning of the year there was more because it was kind, it was kind of (inaudible) but like now there's not as much, just a couple a week. Maybe four or five a week. So I'm okay, I have time and I can do that. And I like to do it. (Inaudible) don't. I don't like going through e-mails, I don't (inaudible).
KAREN: So, you know, I don't, I don't know how, what you're thinking and how you're feeling about this but really the whole reason that we've been (inaudible) is to help.
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: And so since there are so many (inaudible) --
BEN: Um-hum.

KAREN: -- we'll just handle those things and I think Todd wants more time spent (inaudible) sure that research (inaudible) for the right thing (inaudible) stuff like that. (Inaudible.)
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: So --
BEN: (Inaudible.)
KAREN: So (inaudible).
BEN: No, I've been asking for a while to have secretarial help out with some of the e-mails (inaudible). We just have to figure out how to work this. Like scheduling requests should generally not go directly to Todd and Cindy because they're, they're not good at looking at their schedules. Like you'll say --
KAREN: I know I'm (inaudible).
BEN: You'll say hey, they want to come see you and he'll be like oh, yeah, send them up.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: He's not (inaudible) about that.
KAREN: (Inaudible) about that. So when they said the school (inaudible).
BEN: They never told me that.
KAREN: (Inaudible) and you know (inaudible) I'm like.
BEN: He never said the school, that

there are schools coming, like make that a priority.
KAREN: So and you saw what happened (inaudible).
BEN: Yeah. And he, he does that more times than I can count.
KAREN: And I gave him all that. I know. That's why (inaudible) important and I said I don't know.
BEN: That's what, yeah, that's why it's kind of helpful that we, like I would have said, knowing him and knowing how all that (inaudible) you know, really, really short notice to be able to get anything on his calendar and, you know, pretty booked up. But if you'd like to stop by the office say hello to the staff we can talk to the kids (inaudible) love to have you come up and do that. And then we can let it, we can let him know, hey, the kids are going to be here if you want to stop by that'd be fine. Because then, then we're not committing him to, we're not committing him to the constituent, they are assuming that he's not going to be there. But if he does show up that's like bonus, okay.
And then you can't always do that either because (inaudible). So it's, so just going to Keith and I with scheduling, that kind of scheduling stuff will be helpful (inaudible) understand how that works. And like I was running through some of (inaudible) not trying to

[redacted]

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be big brother or anything, just trying to make sure (inaudible) properly and how, how all that works. But like if you talk to Todd or Georgianne yesterday about, there was some skilled trades people that wanted to come in and meet late in month at the (inaudible) something (inaudible). We e-mailed back and forth (inaudible).

KAREN: Oh, yes.

BEN: You talked to Todd (inaudible). Okay. It's the, in that case it's still (inaudible) but it's best to come to Keith and I as well on a lot of those things because we, we, (inaudible) constituents. They want to come in and talk about something on summer break Todd's probably not going to come in and talk about it. But if they really want --

KAREN: (Inaudible.)

BEN: Was it? It wasn't for --

KAREN: But it was trade people from (inaudible).

BEN: Yeah. So that's not, so you're right, that's not something we're going to really place priority at all. Keith and I might have thought about meeting with them just for 15 minutes just to make them happy or something like that. (Inaudible.) But we can't tell them like, we can't tell them that Todd won't be in the office, (inaudible) be in the office, you know what I

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mean. It just looks, (inaudible) give the impression that the office isn't fully staffed all the time. Yeah. Like even if it's summer break we may not be here as consistently as we usually are we don't want to, we really don't want to tell people that.

KAREN: Okay, so (inaudible).

BEN: It's --

KAREN: -- (inaudible) not available or.

BEN: This is something that Todd hasn't quite figured out yet either. For a lobbyist I would say that's a, that's close to a lobbyist request, not quite. There is an organization (inaudible). Lobbyist organizations they bring in, like he had graduate students come in and talk about getting more funding for graduate schools or whatever. But they, there's a lobby organization that organizes all that. So it's really a lobbyist request and if they're constituents then that's an important priority (inaudible) constituent. (Inaudible) and because a lobbyist wants to meet with you I generally ignore it unless I know (inaudible) they want to talk about it. Now maybe (inaudible) maybe Todd and Cindy decided that's not what they wanted to do but they have never told me to place priority on responding to lobbyists.

KAREN: (Inaudible.)

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BEN: I would like to. And if not then (inaudible). Because let, because it's very awkward to --

KAREN: And I think, I think you are right. (Inaudible) --

BEN: It's very awkward.

KAREN: -- says something about (inaudible) talk to you about.

BEN: Um-hum. Yeah. And (inaudible) request it, yeah, frequently. But I know it's awkward to not respond to it but if you do respond to it what are you going to say. Like you can say like we're not going to be there which is not what you want to say or you say no I don't think we're going to be able to do that in the near -- but for me I feel like that is, I feel like it's just adding insult to injury that we're refusing to meet with them. And you didn't respond be like okay (inaudible). Now if Todd wants to do something different with that that's fine because he did say to the e-mail yesterday saying that there was (inaudible) lobbyists haven about complaining that (inaudible).

(Inaudible conversation.)

BEN: But sometimes it might think (inaudible).

KAREN: (Inaudible) asked and that's why

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(inaudible). Because (inaudible).

BEN: Um-hum.

KAREN: (Inaudible.)

BEN: (Inaudible), that's why it's so -- yeah, so, and that's, and that's the thing. Some, like (inaudible) bring them as we request on everything (inaudible) wouldn't be able to handle it (inaudible) heck of a lot of time to explain it and for not everything they would, they would commit to doing the things that they're not actually (inaudible). If it's (inaudible).

KAREN: (Inaudible.)

BEN: (Inaudible.) But at, constituents are top priority. If they're constituents we're going to do our damnedest to make sure that they meet with Todd or they at least meet with a staff member.

KAREN: (Inaudible.)

BEN: Um-hum. Yeah. So I'm, I'm, I'm, overall I'm good with how we, how that ended up, I think it ended up right. But if we could avoid telling the constituents that Todd was going to be there at one point or another that would have been good. And that's not your fault.

KAREN: It was not ever said.

BEN: Okay.

[redacted]

KAREN: I thought (inaudible).
BEN: Oh, that's not bad either.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah. I'm not, I'm not --
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: No, that's good. Yeah.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Yeah. Yeah, like, yeah, you just say I know he really wants to he would really love to (inaudible) school kids (inaudible) so I don't know, I don't think he's going to (inaudible) stop by. I don't know. (Inaudible.) And that's (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: I figured you would probably talk to Todd about it because I didn't figure (inaudible) meeting request without talking (inaudible).
KAREN: And (inaudible) what I said. (Inaudible.)
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: I know. But (inaudible) couple minutes, I'm like okay.
BEN: All right.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)

BEN: For an interview?
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Oh. Oh, yeah. (Inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible) meeting.
BEN: Stop in and say hello. Yeah.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: He still needs to learn kind of how to segue out of conversations. But he just, he says oh, I don't want to go to, you know, I don't want to go (inaudible) because people stop me in the street we talk for 20 minutes. I'm like well keep walking and say hi as you go by (inaudible) stop to talk.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Right. And everybody knows you're in a hurry, you know what I mean, but if you stop.
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Oh, yeah.
KAREN: You know. If he's there fine, if not I understand. (Inaudible) called.
BEN: Those people are the best. Yeah, those people are. I didn't, tell me, (inaudible) and he's (inaudible) Christian.
KAREN: First and second.
BEN: First and second, okay. So overall 100 (inaudible).

KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Okay. Did they do a Capital tour, did they just go the Capital? That's --
KAREN: (Inaudible) went on the tour.
BEN: They must have scheduled it late because I texted tour (inaudible). I (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible) go in and walk all around and --
BEN: Oh, maybe they were just kind of going in and not doing the official tour. Because the official tours are actually listed on a web site somewhere that I can go look and I have a calendar reminder set every, they update them every two weeks I think. (Inaudible) see any on there (inaudible). Apparently I missed it.
KAREN: So, so all in all I mean (inaudible) --
BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: -- have somebody help out a little bit and.
BEN: Yeah. I like having (inaudible) take over happy notes and e-mails. They're one of the more (inaudible). And all in all especially e-mails it's just tedious crap. Most every, 80 percent is just junk.
KAREN: I told a lot of them --

BEN: Good 80.
KAREN: -- about a good, about a good 50 came back from him sending out an e-mail and (inaudible) office.
BEN: (Inaudible.)
KAREN: Yeah.
BEN: Yeah. But it does take you time to go through all that crap.
KAREN: Yeah because you can't you just don't get all of them but then in the middle of them a regular e-mail.
BEN: Yeah, there's somebody who e-mailed back. I wish (inaudible) do a slightly better job about just like taking auto responses out. Like if it says auto response in it just like don't mark it for a followup or delete it or whatever. (Inaudible) suggest that to them.
KAREN: Okay. So you're trying to still do the constituent --
BEN: I will. And if you think anyone needs --
KAREN: Okay good, because they're like six in there that --
BEN: Yep. Couple of them been sitting around for a little while.

[redacted]

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KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Um-hum. I worked on a couple of those later today (inaudible).
KAREN: And if I find it on the other stuff, like I said I was putting it in Nation Builder and open note and then sending it to you guys.
BEN: Yeah. Yep. And anything that you think I need to address as far as constituent (inaudible) or any of that stuff mark it as constituent followup and then I'll look, I'll look at it. Because that will be the followup type that I set every day to make sure (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible.)
BEN: Oh, yeah, they're upstairs.
KAREN: (Inaudible) if I go back (inaudible).
BEN: These are yours by the way.
KAREN: And this is the thing that --
BEN: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.
KAREN: -- was about that and --
BEN: I don't know why, I don't know how that is possible.
KAREN: -- Georgianne is like oh, we'll just pay and.
BEN: I mean I'll just pay it, it's ten

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bucks.
KAREN: So.
BEN: It's supposed to have been pre-funded so I don't know why it have.
KAREN: And that's what it looked like on all of the --
BEN: Right.
KAREN: -- e-mails to me. But this has been going on like (inaudible).
BEN: I don't, I wasn't the one actually checking these e-mails for a while. I'll look at it, I don't know why (inaudible). If it's (inaudible).
KAREN: (Inaudible) just want to know why or (inaudible).
BEN: What's up? You have, Karen you have something written on the back of here. Is that you?
KAREN: Oh, what happened, why do some e-mails come in with all kinds of strange characters? So you can actually read them but --
BEN: They, it's like a, it's like a picture, the HTML which is like web language and like if it's like there's a picture there or there's other formatting.
KAREN: Okay. Because it didn't really look like garbage but it --

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BEN: Um-hum.
KAREN: -- but it had all of that (inaudible).
BEN: (Inaudible) followup e-mail.
KAREN: Yeah.
BEN: Like you know how you --
KAREN: Right.
BEN: -- open up an e-mail it's got pictures at the top, it's got pictures in there, it's got (inaudible).
KAREN: Right.
BEN: That's Nation Builder just takes that all down to plain text so that's why. So this is --
KAREN: Yeah, and the other one you did something with it or, or it was, it was someplace in there and it's not in there anymore so.
BEN: Oh, okay.
KAREN: So that's just garbage.
BEN: Yeah. And they're aware of the leadership conference.
KAREN: That's what I was saying (inaudible).
BEN: They know about it. We might, we might ask them if they want to start think about booking hotels and stuff but (inaudible) do that.

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Yes, Steve?
STEVE: So (inaudible) e-mails about (inaudible) and then it's (inaudible) e-mail.
BEN: Oh, yeah look at the e-mails, e-mail address.
STEVE: (Inaudible.)
BEN: So this is another one of those like voter voice things. It's not quite like voter voice. So like these are --
STEVE: You want to put people's information in?
BEN: Yeah, where are they (inaudible) up to the, where's how -- okay for (inaudible). (Inaudible) scroll down. Maybe the first e-mail. Hold on. No, no, no. Okay. (Inaudible) 444. Holy shitballs.
STEVE: Yeah. It's all, it's all the same thing. (Inaudible.)
BEN: Does it have e-mail (inaudible)? Open the e-mail. Does it have their e-mail address there?
STEVE: No.
BEN: Fucker. Yeah.
STEVE: This is actually (inaudible).
BEN: Yeah. The first thing is the name

and the rest of them are not if that makes sense.

STEVE: Right. So what can we do?

BEN: So let's, did I, do you remember how I showed you to do, how to (inaudible) personal input in word press contacts?

STEVE: No. You were going to though.

BEN: Oh, I hadn't done that?

STEVE: It should be, I mean it's just a new person. Is that where you just copy and paste pretty much?

BEN: Um-hum.

STEVE: Yeah.

BEN: Yeah. So create a new person, copy their information in there for all those, all those things in there and then mark them for letter followup. Because we can't e-mail them back because they, we don't actually get their e-mail because they submit it to that system.

STEVE: Okay. We can't send them a letter?

BEN: And we can't, if they do have a full address we can send them a letter back. If they don't have an address don't even enter them in because they didn't care enough to give that address.

Keith, did you bring my food?

KEITH: No, I didn't know where you were. I've been calling you.

BEN: Fuck. What are you carrying?

KEITH: I don't know, Ben.

CERTIFICATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF [redacted]

I, [redacted], and Notary Public in and for the County of [redacted] State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the attached is a true, correct, and complete transcript of my stenographic notes taken at the time and place hereinbefore stated and they were transcribed upon a computer under my direct supervision. The undersigned assumes no responsibility for copies not made under my direction or control.

[redacted]

Contact/Interview List

Person	Contact Number	Interview or Information
Keith Allard w/ Attorney H. Rhett Pinsky	[redacted] 616-451-8496	Tues., August 18th – 9:00am
Hassan Beydoun Majority Legal Counsel	517-373-3100 [redacted](cell)	Assisting investigation
Tim L. Bowlin CFO/Business Director	517-373-6914 [redacted](cell)	Leading investigation
Stephen Carra (Former, part-time employee of Rep. Gamrat)	[redacted]	declined to participate
Joshua Cline w/ Attorney Brian Dailey	[redacted] 312-927-2611	Friday, August 21th 10:00am – phone interview
Speaker Kevin Cotter	517-373-2135	Ordered Investigation & Thursday, August 20th 11:30am – phone interview
Rep. Todd Courser	[redacted]	Mon., August 17th– 8:00am
Karen Marie Couture Legislative Assistant - Courser	[redacted]	Tues., August 11th– 1:00pm
Lisa Curtis Executive Assistant/Business Office	517-373-6339	Assisting investigation
Rep. Cindy Gamrat w/ Attorney Andrew Abood	[redacted] 517-332-5900 (office) [redacted](cell)	Mon., August 17th– 1:00pm
Joe Gamrat Husband of Rep. Gamrat	[redacted]	Possible interview - Unavailable at this time

Ben Graham w/ Attorney H. Rhett Pinsky	[redacted] 616-451-8496	Tues., August 18th– 9:00am
Anne Marie Hill Legislative Assistant - Gamrat	[redacted]	Tues., August 11th– 9:00am Tues., August 18th– 1:30pm
Cathy Hunter Director, Information Systems	517-373-5938	Assisting with investigation
Jessica Jeurink Director, Republican Constit. Relations	517-373-1525	Wed., August 18th – 9:00am
Speaker Pro Tem Tom Leonard	517-373-1778	Thurs., August 20th– 10:15am
Dan McMaster Former House employee/Consultant	[redacted]	Friday, August 14th– 7:30am
Norm Saari Former Chief of Staff to Speaker Cotter	[redacted]	Mon., August 17th– 10:30am
Doug Simon Committee Clerk Supervisor	517-373-0015	Assisting investigation
Brock Swartzle General Counsel and Current Chief of Staff	517-373-2135	Mon., August 17th– 11:30am
Deb Wroubel Director of House Finance	517-373-5923	Assisting Investigation

Friday, August 7, 2015

Directed by Speaker Cotter to conduct an investigation into the allegations made against Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat.

Reviewing allegations.

Put on hold all electronic data of the House/Members/Staff.

Saturday, August 8, 2015

Locked offices of Reps. Courser and Gamrat.

Removed laptop from Rep. Gamrat's office.

Could not locate laptop assigned to Rep. Courser.

Rep. Gamrat called me on my cell and asked what the process would be for the investigation. Informed her that the process was not finalized but I would be interviewing her and others. Asked if she should get a lawyer – informed her that I always believe it is best to have someone on your side who can assist and represent you. Informed her that I would be conducting an interview with her early next week. Did not speak about the allegations. Told her the best way to help herself is to tell the truth.

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Starting writing process outline for the investigation and questions to be asked.

Compiled list of people to interview and contact numbers.

Monday, August 10, 2015

Met with Rep. Gamrat's employee, Anne Marie Hill, and informed her that she would be reporting to the Business Office directly until further notice. Also, informed her that she was on the list of persons to be interviewed and we would schedule that later in the week. She was informed not to remove or delete any files. She said she understood and thought she would be questioned by what she had been reading.

Called Rep. Gamrat to inform her of the issue above and left a voicemail to inform her of the staff condition changes. Back and forth on calls. Spoke with Rep. Gamrat and informed her of office staff change of reporting. She understood and was cooperative. Asked her to let me know when this week she would be available to meet for her interview. She is calling me back on this issue.

Rep. Courser's employee, Karen Marie Couture, was called and asked to check in with the Business Office before going to Rep. Courser's office. She informed Lisa that she would not be in today but would check in tomorrow. Need to discuss with her the supplemental employment form.

Met with Business Office staff to talk about the need for complete confidentiality. Did not talk about specifics of the investigation, except for those persons involved directly with me in information gathering.

Reviewed files of various individuals and have not seen anything relevant at this time. Reviewed email and have not seen anything relevant at this time.

Chief Sergeant Dixon dispatched to Rep. Courser's home and office to attempt to obtain House equipment and files – not able to obtain.

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Began interviews today – unless noted all interviews took place in the Business Office Conference Room on the 10th Floor of the Cora Anderson Office Building, Lansing, Michigan.

Rep. Courser's employee, Karen Marie Couture, checked in with the Business Office. Karen was informed that she would be reporting to the Business Office directly until further notice. Karen was also informed that her supplemental employment form agreement would be rescinded at this time and may be reviewed at a later date.

Interview at 9:00am with Anne Hill – ended at 10:40am (8 minute interruption to take a call from Rep. Courser to work out time for his interview. (See interview questions and answers - Hill/Bowlin/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

Reviewed more emails.

Interview at 2:00 pm with Joshua Cline. – Interview rescheduled for Friday, August 14th.

Interview with Karen Marie Couture at 1:00pm – ended at 1:40. (See interview questions and answers – Couture/Bowlin/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Provided both Anne Hill and Karen Couture copies of their testimony to check for accuracy. Received comments, made changes and signed final statements. Did not allow Anne or Karen to keep a copy at this time. Copy may be provided to them at the end of the investigation.

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Business Office received an anonymous call from a person wishing to speak to the "investigator". I took the call and was giving his name and contact information. Called identified himself as Jeff Phillips at [redacted] He said that he was a close personal friend of the Courser family and had a lot of "unsubstantiated" information about discussions with Dan Courser, Joe Gamrat and others. He also stated that he was aware that the "blackmail" texts were being not only sent to Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat, but were also sent to Dan Courser, Joe Gamrat and Wendy Day. He further stated that Rep. Courser "knew" the texts were not coming from Lansing people.

Josh Cline's attorney, Mr. Dailey called and cancelled Mr. Cline's Friday interview and hoped to reschedule late in the week of August 17th.

Friday, August 14, 2015

7:30 am – Interviewed Dan McMaster – interview ended at 8:15am (see interview questions and answers – McMaster/Bowlin/Wroubel/Curtis in the room).

Early morning - Keith Allard called to move Monday, August 17th interview to Tuesday, August 18th. I agreed to the change.

2:00 pm – Rep. Gamrat Press Conference.

Received several FOIA requests (Requests for Information) from the Press and the Michigan Democratic Party – noted to all that the House was not subject to FOIA and included process statements.

Secured and prepared private location in the Capitol to conduct interviews with Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat. Private area was requested by each Representative – mostly for "press" related reasons.

Saturday & Sunday, August 15 & 16, 2015

Reviewed documents and prepared for Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat interviews.

Monday, August 17, 2015

8:00 am - Interview with Rep. Courser – interview ended at 10:25 – interview held in private room in the NCA of the Capitol Bldg. (see interview questions and answers – Courser/Bowlin/Beydoun/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

10:40 am - Interview with Norm Saari and ended at 11:10 am (see interview questions and answers – Saari/Bowlin/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

11:30 am - Interview with Brock Swartzle and ended at 11:50 am (see interview questions and answers – Swartzle/Bowlin/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

1:00 pm - Interview with Rep. Gamrat and her attorney Andrew Abood – interview ended at 2:30pm – interview held in a private room in the NCA of the Capitol (see interview questions and answers – Gamrat Abood/Bowlin/ Beydoun/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

3:00 pm – Joshua Cline Press Conference.

Lisa contacted Josh's attorney prior to the press conference in an attempt to reschedule Josh's interview – Mr. Dailey not being cooperative.

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Provided Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat new computers to allow them to participate in session.

9:00am - Interview with Keith Allard and Ben Graham and their attorney Mr. Pinsky - interview ended at 11:10am (see interview questions and answers – Allard/Graham/Pinsky/Bowlin/Beydoun/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

1:00 pm - Meeting with Anne Hill to deliver additional information to her original interview (Hill and Bowlin met in his office).

Attempting to contact and set up interview with Mr. Joe Gamrat (see additional information).

3:30 pm - Spoke with Joe Gamrat to ask if he would come in for an interview – he informed me that he would try but needed to think about it overnight and would get back to me.

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

9:05 am - Interview with Jessica Jeurink – interview ended at 9:35 am (see interview questions and answers).

9:45 am – Dan McMaster reviewed and approved his interview statement. Dan also discussed his firm's connection to Josh Cline's media release announcing his press conference.

Early morning – Business Office left message with Josh Cline's attorney, Mr. Dailey, on his personal voicemail requesting that he contact Tim Bowlin directly to schedule Josh's interview.

HR 129 (resolution to create a select committee) introduced and adopted by the House. Copy of the resolution served to Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat (see Appendix: Item 9).

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Early morning – Business Office left message with Josh Cline's attorney, Mr. Dailey, on his personal voicemail requesting that he contact Tim Bowlin directly to schedule Josh's interview.

Throughout the morning, receiving backup documentation through email from Keith Allard per his testimony.

9:45 am – Karen Couture stopped by Business Office to talk about process. Tim Bowlin and Lisa Curtis met with her. Tim talked about process.

10:15 am – Interview with Rep. Leonard, Speaker Pro Tempore – interview ended at 10:30am (see interview questions and answers – Leonard/Bowlin/Wroubel/Simon in the room).

11:30 am – Interview with Speaker Cotter via conference call – interview ended at 11:45am (see interview questions and answers – Cotter/Bowlin/Wroubel/ Simon on the call).

1:15 pm – Rep. Courser reviewing his interview statement in the NCA of the Capitol Building (Courser/Simon is in the room – Chief Sergeant Dickson outside of the room).

Drafting summary of investigation.

Friday, August 21, 2015

Various communications with Rep. Gamrat about her wanting to meet with me but she did not follow up.

2:10 pm – Interview with Josh Cline – interview ended at 2:40 pm (Cline/Dailey/Bowlin/Beydoun/Simon/Wroubel on the call).

Compiled certain personnel records of the employees in Representative Courser's and Representative Gamrat's office (see Appendix: Item 7).

Drafting summary of investigation, findings and recommendations.

Saturday & Sunday, August 22 & 23, 2015

Drafting summary of investigation, findings and recommendations.

Monday, August 24, 2015

7:00 am – Rep. Gamrat, Mr. Abood, and others meeting in 10th Floor Business Office to review her interview statement. Rep. Gamrat requested to meet with Tim after their review.

7:00 am - 10:00 am Finalizing report.

10:00 am - Meeting with Speaker Cotter to review the findings of the investigation.

Afternoon – Forwarded copy of the draft report to Dickinson Wright for their review.

Tuesday-Sunday, August 25 – 30, 2015

Finalizing report

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

Interview with Anne Hill on August 11, 2015 at 9:00am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

Anne Hill
[redacted]

(Verified spelling with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

- Legislative Assistant for Rep. Gamrat

  June 8, 2015 – Started as part time employee
  July 6, 2015 – Became full time employee

  (Verified dates with Human Resources)

- Clinton County Commissioner

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

Went through orientation twice. Once as part time employee, and once when became full time employee.

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

Yes, received copy or were instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies. No, not asked to do anything in violation of House policies, including policies regarding misuse of state/ state resources.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

Yes, received copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources. During course of working with Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser, they did talk about House policies and use of state resources.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

Anne stated she does not know anything about the resignation of Joshua Cline.

Anne offered the following information about things she recalled happening in the office in regards to Ben Graham and Keith Allard.

- Lights were frequently turned off in the office with Ben and Keith inside working. Doors were also locked during working hours while they were in the office. When Anne came in for the interview the office was locked with lights out and Keith was in the office.
    - Tim asked Anne who interviewed her. She stated Rep. Gamrat, Rep. Courser, & Keith Allard interviewed her.

- Signs were frequently posted on both doors of Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser that said they were in the other office.
- Rep. Gamrat had told Ben to share calendar and to show Anne how to access it, but he did not. After several days and repeated requests, he finally did show her.
  Ben & Keith were supposed to give Rep. Gamrat all meeting requests, but they were not giving her copies of the meeting notices. Ben felt like he didn't think he needed to do it and that himself and Keith would decide which meeting/events she should attend.
    - She started putting notices in Rep. Gamrat's in box, and she (Rep. Gamrat) was surprised at how many there were.
    - Ben has also said "they should manage Todd and Cindy" in regards to what meetings they were told about.

- Tim asked whether she sat down with Rep. Gamrat to discuss the roles of herself, Ben & Keith:
    - They did meet to talk about what Ben should hand off to her, so Ben could learn more policy issues from Keith.

- Saugatuck office hours. Ben supposedly made arrangements and put it on the calendar.
    - It took place after he was no longer an employee of the House.
    - A week before the office hours, the owner of the establishment where the office hours were to be held found out from one of his customers and saw that it was posted on the House website. Previous to this he did not know it was going to be held at his place. Ben had not contacted the owner.
- There were no written instructions on how to do the day to day tasks.
    - Ben would try to explain, but would jump around from task to task and not fully explain anything.
- Ben stated he was the supervisor for her and the intern Steve.
- Karen was supposed to report to Rep. Courser, but Ben still tried to supervise her.
- Keith did not take on a supervisory role.
- She was told hours of operation were from 9:00am – 5:00pm.
    - At the end of her 1st or 2nd week, Anne & Steve were working on a task. Ben and Keith came into the office and just watched them for a while. It felt awkward Anne said.
    - Keith then said they didn't need to stay around even though it was only 3:30pm. He said "we didn't need to stay to try to impress anyone, so we should go home". We didn't know what to do because Rep. Gamrat was not in office, so we left.
- The prior intern "old Steve", used to go through newspapers, but that hadn't been done in a long time and there were piles of newspapers.
- Anne stated that she and Steve were told to answer the phones for both Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser. Both lines rang in Rep. Gamrat's office and Rep. Courser's office.

    - She was told if any calls came in for Ben to ask who it was that he may be in a meeting and that she would check. Ben would then decide whether he wanted to take the call.
- Rep. Gamrat told Anne she wanted a call log around the 2nd or 3rd day she was there.
    - Steve made an excel spreadsheet to use.
    - She wanted it because Ben & Keith said they were busy and overworked. Rep. Gamrat had asked Ben & Keith to do a call log, but they never did it.
    - Anne's perception was that they were not overworked, but underutilized. They had excess time on their hands.
- After a couple weeks she began wondering what Ben & Keith were working on.
    - Began looking at phone features like call log feature.
    - She and Karen cleared out call history to check how many calls come in to see how busy Ben and Keith were when she was not in office.
    - Ben was not happy they were clearing out the log history. He didn't say anything, but his body language made it seem that way.
- Karen and Anne were given approval to access both offices by both Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser.
    - Ben never did the paperwork to make it happen. It was not completed until Ben no longer worked in the office.
- Karen and Anne found several tributes done & signed, sitting in drawers and never delivered.
- No organization in the office.
    - Both Reps. had asked for this to happen.
    - Stacks of files just thrown in drawers.
    - Booklets with Rep. Genetski's labels on them.
- Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser asked for documents on how they voted on each bill, why they voted that way, did it pass or fail, and by how much.
    - They only did this until end of April
    - Anne went to Michigan votes to get information, and noticed that some of the information on some bills was incorrect. Even notices one that they had voted no, but they put voted yes in the file with an explanation.
- Ben started showing up at strange times. For example, he would show up at 11:00am, say he was going to get coffee, and never come back.
- There was no one in Rep. Courser's office numerous times.
- Anne made a comment one day in Rep. Gamrat's office to Karen about needing to talk to Ben so they could get some tasks done they were working on. They were talking about whether he was even there or not.
    - Shortly after the comments were made, Ben came through the door within 5 minutes and said "Did you need me for something?" It was like he knew we were looking for him. Karen and she actually looked at each other thinking it was strange.
    - I suspected the office was bugged and actually stated it because it was so odd of him to come right in and say that after making the comments. In one instance he specifically mentioned the topic they had just talked about. Anne said she did not find any device, but it felt like it.

July 2, 2015

Anne Hill, Ben Graham, Keith Allard, and Steven Johnson were in Representative Gamrat's office in the House Office Building. Ben and Keith asked Anne to join them in running an errand, to which Anne responded that she didn't feel it was necessary for all three of them to complete the errand. Ben and Keith insisted and Anne agreed to join them. Once removed from the office Ben and Keith indicated the reason for their request was because they wanted to talk to Anne in private. Anne indicated she felt intimidated as the other two stood on either side of her in the elevator. The three proceeded to exit the House Office Building and walk in downtown Lansing. Anne indicated she thought it was strange to go to a public place for a private meeting. The three ended up at a bench on the Capitol grounds. According to Anne, the following took place:

- Keith led the discussion by indicating a need for assistance from Anne because of her background as a business professional.
- Keith and Ben divulged their belief that Representative Courser and Representative Gamrat were engaged in an extra-marital affair and that Speaker Cotter's office was aware of it.
- Keith and Ben informed Anne of the existence of the e-mail which has been widely reported on in the news. To describe the conversation about the e-mail Anne indicated there was consistency between what she was told by Keith and Ben and what has been released and reported in the news.
- Ben said Representative Courser asked him to send the e-mail in question from an anonymous e-mail address because he knew how to make that happen.
- Ben indicated he sent the e-mail, from an anonymous address, to a small group of reporters.
- Keith and Ben informed Anne that Representative Gamrat's House Office Building office was bugged, with no indication as to who was responsible for that.
- Keith and Ben indicated that was the reason former employees of Representatives Courser and Gamrat, Josh Clein and Stephen Carra, resigned from their positions.
- Anne was asked if she was going to quit as a result of hearing all of this information. Anne indicated to Keith and Ben that it was a lot to process and she would have to think about it. Anne told Ben and Keith that at that moment in time, she was considering the information to be rumor! They did not provide proof.

- A discussion took place among the three regarding wiretapping and the legality of it. It was stated by Keith Allard that if one party of the group was aware they were being taped then it was legal.

Following the meeting Anne returned to the office to let Steve know she would be out of the office for a little while. Anne left the office and made a phone call to Karen Courture, also an aid to Representatives Gamrat and Courser. Anne told Karen about the meeting and what was said. They both agreed that Representative Gamrat should be informed and later that same day Anne called Representative Gamrat.

July 6
Anne came into the office early, approx. 8:15 a.m. Ben and Keith were already there which Anne indicated was a first in her experience. Ben was reaching into the overhead compartment of the front desk in the office when Anne entered and seemed to be startled. Ben immediately said he was "picking up some stuff". Ben and Keith left immediately after without taking anything with them. Anne wondered if they were planting or removing bugs.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No, to both questions.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

   No, to both questions.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

   Anne provided a copy of her notes she had prepared based on her recollections.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- On Sunday, August 11, 2015 Anne received a text from Keith that said "we weren't lying". This is the first communication she has received from Keith since his dismissal from the House. She speculated the comment was in reference to the information provided to her during the meeting of July 2.

- Tim asked Anne to let him know if there is anything else she thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Anne Kiel
8/12/15

Interview with Karen Couture on August 11, 2015 at 1:00pm

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Karen Couture
   [redacted]

   (Verified spelling with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Legislative Assistant for Rep. Courser

   June 8, 2015 – Started as part time employee
   June 22, 2015 – Became full time employee

   (Verified dates with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

KC

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

Yes, received copy or were instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies. No, not asked to do anything in violation of House policies, including policies regarding misuse of state/ state resources.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

Yes, received copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources. During course of working with Rep. Courser, they did talk about House policies and use of state resources.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

- When she worked at the Law Office of Rep. Courser, Ben, Keith, & Josh all worked in the same office as herself.
    - She said they are not workers
    - She would see them watching movies, comedy shows, messaging, or on Facebook. Then they would talk about how much work they were doing, even if they just wrote a paragraph, and how much they would charge him. They would discuss the amounts until they thought Rep. Courser would pay.
- She suggested not hiring them.
    - Rep. Courser said they were loyal and felt like he should hire them.
- She stated Josh stopped by the Law office after he resigned, and everything seemed fine, until Ben was terminated.
- Stated she heard that the raises were given to Ben and Keith after Josh resigned because of an increase in workload.

RL

- Rep. Courser asked her to come to Lansing to help get the office organized due to some concerns.
    - Phones not being answered
    - E-mails not being answered
    - No one in office
- He asked her to come work part time to help out and be his eyes.
- On her first day Ben explained how to answer calls & e-mails.
    - Ben said she didn't have to answer the phone if the area code was outside the district. There were also phone numbers that were never answered.
- Rep. Courser didn't like that everyone was in Rep. Gamrat's office.
    - So, Karen went to Rep. Courser's office to get it set up.
    - Karen ended up using Ben's laptop, and saw some IMs between Ben and Keith
        - Talked about what horrible jobs they have
        - Wondering if their raises were going to be in next check
        - Rep. Courser had left for funeral, and they made jokes saying that Rep. Courser & Rep. Gamrat were probably together.
        - Said they should follow them and take pictures to send to Rep. Gamrat's husband.
- Ben encouraged her to leave early on her first day. She didn't feel comfortable.
- Karen and Anne ended up working together in Rep. Gamrat's office.
- Ben said they didn't need to read all the e-mails. Just delete those sent to more than one person.
- Anne & Karen started to take care of e-mails despite Ben telling them just to delete them. Reps. were happy, and said it was the most information they had received since coming into office.
- Ben and Keith said the Reps. didn't need to know everything and that they would decide what they needed to know and what events or meetings they would go to.
- Mentioned Cody from Constituent Services would tell them what they could do in the district. Cody told Karen Rep. Courser isn't interested in all this (special stuff to do in the district). Rep. Courser wanted to know what he could do. Cody was also surprised when Karen asked about doing an e-mail to the district because he was told Rep. Courser didn't do those things.
- Ben volunteered to take care of March reading materials. But, she found everything still in the drawers, in July.
- He was supposed to take Library Reading Contest boxes to the district libraries, but he did not deliver the boxes. The contest started at the beginning of summer. Cody had taken the ads off because the boxes hadn't been delivered.
    - After he was terminated, he dropped the boxes off at Rep. Courser's law office, because he wanted a computer from the office.
- Office was a mess and unorganized.
    - Keith kept track of votes, but the document was inaccurate and incomplete.
- Not sure what Ben and Keith were actually doing. She felt like her and Anne were essentially doing all the work.
- She did not know of any misuse of State resources.

KL

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

   No, to both questions.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

   None to provide at this time.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

    No

KC

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Karen stated she did find a pornographic drawing of Rep. Courser & Rep. Gamrat in the office. She gave the drawing to Rep. Courser.

- Tim asked Karen about her supplemental employment.
    - Karen stated she did not get paid much from the Law Firm
    - She also stated that she would go to Rep. Courser's Law Office on Fridays.
- Tim asked Karen if someone looks at the Law firm, you did not receive full time pay there while working at the House.
    - Karen replied "No"

- Tim asked Karen to let him know if there is anything else she thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Karen Couture
8-12-15
KC

Karen Couture added the following additional comments on August 12, 2015

- The computer in Rep. Courser's office was not set up to accommodate the work being done, like FilePro wasn't set up with the district voters.
- Keith and Ben were told many times to get us access to the office, Karen and Anne handled it on their own.
- Ben and Keith were told to arrange for access to both offices. Karen and Anne handled it.
- Karen and Anne worked a week for free because Keith and Ben didn't fill out the employment forms that they were told to do.
- Keith and Ben were also told to figure out how to make Karen and Anne full time employees and Karen and Anne handled it.
- When Karen asked for labels to put on the booklets for the district, she was told that that was a lot of money and Ben didn't know if that was in the budget. Ben said he had to talk to Keith. Karen did get the labels.

Karen Couture
8-12-15 KC

DM

Interview with Dan McMaster on August 14, 2015 at 7:30am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

Dan McMaster
[redacted]

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

Partner with Grassroots Midwest

Past House employment:
11/23/1998 – 12/31/1998 Rep. Gilmer
1/1/1999 – 6/10/2000 Rep. Garcia
11/30/2000 – 3/31/2001 Rep. Garcia
4/1/2001 – 4/3/2001 District 86
1/3/2011 – 7/6/2013 Republican Constituent Relations

(Verified with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

Yes

DJM

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes. No, not to my knowledge.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes, regarding use of office, computers, etc.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   - Dan stated he had no physical evidence
     - But stated there was a lot of weird activity going on
       - Taking office apart
       - Lobbyist talking about how Rep. Courser would be in West Michigan with Rep. Gamarat.
   - Dan believes the staff in Rep. Courser's office may have been running a political consulting business out of the office here in Lansing. But, has no hard evidence.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   Not Applicable

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

Not Applicable

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Dan stated he would share any documents that may help in the investigation.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No, not to my knowledge.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Dan mentioned maybe taking a look at when and what time dissertations were being sent out.
- Tim asked Dan if he knew who the texter was. Dan said "no"
- Dan believe that Rep. Courser's actions were very deliberate and scripted.
- Tim asked Dan to let him know if there is anything else he thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Interview with Representative Todd Courser, August 17, 2015, 8:12 a.m.

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Todd Courser
   3110 Murphy Lake Road
   Silverwood, MI, 48760

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   State Representative for the 82nd District.
   No previous employment with the Michigan House.

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes.

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Part 1) Does not recall specifically receiving a copy or specifically being instructed on where to find an electronic copy. Acknowledged that he probably did but just doesn't remember.
   Part 2) Response was "I don't think so".

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

Part 1) Does not recall.

Part 2) No.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Josh Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

Regarding misuse of staff/state resources:

- There was no misuse of state resources by staff in dealing with the circumstances surrounding the current situation.
- The May 19 audio tape released to the media was of a meeting held in the Representative's law office in Lapeer at 10:30 p.m.
- May 21 meeting recorded by Mr. Graham clearly stated no requirement of Mr. Graham to do or hide anything.

Information regarding the termination/resignation of the three staff members:

- The Representative had a business relationship with Mr. Graham and Mr. Cline prior to being elected. Mr. Graham and Mr. Cline operated a consulting business out of his law office where they served other clients and did both paid and volunteer work on Representative Courser's political efforts. They had full use of his facilities. Representative Courser was not aware if any of that work was done at the House Office Building or if Mr. Graham and Mr. Cline brought any of their own equipment to the House Office Building. Mr. Allard, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Cline all had a routine of conducting political efforts and operations at lunch out of Biggby.
- The Representative has known Mr. Graham and Mr. Cline's families for years and had personal relationships with both.
- The Representative does not know if he signed a supplemental employment form for any staff. It was acknowledged that some of the outside political work Mr. Allard, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Cline did he may not have been aware of.

- Mr. Allard informed the Representative he was going to raise money to fight Proposal 1 of 2015. The Representative told Mr. Allard he needed to be aware of these kinds of things and that he had concerns with his outside work. Mr. Allard appeared on Off The Record to speak against the proposed sales tax increase without informing either Representatives Courser or Gamrat before or after.
- On May 19, 2015 at approximately 10:30 p.m. Mr. Graham met with the Representative in his law office in Lapeer. The Representative understood that Mr. Graham came as a friend and was not on state time and doesn't believe the time was on his time card.
- The Representative stated that the termination of Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard did not have anything to do with the affair between Representatives Gamrat and Courser or the fake e-mail Mr. Graham was asked to send.

- The following reasons were given for the terminations of Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard:

- Poor use of time.
- Lack of response to constituents.
- Failure to follow up with constituents.
- Signed tributes that were not delivered.
- Bookmark program awards never delivered to schools.
- Summer reading project – books never delivered.
- Stole data from the Representative personally and from information gathered at the House.
- After Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard met with Anne Hill (meeting described in detail in Anne Hill's testimony), the Representative determined there were irreconcilable differences between them.
- Notes written by Mr. Allard were found with profanity and they appeared to show him having pent up hostility issues.
- At a town hall meeting in the district the Representative was told by attendees that they weren't getting call backs from messages left at the office.
- The Representative felt they both were working against him trying to be successful in the district.
- An obscene drawing by Mr. Allard was found in the office depicting a sex act.
- Mr. Graham was sleeping in the office on occasion.
- When Karen Couture was hired many of these things were discovered, especially the lack of follow up to calls and e-mails to the office and lack of onsite work attendance.
- Ms. Couture and Anne Hill, another recent hire, were told by both Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard not to answer calls if the number was an area code outside the district even though the district has constituents with varied outside area codes.
- The Representative asked for a daily summary of what Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard did and they refused to provide it.
- Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard refused to provide any reporting on daily tasks completed.

- The Representative knew Mr. Graham and Mr. Cline prior to being elected but did not know Mr. Allard. Mr. Allard was made chief of staff for both offices (Courser and Gamrat).

- Raises were given in May to Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard because the Representative felt they were carrying a heavier load since Mr. Cline resigned. Therefor He felt it was appropriate at that moment to increase their pay rate and he felt like he addressed his concerns with Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard. But the routine of failure in accountability, follow thru, and documenting returned almost immediately.
- The Representative did not recall if the raises were given before or after the May 19 meeting with Mr. Graham in Lapeer. There was no connection between the two situations.

More reasons given for the terminations:

- When searching for a replacement for Mr. Cline, Mr. Allard, despite repeated requests, didn't follow up on resumes received to fill the vacant posts.
- Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard told the House duplicating center the Representative did not want to do mailers, when he really did. Ms. Couture has since corrected this with the duplicating center.
- Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard did not want to set up or attend events in the district.
- The Representative discovered Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard weren't really legislative staffers in mindset, but rather political operatives with their own agenda.
- It was an untenable employment situation.
- Ms. Hill reported she was asked by Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard to quit and they made statements of fact that the office was bugged but they did not say by who.
- The Representative believes Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard recorded conversations in the office without being there. The Representative believes at the May 21 meeting Mr. Graham placed his phone as a recorder and left the office. Mr. Graham had routine of placing his phone in the back office on a charger and then leaving the room while conversation was happening without him in the room.
- Agendas for meetings were repeatedly without fail not done as repeatedly requested.
- There was a lack of respect shown to the Representatives from the beginning.
- Mr. Allard's dress was poor and set a poor example to the other staff.
- The Representative tried to create structure in the office by requesting:
    - Meetings to be set up.
    - Mailings.
    - Maintaining contact lists.
    - Keeping a legislative tracker.
    - Doing agendas for meetings.
    - Keeping the calendar up to date.
- The Representative stated he didn't know the depth of the failure until Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard were gone because they covered for each other.
- The Representative heard some of the audio tape through the news media.
- Many family members knew about the affair.
- He did not use state resources to cover up the affair or when asking Mr. Graham to send the e-mail to cover up the affair.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Josh Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

No to all.

8. Did you conceal or did you ask anyone to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Did you ever ask anyone to do anything during office hours to facilitate or hide an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No to all.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

- The Representative indicated he would later provide some information regarding what Mr. Allard sent him about delineation of duties.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

- No, but the Representative believes the recordings Mr. Graham made were unlawful and he never asked the staff to record anything.
- The Representative presumes failure to turn over recordings made while a state employee is unlawful.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Mr. Cline had spoken to the Representative's brother and mother about the affair. The exact timing of these conversations is unclear but it was before May 19.
- Representative Courser indicated that to the best of his knowledge Representative Gamrat did not know about the e-mail cover up until she was shown a copy of the e-mail on the House floor by a reporter after it was sent.
- With regard to the blackmailing text messages - The Representative hopes it wasn't Mr. Graham or Mr. Cline, but they knew many personal details about the Representative's life.
- The Representative asked Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard if they sent the texts but they denied it.
- The Representative believes certain information in the blackmailer's response text on May 21 at 1:30 p.m. came from the meeting between Mr. Graham and the Representative on May 19.
- The content of the texts show that the sender was aware of the Representative's private texts, live conversations, e-mails, and whereabouts.
- The Representative went to the State Police with the texts but felt they were not interested in following up.
- Blackmailer confirmed he could hear conversations the Representative had in the vehicle with his brother on their drive home from Washington D.C.

The Representative was asked what his responsibilities are for this situation.

- He indicated that his family already knew about the affair and they were working through it.
- There was a family meeting with extended family and he was encouraged to get everything out in the open and deal with it.
- He is open to the criticism regarding hypocrisy and personal failures, he has always been aware of his own personal failures.
- He attempted to work with Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard to administer the office but there was continuous staff incompetence, friction, poor performance, and failures.

The following are statements made expanding on previous questions and/or providing general information:

- The Representative stated Ms. Couture and Ms. Hill would be able to give an unbiased account of Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard's work.
- He found over 100 calls/e-mails not followed up on.
- There was an electronic chat between Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard that was seen by Ms. Couture because she was on Mr. Graham's laptop. In the chat Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard talk about following the two Representatives when they leave the office in order to find them and take pictures/video in a compromising situation and then release the information. Ms. Couture informed Representative Courser's mom and wife about it. The Representative was actually attending a funeral that day.
- The Representative told Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard they need to decide if they were invested in making the office successful.

- The Representative believes Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard removed or deleted files from state computers prior to their firing.
- Mr. Cline, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Allard are all friends with Joe and Joey Gamrat – Representative Gamrat's husband and son.
- There were times when Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard were in one of the offices with the lights off and door locked during business hours. They put signs on the doors to both Representatives' office directing people to the other office.
- Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard were supposed to blind copy the Representative on e-mail responses to constituents but they would not do it.
- The Representative thought they were back on track when raises were given to Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard, and also the raises were for increased workload resulting from Mr. Cline's resignation.
- Texts from alleged blackmailer started in early May. Early texts were deleted. He offered to give over the texts he saved.
- The Representative denies the allegations made regarding activity during the 2014 primary – placing stickers on opponent's yard signs, and sending a fake e-mail accusing him of being a child molester.
- Mr. Cline is the one who proposed sharing office staff with Representative Gamrat and Mr. Cline, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Allard resisted efforts to separate the offices.
- The Representative will provide an e-mail sent by Mr. Allard to the Representative outlining responsibilities, specifically the delineation between state and political work, and any notes from meetings where that was covered.
- Mr. Cline resigned and then tried to claim unemployment. He did not claim the reason he left was as a result of the current issues.
- Mr. Cline missed calendaring a meeting in Muskegon at a veteran's home, sponsored by Representative Barrett, on a Monday in early April. The Thursday prior he sat down with Mr. Cline to go over his expectations for calendaring and the multiple calendar failures that were occurring. The Representative drove 5 ½ hours in bad weather to Muskegon for the meeting only to find out it had been canceled. It was the last straw for Mr. Cline and the Representative questioned how they could move forward from this. Mr. Cline resigned.
- Mr. Cline wanted to go to Washington D.C. with the Representative for an event and was disappointed he wasn't taken. The Representative's brother went instead.
- The Representative felt he was under constant surveillance because the texts from the blackmailer mentioned things said on the Washington D.C. trip.
- A vote log was kept in the office but was inaccurate and incomplete.
- Mr. Allard was good at communicating things he wanted to do and how he wanted to do them but in the end couldn't get them done; he had no administrative follow through.
- The Representative had issues of trust with Mr. Cline, Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard because of their outside work. He didn't want them doing outside work on issues the Representative didn't agree with or would reflect poorly on the office or his elected position.
- The staff was asked to do task and legislative trackers but they didn't get done.

- On February 16, e-mails were discovered unanswered. Mr. Cline, Mr. Graham and Mr. Allard would not respond to e-mails sent to them by the Representatives.
- The Representative asked for weekly agendas and logs. He assumed Mr. Allard, as chief of staff, would handle it but he didn't.
- The Representative wanted in-district meetings on Mondays and Fridays but staff was reluctant to schedule them and would not assist in setting them up.
- The Representative felt he worked for the staff as opposed to staff working for the district under his direction.
- These various issues were addressed at staff meetings, apologies were made, and then things would fall back to the way they were.
- The Representative spoke to the FBI, the local sheriff, and the state police about the blackmailing texts.
- He received threatening phone calls including someone who commented that he knew there were guns in the house and how it would be unfortunate if something happened to his children. As a result he removed the guns from the house and he has had other threats or incidents.
- Dog manure was spread on his front porch, yard, and vehicle.
- The texts from the alleged blackmailer indicated they knew that the e-mail discussed at the May 19 meeting between Mr. Graham and the Representative was bogus and the Representative had it sent. The Representative surmised the sender must be Mr. Graham.
- By sending the e-mail, the blackmailer confirmed he knew the Representative was the sender, which narrowed the scope of who was potentially involved.

Interview with Norm Saari on August 17, 2015 at 10:30am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Norman J. Saari
   [redacted]

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Commissioner on Michigan Public Service Commission

   Past House employment:
   8/26/2013 – 12/31/2014: Chief of Staff for Speaker Bolger
   1/1/2015 – 8/3/2015: Chief of Staff for Speaker Cotter

   (Verified with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

NS

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes. No.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes. Yes.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   - Everything is based on recollection from discussions. Norm stated he does not have detailed notes.
   - Norm stated that one of his jobs as Chief of Staff was assisting in staffing for newly elected Members prior to coming to Lansing.
     - He called both Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser along with all freshmen Members to discuss staffing, but did not receive returned calls from either Member.
     - In addition to staffing information given out at orientation, he wanted to give them information on staffing from the caucus.
     - The preference would be to have at least one staff person from Lansing with knowledge of how things work in Lansing.
   - Before Rep. Gamrat took office, Keith Allard called Norm on behalf of Rep. Gamrat and introduced himself.
     - He had questions regarding staffing and salaries.
     - So, Norm only had a verbal acquaintance with Keith.
   - No one from Rep. Courser's office reached out before he took office.
   - Norm heard the staff was hired by Reps. Gamrat and Courser without consultation.
   - Jeremy Hendges gave orientation for what a back desk person vs front desk staff would do.
     - Not sure if any staff from Rep. Gamrat or Rep. Courser's office came.
   - They had regular Monday Caucus staff meetings

- Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser's staff didn't come to all the meetings. They were always invited to them.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.
   No.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

   No.
   Second question not asked.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

   Norm did not have any documents that would be relevant to the issues.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

    No

BS

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Around April 13, 2015 – April 15, 2015 Norm's notepad references Josh, Ben, & Keith, but no details as what it was regarding.
- Josh Cline did meet with Norm because he was leaving and wanted help with obtaining a job in LARA as a Health Surveyor in Wayne Co.
- April 27, 2015 Norm had a discussion with Rep. Pettalia about Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat.
- April 27, 2015 Norm talked with Keith Allard.
- Around May 18, 2015 – May 21, 2015 Norm talked with Ben Graham on Ben's cell phone.
- June 30, 2015 Norm has Denise/Karen/Courser – Full Time. Assumes it was when Karen was hired into Rep. Courser's office – HR issue
- July 7, 2015 Norm has Anne Hill/Hourly/Gamrat – Assumes it was when Anne was hired into Rep. Gamrat's office – HR issue
- July 7, 2015 Rep. Courser/Karen - $36,000 – Assumes HR issue
- July 7, 2015 Rep. Courser told Norm, "Not coming to work. Databases taken by staff and won't return"
    - Rep. Courser also told Norm the staff was not doing constituent follow up and not delivering tributes as they were told to do.
- Norm had ongoing discussions with Jessica Jeurink in constituent services. She spoke with Josh Cline a lot.
- Norm heard the rumors that got to Lansing staff regarding relationship between Rep. Gamrat & Rep. Courser.
    - Did not hear anything specific.
    - Rumors continued to go on
    - Rumors regarding allegations of physical confrontation at the Radisson involving Mr. Gamrat, Rep. Gamrat, and Rep. Courser were going around.
        - Norm asked Chief Sergeant at Arms Dickson to check into the rumor.
        - Chief Dickson said no police report was filed. There was discussion with an officer who said there was nothing to report.
        - MIRS reporter, Kyle Molin, told Norm he listened to the 911 tapes and did not hear anything regarding a call to the Radisson for this incident.
- Norm was told the story about fake e-mail, but wasn't sure if it was just rumors.
    - Gideon D'Assandro showed him the social media information.

Tim asked Norm if the House followed its normal process in the terminations of Ben Graham and Keith Allard. Norm said "yes".

- When Ben and Keith were terminated they wanted to meet with Norm. Tim, Norm, and Brock (on the phone) met with them, but did not take notes.

- At some point Ben told Norm he was concerned about the e-mail that Rep. Courser wanted to send out. He said it was not happening on state time, in the office in Lansing or on state computers. It was taking place out of Rep. Courser's Lapeer office.

- Keith had mentioned to Norm that he knew early on that Rep. Gamrat would be more independent than work with caucus.

- Norm believing Ben and Josh were political disciples of Rep. Courser and were disillusioned by what they were actually doing - dealing with the affair.

- Keith expressed his displeasure to Norm about Rep. Courser's part in the floor seat assignment dispute.

- Tim asked Norm to let him know if there is anything else he thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Interview with Brock Swartzle on August 17, 2015 at 11:30am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Brock A. Swartzle
   [redacted]

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Current: Chief of Staff and General Counsel

   Past House employment:
   June 1, 2015 – August 2, 2015: General Counsel and Executive Director of Republican Policy
   January 1, 2015 – May 31, 2015: General Counsel
   July 22, 2013 – December 31, 2014: Majority Legal Counsel

   (Verified with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

RAS

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes. No.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes, received information to that effect. Yes, lead meetings regarding this issue.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   - Nothing independent of e-mails Tim already has received from Brock.
   - Tim has Brock's computer
   - Tim should have everything.

   Relative to the terminations:
   - Met with Ben in May
   - Post termination, talked with Ben and Keith along with Tim and Norm.
     - During meeting, the conversation was disjointed. Keith and Ben were upset about affair, and the fact that they were not exposed as hypocrites.

   Tim asked Brock if he had prior knowledge of tapes or documents. Brock stated "no"

BAS

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No. No.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

   No. He did meet with Ben once before Ben was terminated, but Ben wanted it kept confidential.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

   Brock said Tim had everything.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

    No

BAS

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Brock did meet with Ben after Rep. Courser wanted him to send out the e-mail. Ben said it was not going to be done on state time or using state resources.
- Brock stated there were many rumors/allegations regarding Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser. Rumors of the confrontation and sex tapes. Nothing ever panned out after looking into the allegations.
- Tim asked Brock to let him know if there is anything else he thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.
- Based on the single conversation with Mr. Graham, it appeared to Brock that the so-called false-flag email involved a private email account and did not involve any House staff or other resources. Because the email was about a personal matter, because it could not be defamatory if it was attacking the person or persons who caused it to be sent, and because the conversation with legal counsel was intended to be confidential, Brock concluded that the email, as described by Mr. Graham, was not itself illegal and the conversation could remain confidential.

Interview with Rep. Cindy Gamrat on August 17, 2015 at 1:00pm

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Representative Cindy Gamrat
   967 Scenic View Drive
   Plainwell, MI 49080

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   State Representative for the 80th district

   No previous past employment with the Michigan House.

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes. It was a lot of information packed into a short period of time. Like drinking water from a firehose, and Tim Bowlin agreed.

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   I could have received a copy of the House policies. I don't recall.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

- Rep. Gamrat stated she might have received copy, but cannot recall.
- Rep. Gamrat stated she would get reminder e-mails now and again from legal counsel (Brock Swartzle).
- She was having trouble with her computer. She was a MAC person, her computer wasn't working right and was sent back to tech on a number of occasions, and couldn't access her emails or other information. She assigned her staff to inform her of important emails and believes now in hindsight that her staff failed to do so.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

- Rep. Genetski had talked to Rep. Gamrat about the staff.
    - Constituents were complaining to Rep. Genetski.
    - He brought events and constituent concerns to Rep. Gamrat
- Tim asked about the day of the terminations
    - Rep. Gamrat stated it was a hard decision made over months and months of things not being addressed.
    - E-mails not being answered.
    - Events she was not notified about.
    - Rep. Gamrat asked Tim that day about the process for terminating employees.
        - Tim told her it wasn't as nice as she thought it should be.
        - He would sit them down, give them an at-will letter terminating their employment, and then an exit interview with HR immediately after.
    - Rep. Gamrat had also stated on that day, that Rep. Courser might want to terminate an employee also. Tim told her Rep. Courser would have to contact him.
    - Tim was called to Rep. Courser's office and brought both of them down to the Business Office and did their terminations separately with their respective Representatives.
- Keith Allard was brought in as Chief of Staff to administer both Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser's offices.
- Ben Graham was to work on constituent services.

- Rep. Gamrat knew both Ben and Josh before being sworn in.
- Josh suggested the shared staff.
- Rep. Gamrat's biggest concern was the lack of constituent services out of the office.
- She stated events like Right to Life dinner were never put on her schedule.
- She stated there were tributes that were not delivered.
- She received complaints from constituents that they had called several times with no responses.
- Her Pastor showed up in her office a few times and her staff didn't even let her know.
- At Saugatuck coffee hours, constituents said they have never been treated so poorly by Member's staff.
- Asked staff to do calendaring of district events
    - Wanted to focus on district events, but staff did not notify her of events.
    - Would not put contact information and sometimes even wrong address for events.
- West Michigan Chamber was taking pictures, but staff put it in as breakfast, and optional.
- When Rep. Gamrat went to Allegan Tea Party picnic, County Commissioner asked her why she was not at the Legislative event for newly elected Legislators.
    - Senator Schuitmaker supposedly called to invite and talked to Keith. Senator Yonker's office also talked to Keith to invite her.
- Rep. Gamrat said the staff had bad attitudes.
    - Not willing to work with other Reps. & Senators offices.
- Staff didn't let her know about Tulip Festival event until day before.
- Staff didn't prep her for committees ahead of time.
- Rep. Gamrat was concerned about effective use of staff time and attendance.
- Bookmark Contest from March was not delivered. Found in drawer.
- Projects were not getting done.
- Asked for daily and weekly updates, and would not get them.
- Starting asking when they were going to be at work or not.
    - Would stop by and no one would be there.
    - Tim asked if time cards reflected when they were not there. Rep. Gamrat said Keith did time card approvals, but would like to know.
- Tim asked why she gave salary increase on May 25th.
    - Rep. Gamrat stated she started looking for new staff, but it was taking longer than she anticipated.
    - They were down to two staffers for both offices after Josh left, and felt the work load warranted the salary increase.
- Tim asked if the e-mail had anything to do with the termination. Rep. Gamrat said "no"
- Tim asked if there was any misuse of state resources. Rep. Gamrat said "no"

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

No. No.

8. Did you conceal or did you asked anyone to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Did you ever asked anyone to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No. In the context of her employment.

- She actually knew that Ben knew about the affair, so she had a conversation with him. She told him that whatever he felt he needed to do, she was okay with it. Whether it was letting everyone know about the affair or even leaving employment. She told Ben she wanted to work through this privately with her family. She stated she would be fine with him staying working. She told Ben she would be okay with whatever he decided.

- Tim asked if Rep. Gamrat signed any supplemental employment forms. She stated she did not.

- Rep. Gamrat also stated that they had talked to staff about anything political not being done in the State office.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Yes. She will pull something together and get it to Tim.

Tim asked if Rep. Gamrat knew who the texter was. She said "no"

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Rep. Gamrat stated she had driven to a meeting in Muskegon, which Rep. Barrett organized, to find out it had been cancelled. Her staff had not informed her.
- Rep. Gamrat got a complaint from Rep. Afendoulis that Keith was rude to him.
- Tim asked if Rep. Gamrat had copies of all the text messages. She said she has some starting July 17th only. Her phone was set to auto delete text messages after 30 days. She stated she thought they began back in March or April.
    - She said she would make a copy of the text message she has and send them to Tim. She also said she is trying to get the old ones restored and would get them to Tim if she is able.
- Rep. Gamrat talked about how Ben and Keith took Anne out to meet offsite to tell here the office was bugged.
- Rep. Gamrat received text messages of conversations that happened in the office, made her think someone was recording.
- Text mentioned what Ben and Keith are saying – they were right. Ben has a lot on you.
- Rep. Gamrat wanted to know why she wasn't told about Ben and Keith talking to Speaker's office.
    - Tim stated that staff need a safe place to go and talk.
    - Rep. Gamrat said would have wanted notification from Speaker's office if there was an issue.
- Rep. Gamrat asked if Tim can find out who bugged office. Tim stated that is part of the process.

Interview with Ben Graham, August 18, 9:00 a.m.

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Ben Graham
   [redacted]

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   - Currently unemployed
   - Past employment with the House
     - Legislative Assistant to Rep. Todd Courser: January 1, 2015 – July 7, 2015

   (Verified dates with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes.

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes.
   Yes.

   When asked if he knew about the House's supplemental employment form, he indicated he knew of the form but did not fill one out.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   Yes.
   Yes.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.
   No.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

Yes, prior to termination.
Yes.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Yes, will provide unedited audio files and e-mails.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No recorded answer, explained below.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

After initially answering the above questions Ben explained and/or expanded on several of his answers, but in no particular order. It is recorded chronologically here.

- On the evening of May 19, 2015, Ben received a phone call from Rep. Courser, who he described as sounding distraught and unstable. Rep. Courser asked Ben to meet him at his law office in Lapeer because "I need you to destroy me". Ben agreed to meet at 10:00 p.m. Ben was concerned about Rep. Courser's state of mind and well-being so Ben decided it he would be in his best interest to record the meeting using his cell phone.
- At the meeting Rep. Courser described his relationship with his wife as poor. He told Ben about the texts he was receiving threatening to expose the affair he was having with Rep. Gamrat.
- Ben does not know who the person is sending the texts.
- At the meeting Rep. Courser told Ben that if the affair came to light he wanted to send an e-mail containing false accusations against himself in order to cover-up the affair and act as a distraction. Rep. Courser described it as a controlled burn, the theory being you mix a little truth with a lot of lies to take the focus off the small truth.
- Rep. Courser asked Ben to send the e-mail and then take the next day off.

- Ben told Rep. Courser it was a crazy way to handle the situation and he recommended just coming out with the information and resigning.
- Rep. Gamrat called Rep. Courser during the meeting. Ben heard Rep. Courser say "I'm here with Ben, he is trying to digest it". Based on Rep. Courser's side of the conversation Ben could tell that Rep. Gamrat offered to talk to Ben and try to get him to agree to send the e-mail.
- Ben wanted to leave the meeting but Rep. Courser wouldn't let him. Ben told Rep. Courser he would not send the e-mail.
- When Ben was able to leave the meeting he told Rep. Courser he would think about it.
- Ben called Josh Cline to consult about the situation. Rep. Courser sent a text to Ben later that night asking if he had thought about it further. Ben again declined to send the e-mail and told him again he should resign.
- Ben indicated the meeting of May 19 was the first he knew of the affair directly from Rep. Courser.
- Ben decided to take the next day off from work in order to process everything and because he didn't want to see Rep. Courser in the office the day after denying his request to send the e-mail.
- Ben called Speaker Cotter's office to request a meeting with Norm Saari and Brock Swartzle. He indicated he had proof of an affair between Reps. Courser and Gamrat.
- On May 21 Ben met with Norm and Brock at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of Governmental Consulting Services Incorporated. The off-site location was suggested by Norm/Brock and Ben understood it to be an effort to ensure privacy and protection for Ben.
- Ben informed Norm/Brock that he was asked to do something unethical and illegal by Rep. Courser. He wanted to quit his job but was encouraged to stay for the good of the House and the district. Norm indicated that in the meantime he would assist in finding him other suitable employment.
- Between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. of the same day Ben met with Reps. Courser and Gamrat. Ben recorded this meeting with his cell phone. The Reps. were apologetic for asking Ben to send the e-mail. They also said they thought Joe Gamrat, Rep. Gamrat's husband, was trying to blackmail them. Rep. Gamrat asked Ben to keep quiet about the situation. Rep. Courser indicated he had someone else, referred to as Ike, send the e-mail. Ben told them he was glad he didn't agree to send the e-mail and that he wished Ike didn't send it.
- About a week later Ben recorded a discussion between himself and Reps. Courser and Gamrat. The Reps. expressed concern that someone had access to their data bases and other personal information. They asked Ben to secure their political date bases using House issued computer equipment. They also asked Ben to secure their personal electronic information in this way.
- Ben indicated there was a fourth recording made in early to mid-June of a meeting involving himself, Keith, and both Representatives. (Keith describes this meeting in his testimony)

- On July 2 Ben and Keith met with Anne Hill. Keith told Anne that Ben recorded some conversations with the Representatives. They told her about the night Rep. Courser called Ben to the Lapeer office, about the affair, and also told her that the offices were bugged, according to Rep. Courser.

- Ben commented further on the May 21 meeting with Norm/Brock. Ben told them at that point Rep. Courser was not retaliating for him declining to send the fraudulent e-mail.
- Ben followed up that meeting with a text to Norm thanking him for his help and letting him know he was open to any new position he could help him find.
- Rep. Courser was getting more volatile toward Ben because he thought he had told Josh and Rep. Courser's brother about the affair.
- Rep. Courser was confronted by his brother and brother-in-law about the affair because of behavior they observed on a trip to Washington D.C. which they all took together, along with Rep. Gamrat.
- Rep. Courser's brother called Ben and he confirmed his knowledge of the affair.
- Ben sent a text to Norm expressing concern about what Rep. Courser might do.
- Sometime later Norm called Ben to see where Reps. Courser and Gamrat were on the proposed road funding package before the House at that time. In that conversation Norm indicated he was still working on finding Ben new employment.
- On May 29 Ben sent Norm a text to see if there was any progress in finding him a new position.
- On June 8 Ben sent Norm another text asking for a progress update on the job front.
- On June 9 Ben sent Norm a text letting him know that Rep. Courser had threatened both Ben and Keith's job because they had talked about the affair with each other.
- Ben said the press even stated Rep. Gamrat's family knew for a long time about the affair, but Ben and Keith were being blamed.
- Ben explained he was asked to do several unlawful things by Reps. Courser and Gamrat:
    - Send the fraudulent e-mail on May 19 and cover it up.
    - Secure their political and personal accounts during working hours at the House.
    - Send e-mails through political data bases.
    - Assist Rep. Courser's law practice with advertising as a condition of employment.
    - Train Karen Couture, during work hours, on how to do Facebook advertising for Rep. Courser's law practice, to which he refused. Ben offered to help outside of House working hours.
    - He was sent e-mails stating he must help with political tasks related to Rep. Gamrat's run for Republican National Committeewoman.
- Ben knows other staff in the office were working on political things.
- Karen was working in Rep. Courser's law office while on state time.
- When Karen was hired, Ben warned her about doing political work while on state time and that he knew Rep. Courser would ask her to do it.

- Rep. Courser had said one of Karen's job responsibilities was to maintain two separate political data bases including responding to e-mails.
- He observed Karen sending political e-mails and marking her House time card as "worked".
- Rep. Courser made a conscious decision to be late for committee meetings. He would sit in his office for no reason other than to intentionally be late. Rep. Courser would not go to most committee meeting unless there was going to be a vote.
- Ben indicated he will turn over all unedited recordings and e-mails.

Interview with Keith Allard on August 18, 2015 at 9:00am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

Keith Allard
[redacted]

(Verified spelling with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

- Currently unemployed
- Past employment with the House
    - Legislative Assistant to Rep. Cindy Gamrat: January 1, 2015 – July 7, 2015

(Verified dates with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

Yes

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes, to both questions.

   Tim asked if Keith had seen or filled out supplemental employment form. Keith stated "no".

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Does not recall.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   Yes, to both questions. Details will be talked about later in interview.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No, to both questions.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

Yes to first question, but prior to termination.
Yes to second question.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Yes.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

Yes.

- Rep. Courser asked Keith to retaliate against Ben when Ben wouldn't train new employee.
- Rep. Courser made as a condition of employment to do political work, and that they would be evaluated by how much they did.
- Keith and Ben would bring their personal Wi-Fi and computers
- Rep. Courser's e-mails sent through political database. Keith told Rep. Courser not to do it in his state office.
- Keith stated the PowWow information was done on state time
- Rep. Courser made them participate in meetings on purchasing political e-mails & databases.
- Rep. Gamrat wanted them to purchase political data while in the state office.
- Keith felt like it was condition of employment
- Rep. Courser saw no line between State, Business, & Personal
- Keith stated that Karen's job description was to maintain political databases
- Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat spent hours talking about political items. Keith told them those conversations should be done at Biggby.
- Keith said when Karen was a full time employee, she did not do 40 hours of non-political work.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- Tim asked Keith if he knew the recordings where going to happen. Keith said yes, and that he had actually encouraged Ben to record the conversations.

- Tim asked Keith when the first time he heard about the affair. Keith said in late January, Joe Gamrat (Rep. Gamrat's husband) called him and told Keith he had suspicions. Joe also told Keith he had obtained physical evidence of the affair on the Friday, prior to May 19th.

- In early to mid-June on a Sunday, Rep. Gamrat sent a hostile e-mail to Keith, Ben, & Rep. Courser focusing on work of the staff.

    - Tim asked if he Keith had a copy. Keith said "yes"

- On Monday, Rep. Courser sent a hostile e-mail to Keith, Ben and Rep. Gamrat saying Keith and Ben had told Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat's families about what was going on.

<u>4th Audio Recording</u>

- On Tuesday, Keith and Ben had a confrontational meeting with Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat. At this time Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat did not know that Keith knew about the fake "e-mail".

- Keith showed them the fake "e-mail" and told them that people in the building were telling him that you (Rep. Courser) had sent the "e-mail". Rep. Gamrat said it was the first time she had ever seen the "e-mail". She told Keith if he was disturbed by it, why didn't he let her know about it?

- Rep. Courser told Keith, you were destroying my family and that he should decide whether he wanted to work in his office.

- Ben and Keith told the Members that the office was becoming a soap opera.

- Keith said they shouldn't talk to staff the way they do.

- Keith said they should separate offices. Keith asked if they wanted to separate for personal or professional reasons. Reps. Gamrat and Courser said "both".

- End of 4th Audio information

- Joe Gamrat called Keith and told him about the confrontation at the Radisson.

- On July 2nd, Keith as administrator for both offices, informed Anne Hill in general that there have been some illegal and/or unethical things done by Reps. Courser and Gamrat.

- Keith told Anne not to assume any request was legal, and that she should check with Keith first.

- Keith also told Anne, if she felt harassed in any way, to talk to Tim Bowlin in the Business Office.

- Because of Anne's knowledge, Keith actually would have liked to ask Anne for advice, but did not.

- Rep. Courser had made reference that his office was being bugged. Said a Pakistani man was following him and made threats to his family.

- Rep. Courser also told media outlets that he was being monitored and videotaped.

- Keith mentioned there were around (5) meetings with the Speaker's office with either Keith or Ben, or both together.

- The first meeting was around the 2nd week of January. Norm called Keith and wanted to meet with him. This was after Keith was on "off the record" to speak out against the sales tax increase. Norm wanted to remind Keith to make sure he was not doing these types of things on state time.

- At this first meeting, Keith told Norm about the struggles he was feeling like having been blamed for the office furniture destruction, and the whole floor seating issue.

- In a second meeting with Norm: Keith, Ben, & Josh talked about how they felt like they were being asked to do things that were in violation of policy. For example, they were being asked to send e-mails through political databases.

- They mentioned to Norm how they had to work extra because Reps. Courser and Gamrat were not around much.

- Keith said Speaker Cotter walk by as they were having the meeting and Norm briefed the Speaker on what was going on.

- In a third meeting with Norm, Keith asked Norm to please find other work for Ben and Josh because Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat were becoming unstable.

- Keith stated that he felt everything Rep. Gamrat said in her press statement was untrue.

- Joe Gamrat confirmed affair with Keith Friday before "e-mail" came out.

- Joe Gamrat said he had been following them during work hours.

- Joe Gamrat caught them in parking lot. Thursday or Friday before he was terminated, Joe Gamrat sent Keith pictures of foot rubs in a strip mall.

- Rep. Courser had asked Keith to take away duties and retaliate against Ben.

<u>July 2, 2015</u>:

- Rep. Courser called Keith in a violent tirade against Ben. Ben could hear it. Rep. Courser was trying to discredit Ben and smear Ben's family and work ethics. He said Ben's family should never contact him.

- At this time Keith did not feel he was the enemy.

- Rep. Courser also told Keith to tell Ben, if he keeps fucking up, he is not going to be in this office.

- When Keith talked to Ben about what Rep. Courser said, Ben said he would just quit. Keith told him not to.

- Keith told Ben we need to start working on separating offices.

    - They started working on separating professional items, like shared key cards, calendars, etc.

- Keith sent an e-mail to both Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser outlining the (15) points of separation.

- Keith also sent a 2nd e-mail that said he had talked to Ben. He also stated in the e-mail that he knew about the fake "e-mail" they wanted Ben to send.

- After he sent both e-mails, he blocked both Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser's phone #'s, so they couldn't call and bother him over the holiday weekend.

- Joe Gamrat told Keith he had a recording device in Rep. Gamrat's car.

- Joe told Keith he heard they were mad about separating key cards and calendars.

- Joe also said Rep. Courser had decided to enact a plan to fire Ben. He said Rep. Courser was going to record it a meeting with Ben.

- July 3rd - Joe told Keith that Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser met with Anne in Lansing.

- July 4th - Joe also told Keith that Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser met in Lansing to plan how to fire Keith and Ben.

Termination Day

- July 7th – Ben and Keith met in Rep. Courser's office along with Rep. Gamrat around 10:00am
    - Rep. Courser said Ben and Keith told Anne lies.
    - Wanted them to recount what they told Anne.
    - Keith said I told her exactly what I told you.
    - Rep. Courser asked Keith if he really wanted to be Chief of Staff
    - Keith asked if they were mad about the two e-mails he sent on July 2nd.
    - Keith asked if they had asked Ben to send out the fake "e-mail".
    - Rep. Gamrat said no, Ben said bullshit and laughed.
    - They were told they could take the high road or the low road out of Lansing.

- Keith said Rep. Gamrat's claims at press conference and Rep. Courser's claims on manifesto were not true
    - They were told they were receiving raises because they had done excellent work. Both Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser said this to them both.
    - So, complaints against them are not correct.
    - Constituents complained to them because Keith and Ben would have to meet with them because the Representatives weren't available.

Possible misconduct in office

- Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat worked in concert. Never did anything without consulting with each other
- Rep. Gamrat frequently napped and would get mad when Keith did not wake her up on time even when Keith didn't know she was napping.
- Rep. Courser would meet with Rep. Gamrat's constituents. He disrespected one of Rep. Gamrat's constituents by putting a rant on Facebook about the meeting with the constituent.
- Rep. Gamrat would tuck Rep. Courser in and give him a pillow sometimes when he slept on the floor of her office. Keith was offended and thought it was gross.
- Committee meeting attendance
    - Keith would tell Rep. Courser to be there, but he would go out of his way to be late.

    - Keith mentioned and incident where instead of going to a committee meeting Rep. Courser when down to Communications where Rep. Gamrat was. He greeted her by saying "Hi beautiful".
    - Rep. Courser didn't care about committee meetings. He would just text with Rep. Gamrat and write e-mails during meetings.
    - Rep. Courser skipped his own committee meeting to attend an Appropriations committee meeting on budgets. During the meeting, Rep. Courser was texting Rep. Gamrat and telling her what to say to Rep. Pscholka to make him mad.
- Rep. Courser would tell Josh and Ben to get bills in before Rep. Gary Glenn when he knew what bills Rep. Glenn was going to introduce.
    - Rep. Courser told Josh to sign a blue back on his behalf, and turn it in, so it could get in before Rep. Glenn's.
- Keith felt like Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat's votes were outsourced.
    - Keith would compile how to vote and reason why. He would write explanations and tell them how to vote.
    - They would only actually vote themselves based on what they thought 1% of the time.
    - Sometimes Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat would get confused and actually vote wrong.
- Rep. Courser said they were there for messaging moments and media only.
- Members started telling them they would never get a bill through and that they should do more constituent work.
- Rep. Gamrat would not do anything before 9:00am
- Keith would have to present tributes for the Reps.

- Started becoming uncomfortable around Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat the 1st or 2nd week in January.
    - Rep. Courser would say Rep. Gamrat looked beautiful
    - Embraces were more than friendship
    - Rep. Gamrat would trash her husband
    - Rep. Courser would sit with his arm around Rep. Gamrat's chair and rub the chair and sometimes her shoulders.
    - Rep. Courser would take naps in Rep. Gamrat's office and would act like he was flaunting that she was his girlfriend. Keith said Rep. Courser said that everyone thinks our relationship is weird, but no one would understand.
    - Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat would stay the night in Lansing even though they didn't live that far away. Other Members who lived farther away would drive home.

- Rep. Gamrat wouldn't even stop by the office and pick up cheat sheets in the morning before going over to the floor.
    - She would make Keith be in by 8:30am from Grand Rapids to bring them over to the floor to her.
- Keith would be asked to go get them coffee, but it would have to be Starbucks only, because that is what they both liked.

- Keith would have to go get them lunch, and it would have to be a specific place like Clara's (not close to downtown), because that is what they liked.
    - Had to run all the way out to Cracker Barrel to get eggs done over easy. And they had to be from Cracker Barrel only.
- Keith would have to run and get Rep. Gamrat's cell phone charger out of her car so she could text Rep. Courser.
- Tim asked Keith to let him know if there is anything else he thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Interview with Jessica Jeurink on August 19, 2015 at 9:00am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Jessica Jeurink
   [redacted]

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Director of Republican Constituent Relations

   Past House employment:

   1/2/2015 – 3/29/2015 Deputy Director of Republican Constituent Relations

   (Verified with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

Yes.
No.

Tim asked if she was familiar with the supplemental employment form. Jessica said "yes".

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

Yes.
Yes.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

- Jessica only had a relationship with Josh Cline.
- Jessica knew Keith and Ben from the political circuit only.
- Josh and Jessica had a mutual respect for each other.
- Jessica had told Josh to talk to Norm or Tim about his concerns.
- Jessica said Josh had reservations in January about working for Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat.
- On January 27, 2015 Josh texted Jessica to see if she could go to lunch with him. They went on that Friday January 30, 2015.
    - Josh said he was being treated poorly, overworked, and talked down to.
    - Josh expressed concern about sharing resources between offices.
- Tim asked Jessica is she knew who's idea it was to share staff. Jessica said Josh gave her the indication that it was both Rep. Courser & Rep. Gamrat's idea.
    - He said there was no direction.
    - Josh said they had to work late on Thursdays because the Members were both gone, and then would want a staff meeting when they got back.

mg

- Both Jessica and Norm were trying to find Josh other employment. So, she focused on finding Josh something for about 2 months.

Text messages between Jessica and Josh

- Below are the dates of the text messages between Jessica and Josh. For message details, refer to actual text messages provided by Jessica.

- January 27th, 2015
- January 31, 2015
- February 9, 2015
- February 12, 2015
- March 17, 2015
- March 18, 2015
- April 24, 2015
- April 26, 2015
- April 27, 2015
- May 20, 2015
- May 27, 2015
- May 28, 2015
- August 5, 2015

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

No.
No.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No.
No.

gmb

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Yes. Text messages.

All texting was done on Jessica's personal phone and not on state time.

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No, never.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- No
- Tim asked Jessica to let him know if there is anything else she thinks of that would help in the investigation, to feel free to contact him.

Interview with Speaker Pro Tempore Leonard
August 20, 2015 at 10:20am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Representative Thomas Leonard
   3031 Crofton Drive
   Dewitt, MI 48820

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Current: State Representative for a second term

   Past House employment:

   None

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes.
   No.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes.
   Yes.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.
   No.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.
   No.

8. Did you conceal or did you asked anyone to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Did you ever asked anyone to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

None

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

None

Interview with Speaker Cotter on August 20, 2015 at 11:30am

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

   Speaker Kevin Cotter
   1409 S. Chippewa Rd.
   Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

   (Verified with Human Resources)

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

   Current: Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives

   <u>Past House employment:</u>

   None

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

   Yes

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes.
   No.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes, I believe, but no specific recollection
   Yes, I involved in multiple presentations

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   None himself. Official records would be with the Chief of Staff and Business Office.
   No.

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   No.
   No.

8. Did you conceal or did you asked anyone to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Did you ever asked anyone to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

None

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

No.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

No, but just as a clarification all communication happened through the Chief of Staff. He said he had no direct knowledge.

Interview with Joshua Cline on August 21, 2015 at 2:10pm

"Your participation in this interview is requested to assist the investigation of alleged misconduct by Representatives Courser and Gamrat. Your identity and any information that you choose to disclose as part of this documented conversation is neither confidential nor privileged and may be used in a subsequent investigation by law enforcement or in a committee setting, or any other proceeding. You may choose to consult with an attorney at your own expense."

1. Name & address

Joshua Dale Cline
[redacted]

2. Current occupation & any past employment with the Michigan House

Current: Unemployment
Part owner of LLC with Ben Graham

Past House employment:

Legislative Assistant to Rep. Courser & Rep. Gamrat (January 2, 2015 – April 15, 2015)

(Verified with Human Resources)

3. Did you go through an orientation program with the House?

Yes.

JDC

4. Did you receive a copy or were you instructed on where to find an electronic copy of House policies? Were you ever asked to do something that you believed could be in violation of House policies, including policies regarding the misuse of staff/state resources?

   Yes.
   Yes.

5. Did you receive a copy of a document that outlined the use of state resources while being employed as a Member or staff person of the House? Were you reminded of House policies on the use of state resources by a supervisor at staff meetings?

   Yes.
   Yes, at staff meetings.

6. Do you have any information or material that is relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Do you have any information regarding the misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

   - No first-hand knowledge about terminations of Ben and Keith.

   <u>Reasons for resignation:</u>
   - Received multiple hostile e-mails from Rep. Courser.
   - In a meeting with to Rep. Courser and Rep. Gamrat, he stated his concern about the nature of their relationship, and that he felt uncomfortable. The meeting lasted over one and one/half hours.

   Tim asked if he would provide us a copy of an e-mail expressing concern over the working relationship between himself and Rep. Courser. Joshua said "yes".

7. Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents that could be relevant to this investigation – specifically the termination of employment of Ben Graham and Keith Allard or the resignation of Joshua Cline? Did you erase/delete or remove any electronic or written documents relevant to any issue of misuse of staff/state resources during normal working hours of the Michigan House?

No.
No. But, he accidently went swimming with his cell phone, and is still trying to recover lost information.

8. Did you conceal or were you asked to conceal any information relevant to this investigation? Were you ever asked to do anything during office hours that could have directly facilitated an alleged affair between Representatives Courser and Gamrat?

No.
Yes. Joshua approached Rep. Gamrat and Rep. Courser in Rep. Gamrat's office, in a late night staff meeting in January, to discuss setting personal and professional boundaries between the two of them because it appears they are having an inappropriate relationship. She asked that all contact with her family cease, and that all personal and professional life should be kept separate from her family.

9. May I have a copy of any information or material that is relevant to the issues being discussed here today?

Will provide e-mails where Rep. Courser & Rep. Gamrat asked for political tasks to be done on state time.

JDC

10. Were you ever asked to do anything that you believed could be unlawful?

- It was impressed upon them that political and legislative work was intertwined, and if it was not done, they may lose their job, or get the brunt of belittling e-mails and attitude.
- They had to work on projects that were not legislatively related.
- All e-mail communications were done with outside accounts (non-House) such as team@toddcourser.com and team@cindygamrat.com . Joshua said he would provide copies of e-mails.

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to present here today or that you would like to forward to my office?

- It was definitely impressed upon them from day one that they were to mix political, Legislative, and personal legal business.
- Told they just needed to cooperate, and to get the work done.
- In a March 27th e-mail (provided), he was berated and it was impressed upon Joshua and the staff to do things regarding the RNC race.
- After resigning, Rep. Gamrat asked Joshua to work on the RNC race and that she offered to pay him. Joshua responded by saying he was going away for the weekend and wouldn't be able to be of service to her.
- Joshua stated it was impressed up them as staff, that their loyalties were with Rep. Courser and that we worked for him, and we do not work for the Speaker.

Joshua D Cline 8/24/15

JRC

MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 388 of 1976

169.257 Contributions, expenditures, or volunteer personal services; prohibitions; civil action; violation as misdemeanor; penalty.

Sec. 57. (1) A public body or a person acting for a public body shall not use or authorize the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of contribution under section 4(3)(a). The prohibition under this subsection includes, but is not limited to, using or authorizing the use of public resources to establish or administer a payroll deduction plan to directly or indirectly collect or deliver a contribution to, or make an expenditure for, a committee. Advance payment or reimbursement to a public body does not cure a use of public resources otherwise prohibited by this subsection. This subsection does not apply to any of the following:

(a) The expression of views by an elected or appointed public official who has policy making responsibilities.

(b) The production or dissemination of factual information concerning issues relevant to the function of the public body.

(c) The production or dissemination of debates, interviews, commentary, or information by a broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or publication in the regular course of broadcasting or publication.

(d) The use of a public facility owned or leased by, or on behalf of, a public body if any candidate or committee has an equal opportunity to use the public facility.

(e) The use of a public facility owned or leased by, or on behalf of, a public body if that facility is primarily used as a family dwelling and is not used to conduct a fund-raising event.

(f) An elected or appointed public official or an employee of a public body who, when not acting for a public body but is on his or her own personal time, is expressing his or her own personal views, is expending his or her own personal funds, or is providing his or her own personal volunteer services.

(2) If the secretary of state has dismissed a complaint filed under section 15(5) alleging that a public body or person acting for a public body used or authorized the use of public resources to establish or administer a payroll deduction plan to collect or deliver a contribution to, or make an expenditure for, a committee in violation of this section, or if the secretary of state enters into a conciliation agreement under section 15(10) that does not prevent a public body or a person acting for a public body to use or authorize the use of public resources to establish or administer a payroll deduction plan to collect or deliver a contribution to, or make an expenditure for, a committee in violation of this section, the following apply:

(a) The complainant or any other person who resides, or has a place of business, in the jurisdiction where the use or authorization of the use of public resources occurred may bring a civil action against the public body or person acting for the public body to seek declaratory, injunctive, mandamus, or other equitable relief and to recover losses that a public body suffers from the violation of this section.

(b) If the complainant or any other person who resides, or has a place of business, in the jurisdiction where the use or authorization of the use of public resources occurred prevails in an action initiated under this subsection, a court shall award the complainant or any other person necessary expenses, costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

(c) Any amount awarded or equitable relief granted by a court under this subsection may be awarded or granted against the public body or an individual acting for the public body, or both, that violates this section, as determined by the court.

(d) A complainant or any other person who resides, or has a place of business, in the jurisdiction where the use or authorization of the use of public resources occurred may bring a civil action under this subsection in any county in which venue is proper. Process issued by a court in which an action is filed under this subsection may be served anywhere in this state.

(3) A person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, if the person is an individual, by a fine of not more than $1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both, or if the person is not an individual, by 1 of the following, whichever is greater:

(a) A fine of not more than $20,000.00.

(b) A fine equal to the amount of the improper contribution or expenditure.

History: Add. 1995, Act 264, Eff. Mar. 28, 1996;—Am. 1996, Act 590, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997;—Am. 2001, Act 250, Eff. Mar. 22, 2002 ;—Am. 2012, Act 31, Imd. Eff. Feb. 28, 2012.

Compiler's note: Section 2 of Act 264 of 1995 provides:

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"If any portion of this amendatory act or the application of this amendatory act to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid by a court, the invalidity does not affect the remaining portions or applications of this amendatory act that can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, if those remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable. To this end, this amendatory act is declared to be severable."

Enacting section 1 of Act 31 of 2012 provides:

"Enacting section 1. It is the policy of this state that a public body shall maintain strict neutrality in each election and that a public body or a person acting on behalf of a public body shall not attempt to influence the outcome of an election held in the state. If there is a perceived ambiguity in the interpretation of section 57, that section shall be construed to best effectuate the policy of strict neutrality by a public body in an election."

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House Resolution No. 1 - Adopted January 14, 2015

STANDING RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IV, SECTION 16
(Part)

CHAPTER VII

Personal Privilege and Conduct.

Rule 74. (1) Matters involving personal privilege are limited and include only the following:

(a) Anything tending to subject a Member to ridicule or contempt;

(b) Charges in news media accounts relating to a Member in his or her representative capacity only;

(c) News media accounts attributing to a Member's remarks he or she has not made;

(d) Accusation by another Member in debate of intentional misrepresentation;

(e) Assault on a Member for words spoken in debate; and

(f) Arrest of a Member except for treason, felony or breach of the peace.

(2) A Member shall not use his or her position in any manner to solicit or obtain anything of value for himself or herself, House employees or any other Member which tends to influence the manner in which the Member performs his or her official duties.

(3) Sexual harassment of Members or House employees is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the House.

(4) A Member shall not convert for personal, business and/or campaign use, unrelated to House business, any supplies, services, facilities, or staff provided by the State of Michigan. This includes, but is not limited to, telephones, telecopy machines, computers, postage, and copy machines.

(5) A Member shall not solicit or accept any type of campaign contribution in any House facility or building.

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR HOUSE STAFF

CONTACT INFORMATION

House Business Director	Tim Bowlin	3.6339
General Counsel, Republican Legal Advisor	Brock A. Swartzle	3.5916
Democratic Legal Advisor	Patti Tremblay-Pluta	3.5894

I. GENERAL MATTERS

- Office hours are 9am-5pm, M-F.
- Someone must cover your main office phone line during these office hours. If everyone will be out of the office, contact your respective caucus to provide phone coverage.
- Before you may engage in any outside employment—political or non-political—you must notify Human Resources for approval by the Speaker.

II. USE OF STATE RESOURCES

A. HOUSE RESOURCES—USE ONLY FOR OFFICIAL HOUSE BUSINESS

- House resources—e.g., your time on the job, office space, office property, equipment, and supplies—must be used only for official House business.
- Examples of "official House business" include: (1) working on and communicating about bills, analyses, and other legislative-related matters; (2) your Member's expression of his or her views about public policy; (3) the production or dissemination of factual information concerning legislative-related matters; and (4) responding to constituent concerns, to name just a few.
- The use of House resources for non-official House business—e.g., campaign, fundraising, commercial, charitable, or personal activities—is strictly prohibited.
- Files created on a state computer can be identified as such, even if the file is later emailed to an off-site email account and saved to a new computer. Metadata will capture the history of the file.
- Remember—computers, wi-fi access, and other office equipment and supplies are supplied to you at taxpayer expense. Hulu, ESPN, Pinterest, MichiganRivals.com, and the like will rarely, if ever, qualify as official House business.

B. MASS COMMUNICATIONS

- Every communication from the House intended for mass distribution to the public must be reviewed by the House Business Office ("HBO") prior to distribution.

- This applies to newsletters, emails, robo-calls, mailings, and every other form of mass communication. For social media communications (e.g., Facebook postings), see § II.D below.

- The Republican Print Coordinator is Cristie Jones (3.9084). The Democratic Print Coordinators are Liz Kranz (3.5778) and Eric Lockwood (3.5342).

C. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

- State law strictly prohibits soliciting or accepting any type of campaign contribution in any House or other state building or facility.

- A "contribution" is defined broadly under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act: (1) the transfer to a person of (2) anything of ascertainable monetary value (3) made for the purpose of (4) either (a) influencing the nomination or election of a candidate, (b) for the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question, or (c) for the qualification of a new political party.

- If your office receives a contribution in your office mail, return the contribution within 30 business days. You may write a short letter explaining the matter, but, in the body of that letter, you cannot tell the contributor to redirect the contribution to a particular candidate.

- The following *are not* contributions: (1) volunteer personal services provided without compensation; (2) payments of costs less than $500 in a calendar year for travel expenses if the costs are voluntarily incurred; and (3) food and beverages not exceeding $100 in any calendar year.

- You may volunteer your time for campaign or fundraising purposes during normal office hours. You must do so, however, on your own personal time and you must record your hours off on your time sheet.

- Do not send any fundraising emails from your House account.

- If you invite a Member to a fundraiser, do not send the invitation by House email.

- You may hand-deliver an invitation to a Member's House office, but only if: (1) you do not use state resources to create the invitation; (2) your time delivering the

invitation is done off the clock (e.g., during lunch or before or after work); and (3) the invitation is clearly identified as "complimentary".

- A question that often arises is what a Member can and cannot communicate with respect to a ballot question. Once a question has been approved for the ballot, communications about its passage or defeat fall under the category of campaign activity. If a Member uses non-House resources, the Member may advocate for the question's passage or defeat, just like any other election-related matter. If a Member uses House resources, however, the Member is restricted on what he or she can communicate. A Member cannot use House resources, for example, to send a mass email to constituents advocating the passage or defeat of the ballot question.

    - There are two exceptions to this general rule: First, purely informational communications are exempted. The House Business Director, working with the General Counsel and Minority Legal Counsel, will draft language that can be used in a mass mailer, and your office will typically receive this information 6-8 weeks before the election. Second, a Member has the right to express views on matters of public import. The *occasional, incidental* use of House resources to communicate with a constituent or the media on a ballot question falls within this exception.

D. SOCIAL MEDIA

- The legal framework governing the use of social media for official government activities is an unsettled, evolving area. Because of the potential "mixed-use" nature of social media—where posts could range from reasons why a Member voted for HB4001 to why the hiring of Coach Harbaugh was pure genius to pictures of a Member's baby granddaughter walking—your office must be vigilant to ensure that the use of such media conforms with the law and House policy.

- Under the policy, Members and staff may use House resources to *create* a social media page or site—the two most popular being Facebook and Twitter—*but only* if that page or site will be used solely for legislative work (e.g., work involving bills, resolutions, or constituent communications). A page or site used for both legislative work and non-legislative matters (a "mixed-use" page or site) cannot be created, nor maintained, using House resources.

- Members and staff may access, use or reference a social media page or site, including a mixed-use one, using House resources, *but only* under the following circumstances: (1) the access and use must be strictly related to legislative work, and (2) the access and use must comply with the House's Printing Guidelines, including the use of the following disclaimer, "The Michigan House of Representatives is responsible only for content submitted with House resources

and in accordance with the law and House policy. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited." The disclaimer should appear prominently on a Member's social media page or site.

- A note of caution: One particular area of concern is the use of social media for campaign finance. When using House resources, you should always err on the side of caution to keep your Member's work as a legislator using House resources separate from your Member's work as a candidate raising campaign funds.

- As noted above, the law on social-media use continues to evolve. Further updates to the policy will be made when appropriate. If you have a question about whether a particular use of social media is appropriate, you are encouraged to contact the General Counsel and HBO.

III. LOBBYING AND OUTSIDE GIFTS

- Lobbying is a protected activity under the First Amendment, though it can be, and is, highly regulated by law. Under Michigan law, lobbying means communicating directly with an official in the legislative or executive branch for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action. Members acting within the scope of their office are exempt from the lobbying registration and recordkeeping requirements, as are House staff when communicating with Members and other matters.

- Prohibited gifts: Members and staff cannot solicit or accept any outside "gift" which would tend to influence their official actions.

- A "gift" is a payment, advance, forbearance, or the rendering or deposit of money, services, or anything of ascertainable value. There are several exceptions, however, including: (a) food or beverage intended for immediate consumption; (b) a gift received from a family member; (c) a reported campaign contribution; (d) a loan made in the normal course by a financial institution; (e) certain contributions to a legal defense fund; and (f) certain travel and lodging expenses (e.g., to and from a conference where the Member is giving a speech about a legislative matter). Other than a campaign contribution, these exceptions do not have express dollar limits, though good judgment must, of course, be used in these circumstances.

- The restriction on "gifts" is also subject to a *de minimis* threshold: The total value of goods and services (excepting (a)-(f), which do not count as "gifts") that exceed $58/month is what qualifies as "gifts". In other words, goods and services received from a lobbyist in a particular month that are collectively worth $58 or less are considered *de minimis* and are exempt from the definition of "gifts". If an outside gift is received which marginally exceeds the $58 limit, the lobbyist should be compensated an amount equal to the difference between the value of the gift and

$58. As an example, if a concert ticket with a face value of $70 is given as a gift by a lobbyist, the lobbyist should be compensated $12 (=$70-$58). A gift that materially exceeds the *de minimis* threshold cannot be accepted.

- These are the baseline standards with respect to gifts set by Michigan law and House policy. Your Member may have a policy that his or her staff cannot accept any gift from a lobbyist, that staff can accept only a gift of nominal value, or that staff must comply with some stricter standard. You are encouraged to talk with your Member about his or her policy if you have any questions.

IV. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OR LEGAL SUBPOENA

- If you receive a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request or legal subpoena, forward the original to the House Business Director with a copy to the General Counsel. Do not respond yourself.

V. OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- The House is subject to Michigan's Open Meetings Act.

- In general, all decisions and deliberations by a public body (including committees) must be made at meetings open to the public. There are, however, several important distinctions and exceptions.

- If you have a question about whether a particular meeting involving your Member will fall under the OMA, contact the General Counsel or raise your concern with your policy advisor.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN GENERAL

- ***You do not*** have a reasonable expectation of privacy with regard to ***any*** communication involving House equipment. ***This cannot be stressed enough.***

- Treat each and every communication to and from your state equipment as if it will eventually be read by the public. Even if you believe that there is a low likelihood of an email or IM being read by someone other than the intended recipient, that likelihood will never be zero, especially in today's world of politics-by-lawsuit.

- The more irreverent the message, the worse it will likely look in MIRS or Gongwer.

B. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Privileged/Confidential Communications. If you receive an email or other written communication that says "Privileged/Confidential" or otherwise is clearly intended to be a privileged communication from legal counsel, do not forward the message to anyone. If you do, it is possible that you will have breached the privilege that otherwise protects attorney-client communications. This most likely will occur in connection with a lawsuit.

- Caucus Communications. Caucus communications, discussions, actions, and whip counts must remain confidential. Policy analyses from the respective caucuses are similarly confidential communications intended solely for the internal use of caucus Members and staff.

- Mass Communications. Unless sending notices is part of your regular duties, check with your Member before sending a mass communication to the rest of the House, your caucus, or other groups.

- Communications to Another Member. Before sending an email directly to another Member, talk to your Member about his or her communication policies and preferences. For example, an email attempting to persuade a Member to vote a certain way should almost always be sent Member-to-Member.

- Co-Sponsorship Memorandum. Before circulating a co-sponsorship memorandum or similar message, you are encouraged to reach out to Communications. They can provide expertise on when to send a memorandum, when not to send one, and how to draft an effective message. Remember that these memoranda often become public documents.

C. Personnel Matters

- All House employees are at-will and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. Harassment based on a person's religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, or other legally protected characteristic is strictly prohibited.

- Any instance of harassment, suspected harassment, or retaliation should be reported to the Majority Chief of Staff, General Counsel, or one of the other persons identified in House Policy HUM 1.04.

CONCLUDING POINTS

- As a state employee, you are a steward of taxpayer funds and have a heightened duty to safeguard public resources from misuse for political purposes.
- Campaigning for office is wholly distinct from serving in office. Do not mix the two.
- Treat every communication—e.g., email, text, IM, Facebook posting, letter—as if a Member, the Speaker, General Counsel, a judge, or the public will see it.
- This is a supplement to the new-employee training that you received when you started your employment with the House. If you have a question, consult the "Policies and Guidelines" on Housenet or talk to your Member, House Business Director, or General Counsel.

General
Revised: June 1, 2004

INTRODUCTION
GEN 01.01

I. These guidelines & policies are intended to provide Representatives, supervisors and employees of the House of Representatives and House Fiscal Agency basic information about policies and practices. They supersede any and all prior oral and/or written communications about any aspect of House employment and operations. These guidelines and policies cover many aspects of employment and operations and are necessarily general in nature.

II. All employees of the House of Representatives and House Fiscal Agency serve as non-tenured, at-will employees. This manual should not be construed to alter the fact that all employees are non-tenured, at-will employees.

III. The House of Representatives reserves the right to alter, amend, modify, change or terminate any program, policy, provision, rule or regulation set forth in these guidelines and policies at any time, with or without notice to House employees.

IV. Questions regarding policies not specifically addressed in this manual or regarding interpretation should be directed to the Business Office (3-6339) for attention and/or resolution.

V. Reference to the "House" or the "House of Representatives" includes the House Fiscal Agency unless specifically noted.

I. There are specific guidelines pertaining to the expenditure of allotment account funds and the maximum amount that can be expended by a Representative. The manner in which the aggregate amount can be expended (salaries, bulk mailings, daily postage, publications, telephones, etc.) is the responsibility of each Representative, within the specified dollar limitations.

ALL EXPENSES TO BE PAID THROUGH THE ALLOTMENT PROGRAM MUST BE RELATED TO LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AND MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. EXPENSES THAT ARE IN ANY WAY RELATED TO A MEMBER'S DISTRICT OFFICE WILL NOT BE APPROVED TO BE CHARGED TO AN ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT. A PROPERLY AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL OPERATIONS REQUEST FORM IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO FINANCIAL OPERATIONS FOR PRIOR APPROVAL BEFORE ANY PURCHASES OR SERVICES WILL BE AUTHORIZED FOR PAYMENT.

IF FOR ANY REASON A MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE LEAVES THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ALL ITEMS HOLDING VALUE PURCHASED THROUGH THE HOUSE ALLOTMENT PROGRAM WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE HOUSE.

II. A Member's Allotment Account will be encumbered to ensure that there is enough money to cover the routine operations of their legislative office for the calendar year. No amount remaining in a Member's allotment account at the end of an allotment year can be carried forward to the next year.

III. **PLEASE NOTE**: Representatives have the responsibility for utilizing these funds specific to their legislative needs within the approved guidelines. The responsibility of carefully budgeting those dollars throughout the year also rests with their offices. Representatives' offices have continuous access to their allotment accounts via the allotment program, which can be accessed by selecting Office Allotment on HouseNet. It is suggested that this information be carefully and frequently reviewed. Any questions regarding the office allotment account program can be directed to Financial Operations (3-7678).

Further, all financial transactions are subject to review by the media and public as outlined in the House Guidelines and Policies Section (BUS 02.01), Access to Information Policy (Financial) and House Rules.

IV. **OFFICE ALLOTMENT ACCOUNTS**

A. The Representative's and Central Staffs' Allotment Account is provided to allow offices to budget for their staff salaries and office expenses for the

Lansing office only. It is the responsibility of the Representatives and Central Staff Directors to monitor the use and balance of their allotment account.

B. Items which may be charged to the allotment account include the following: staff salaries (within guidelines, see HUM 02.01, HUM 02.06), postage, mailing company charges, miscellaneous postal charges, publications and periodicals, registration fees (non-tuition related), in-district mileage expenses, travel expenses, all office telephone charges, mobile phone usage charges, authorized office supplies, framing, printing, mailing labels/lists and photocopying.

V. **PUBLICATIONS/SUBSCRIPTIONS** - Any publication/subscription requested by a Representative or Director must be relevant to legislative issues and includes such items as: books; manuals; reference materials; directories; magazines; and newspapers (including those picked on the 9th floor of the House Office Building). Only one copy of a publication or subscription is allowed to be purchased through the Member's Allotment Account.

A. Publications must be ordered through the Financial Operations Office. A properly authorized Request Form giving all available and pertinent information including the cost; an advertisement or completed order form; phone number; address, etc., must be submitted.

B. **Subscriptions and publications received through the mail must be addressed to the Member's Lansing Office. Under no circumstances will subscriptions be paid for by the House and mailed to an address other than the House. Subscriptions should be ordered for a time period that does not exceed the Member's term of office whenever possible.**

C. All offices will only be able to add or delete newspaper subscriptions picked up at the Capitol concession stand or the 9th floor of the House Office Building on a quarterly basis (January 1; April 1; July 1; October 1). All changes will need to be submitted to Financial Operations by the 20th of the month preceding the beginning of a new quarter.

D. If, for any reason, a Representative leaves the House of Representatives, all publications, including the remainder of a subscription, will remain the property of the House.

VI. **TELEPHONES** (General) - The House of Representatives furnishes telephones to Representatives and staff. The telephones allow for a number of features such as conference calling, call forwarding and abbreviated dialing. Telephones provided by the House of Representatives are for official use.

A. Each Representative's office is equipped with one telephone for each full time staff member. All requests for changes, moves, additions/deletions, voice mail or general inquiries should be directed to Legislative Service Bureau Telecommunications at P-HONE (7-4663), 888-LSB-4SOM (888-572-4766) or visit the LSB MiSource website.

B. Persons with a hearing or speech disability may access Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 9+711 from a text telephone (TTY) or other device to be connected to a TRS operator. The TRS center may also be reached by dialing 9+711 from any legislative telephone number. In the event of an emergency, TTY users should call 911 directly.

C. **CHARGES** - All standard rate charges for Representatives' office phones will be deducted from their allotment account. Each office will receive a monthly telephone report listing the number of phone lines billed. The monthly service charge includes the following:

Avaya PBX administration (moves, adds, changes, Help Desk support)
Avaya PBX maintenance (inc. 7x24x365 monitoring and trouble solution)
Voice Mail system administration and maintenance
Field support for infrastructure fiber and copper cabling and adds, moves & changes
Inbound and outbound calling
Systems and data security
Custom call processing (call center applications for support staff)
Constituent inbound toll free services
Fax and modem services
Customized floor phones
Telephones and peripherals

Call use will not be charged and detailed reports will not be provided. Representatives and Directors are encouraged to review the reports carefully to verify the number of telephone lines.

Telephone detail information (person called, person calling, etc.) is confidential information and will be retained by Legislative Telecommunications for two months. Requests by a Member office to review this information must be directed to Legislative Service Bureau. Total office expenditures, however, are available for review by the public and/or media.

D. **USAGE** - House telephone numbers may only be utilized or published as a means to reach House personnel for House business. No Representative or employee of the House of Representatives may permit any organization or person to state verbally or in writing that any House of Representatives telephone number is the telephone number for such organization or person.

1. House phone numbers cannot be published or given out as means of transacting the business of any private or governmental organization or association, whether a profit-making or nonprofit-making organization, whether an advocacy or non-advocacy organization. Further, no House phone number may be given out or represented as being the phone number of any public official on any level of government other than "State Representative".

2. **Call Forwarding -** House telephones may not be forwarded to an outside line.

3. **Calling Procedures -** To place a long distance call from a telephone located in a House of Representatives office, dial 9 + 1 + area code + the number being called. Any call made within the "517" area to any place other than the Lansing local calling area must include the area code. Calls to locations out of the state are routed over the most cost-effective carrier.

   Calls to state offices with telephone numbers beginning with "373", "322", "336", "241" and "335" in Lansing can be completed by dialing the last five numbers.

4. **International Calling** - The Legislative Service Bureau has blocked international calling; however if there is a legislative purpose to make a call, contact LSB Telecommunications and they will permit calls during a specific time period.

E. **Floor Telephones** – Each Representative is provided with a telephone at the Representative's desk on the House floor. All audible bells have been removed from the floor telephones; the light on the telephone and the light on the console above the voting button indicates an incoming call.

VII. MOBILE/CELLULAR PHONES - The House will reimburse Representatives & staff out of the Member's office allotment for certain usage costs related to mobile and palm combo phones that are used for legislative business during their term of office. Each Member office is allowed a maximum of three phones, which must be billed in the name of the person being reimbursed. When contacting companies to obtain mobile/cellular phone service, Representatives & staff should inquire about any discounts that may be available to them as state employees.

A. The following mobile/cellular phone items are approved charges:
- monthly use charge

- per minute usage charges
- call charges, text messages, and pictures which are for legislative business
- any special features such as call forwarding, security, voice mail and data fees for cell phones

B. The following mobile phone items are not approved charges:
- any amount towards the purchase/replacement of the phone or related equipment
- installation charges
- insurance fees
- maintenance or maintenance contract charges
- any amount for monthly lease/rent of the phone or related equipment
- activation/reactivation or start-up fees
- any personal, non-legislative business and/or campaign-related calls
- late fees and ring tones

C. To ensure timely reimbursement of mobile phone bills, the bill should be submitted to Financial Operations accompanied by an authorized Financial Operations Request Form. The House will send a payment to the Representative or staff person for the current amount less any items not approved. It will be the responsibility of the Representative or staff person to pay the vendor the total amount due.

VIII. MAILING SERVICES - The House Post Office serves all Representatives and staff of the House of Representatives. It is the Post Office's responsibility to ensure that mailings are as efficient and economical as possible and to adhere to the regulations of the United States Postal Service. **Any questions should be directed to your respective publications coordinator or the House Post Office.**

A. All costs associated with mailing companies and all costs for mailing labels/lists will also be charged to the Member's Allotment account. Please contact your respective publications coordinator for further information.

B. **It is understood that it may be necessary for a Representative to correspond by mail with citizens residing outside of his/her legislative district under certain circumstances. Correspondence of this nature includes forwarding requested information on specific legislation sponsored by the Representative and/or replies to correspondence received by the Representative. All other mailings to persons located outside of a Representative's district are strictly prohibited, unless given approval by the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.**

IX. STATIONERY, ENVELOPES, BUSINESS CARDS & BOOKLETS - Letterhead and envelopes are available in two sizes and can be printed with blue or black ink on

white or buff recycled paper. Manila envelopes can be printed in several sizes with the House of Representatives' return address. Only recycled white wove #10 envelopes or manila envelopes may be ordered for large mailings. Amounts will be limited to the maximum number of households in a Representative's district. Print jobs processed by the Legislative Service Bureau print shop will be charged to the Member's or Central Staffs Allotment account as billed by LSB for the actual cost of printing and materials. Orders are placed through your respective publications coordinator. Members, who are term limited and within 10 weeks of their departure, may not order additional printed supplies, including booklets.

X. **PRINTING AND COPY MACHINES CHARGES & USAGE** – All printing services, including self-service copy (Xerox) machines located in the Capitol and House Office Building, are for official legislative business use only. Use by outside individuals, groups and/or organizations is strictly prohibited without the expressed approval of the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.

The Member's Allotment account will be charged $.025 per copied side for all copies made at the self-service machines.

The Member's Allotment account will be charged per impression for the printing and/or duplicating of all material submitted to the House Duplicating Center. The cost for black and white is .01 per impression and .12 per color impression.

XI. **FRAMING** – The cost of pre-built and custom frames will be deducted from the Member's Allotment account. Pre-built frames for resolutions, tributes and certificates are available through the Business Office. In addition, custom framing for items being hung in a Member's office is available through the House Carpenter Shop. The item which is to be framed should be sent along with the signed request form to the Business Office. Members may purchase up to 50 frames per calendar year. Empty frames can not be purchased from the Member's Allotment. Members who are term limited and within 10 weeks of their departure may not order custom framing.

Up to 8 ½ x 11	$ 5.00
Over 8 ½ x 11, and up to 11 x 17	$10.00
Over 11 x 17	$30.00
Matted Pictures & Shadow-boxed Frames	$40.00
Mounting & Framing District Maps	$40.00

XII. **PHOTOGRAPHS** - Pictures may be ordered from each caucus' photographer and charged to a member's office allotment. The pictures printed are for the member and not for outside agencies.

XIII. STAFF SALARIES - These are charged to the Office Allotment. (See HUM 02.01, HUM 02.06)

XIV. AUTOMATED PHONE CALLS (ROBO CALLS)- Members may use their allotments to purchase outside vendor phone services to call into their district for legislative business. All scripts must meet the same guidelines as do printed materials. A written copy of the script along with a signed Financial Operations request form must be sent to Financial Operations, 10th floor HOB, for approval from the Business Office prior to the audio recording being produced. The audio file of the script must also be sent to Financial Operations, once it has been recorded.

XV. TRAVEL AND EXPENSE—These are charged to the Office Allotment (see FIN 03.01 and FIN 04.01).

I. **INTENT** - It is the intent of the Michigan House of Representatives to create and maintain a work environment free from harassment for Representatives, employees and other persons covered by this policy. Accordingly, all employees of the Michigan House of Representatives must attend a harassment training class.

II. **ANTI-HARASSMENT/ANTI-RETALIATION POLICY** - Harassment based on an individual's religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, disability, familial status, marital status, and/or any other legally protected characteristic is prohibited.

Retaliation against an individual who complains of discriminatory harassment under this policy is prohibited.

Intentionally making a knowingly false accusation of harassment is strictly prohibited.

The House will not tolerate harassment, retaliation, or the making of false accusations of harassment.

III. **DEFINITION** - For purposes of this policy, "harassment" is defined as behavior including, but not limited to, written, verbal, and nonverbal communication, gestures, and/or physical contact directed at another person based on his/her religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, disability, familial status, marital status, and/or any other legally protected characteristic.

Such behavior constitutes "harassment" for purposes of this policy if it is unwanted and inappropriate and so severe that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment environment.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is an unlawful employment practice that is outlawed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USCA 2000e et seq., and by the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, as amended, MCLA 37.2103(h).

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act defines sexual harassment as:

"... discrimination because of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct or communication is made a term or condition either explicitly or implicitly to obtain employment, ...

2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting such individual's employment, ...

3. Such conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment ... environment."

IV. **SCOPE OF POLICY** - This policy covers any activity which involves House of Representatives business, including activities which are conducted in any building under the control of the House or which might occur at any event, meeting, seminar, conference, or other gathering sponsored by the House or the Representatives, or any gathering which is attended by Representatives, employees, or other covered persons for any legislative purpose.

V. **PERSONS COVERED** - All Representatives and all employees (regular and temporary, full-time and part-time, and contractual) are covered by this policy. All interns, volunteers, persons having business with the House and members of the public while participating in legislative business are also covered. (The use of the term "employee" in this policy shall include Representatives, full-time employees, part-time employees, interns, volunteers, persons having business with the House, and members of the public while participating in legislative business.)

VI. **REPORTING PROCEDURE** - If you are a Representative, employee, or other covered person and you believe that <u>you</u> have been subjected to or are being subjected to harassment, you are strongly encouraged to talk to your immediate supervisor about the incident(s).

If you are a Representative, employee, or other covered person and you believe that <u>someone else who is a Representative, employee, or other covered</u>

person has been subjected to or is being subjected to harassment, you may report it to your immediate supervisor. However, the House has no duty to act upon a complaint of harassment not made or confirmed by the alleged victim, and may use its discretion in responding to or not responding at all to any such complaint.

If you would prefer *for any reason* to talk to someone other than your immediate supervisor, then you are encouraged to talk to any of the following persons about the incident(s):

- House Business Director
- Majority Chief of Staff
- Majority Legal Counsel
- Minority Chief of Staff
- Minority Legal Counsel

If you choose to talk to your supervisor, your supervisor will, immediately after your discussion with him or her, contact the House Business Director. Likewise, Chiefs of Staff and Legal Counsel receiving complaints will also immediately contact the House Business Director.

If you need immediate protection and/or intervention, the House Business Director will consult with the appropriate Legal Counsel to provide that to you as quickly as possible.

Complaints of harassment will be treated as confidential to the fullest extent possible within the bounds of the House's duty to respond appropriately and to address completely and fairly all allegations of harassment.

VII. INVESTIGATION

A. Legal Counsel

After receiving notice of alleged harassment, the House Business Director will conduct an investigation into the matter with the assistance of the appropriate Legal Counsel. The Legal Counsel to be chosen for the investigation is within the sole discretion of the House Business Director.

B. Notice

Whenever it is deemed necessary in order to complete a proper investigation, the House Business Director and Legal Counsel will notify the Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel of the party of the alleged harasser. In all cases of alleged harassment, the Business Director will notify the Majority Chief of Staff and Majority Legal Counsel.

C. Investigation Procedure

The investigation will be conducted in a prompt, thorough, and impartial manner, and shall include:

1. interviewing the complainant, all witnesses identified, the alleged harasser, and any other persons who may provide further information;

2. reviewing any documentary or other evidence provided by the complainant;

3. completing the investigation and submitting a written summary of the evidence and determination of the validity of the allegations within 20 business days of the initial notice of alleged harassment.

Upon completion of the investigation, the House Business Director and Legal Counsel will consult with the appropriate Chief of Staff and Leader to determine an appropriate resolution and/or corrective action if necessary.

The complainant and the alleged harasser will be informed of the results of the investigation and the intended plan for resolution and/or corrective action if necessary.

VIII. **NO EXPANSION OF EXISTING LAW -** Nothing in this policy is intended to expand the current state of the law as applicable to the Michigan House of Representatives, its Representatives, and employees. Any statement of the law herein which constitutes or may be interpreted to be an expansion of the current law, both Michigan and federal, on harassment and discrimination is unintended, and the House specifically disclaims any such expansion.

Information Systems
Revised: January 1, 2008

GENERAL
INF 01.01

I. The Information Systems Office is located on the 4th floor of the House Office Building. The telephone number is 3-5779.

II. **Purpose and Procedures** - Information Systems oversees the purchase, installation and maintenance of computer equipment, network operations, application programming as well as user training and support of packaged software products. Requests for service (equipment changes, software installation, training, etc.) must be authorized by the Representative or Director and submitted to Information Systems.

III. **House Policy on Information Systems**

A. The House of Representatives has made a substantial investment in its computer systems and data. Because many House operations are dependent upon the continued availability and reliability of this system and data, strict standards relative to the use and care of the system must be adhered to by Representatives and staff. All changes in the physical location of computer equipment shall be scheduled with Information Systems. The actual transfer for equipment shall be made by the Information Systems staff only.

B. Use of any computer equipment and software purchased or licensed by the House of Representatives for non-legislative business is prohibited; this includes the use of electronic mail (e-mail) and instant messaging.

C. Access to the computer system and networks for fraudulent purposes or intentional and unauthorized access, alteration, damage, and/or destruction of computers, software programs and data constitute a violation of 1979 Public Act 53, MCLA 752.791 et seq.

D. Security procedures are meant to protect the access and use of the computer equipment. House employees shall not give access codes or passwords to any other person.

E. Computer software purchased by or licensed to the House of Representatives is subject to U.S. copyright laws and license agreements between the House and vendors. Copying and/or distributing any computer software for any purpose may be a violation of federal law and/or licensing agreements and is expressly forbidden.

F. Computer hardware and software used by Representatives and/or staff to perform any business of the House of Representatives must be approved, purchased and installed by Information Systems.

G. All software must be approved by the Information Systems Director, prior to installation. This policy includes any software applications obtained via the Internet. It is recommended to consult with Information Systems prior to purchasing any software. The use of any computer equipment and/or software not licensed to the House of Representatives and not approved by the Information Systems Director is prohibited.

H. Desktop computers, peripherals and printers shall remain on the premises of the House of Representatives at all times. House employees issued mobile computers are responsible for transport and ensuring their computer is on premises during work. Representatives and Directors may require their staff to keep mobile computers on premise at all times.

I. Representatives and staff may configure their personal cell phones or computers to receive e-mails and calendar updates from their office e-mail account.

J. Information Systems is responsible for daily backup of all network files. Computer users are responsible for backing up the files stored on their individual hard drives.

K. Information Systems reserves the right to recall your computer hardware at any time. Furthermore, the House reserves the right to access and view the contents of the device. Do not store confidential information, or information that is in violation of House Policies & Guidelines, on House-issued equipment.

L. Electronic acceptable computer usage screens will be displayed periodically to every user, as they login. Failure to accept this policy will result in loss of network access.

M. Login accounts will be created for all full time employees. Representatives may request a login account for paid, part-time employees. Member offices have a maximum of 5 (five) login accounts. Departments may have 2 (two) "Intern" accounts to allow temporary and/or part-time staff the ability to support the office or department properly.

IV. The computer equipment assigned to Members and staff is the property of the Michigan House of Representatives. Payment of the fair market value as prescribed by the House Business Office, if the equipment is lost or stolen, is the user's responsibility. Users will need to reimburse the House for the cost of lost equipment prior to being issued new equipment, or prior to your last day of employment with the House.

A. If your computer is stolen, a police report must be filed with the appropriate authorities. A copy of the police report and payment for the equipment at fair market value must be submitted to the House Business Office before replacement equipment will be issued. Checks should be made payable to the "Michigan House of Representatives". If you plan on submitting a claim with your insurance company prior to reimbursing the House, a copy of the claim should be given to the House Business Office.

B. Users are responsible for the accessories that accompany their computer equipment (case, cables, mouse, etc.) The accessories need to be returned with the computer prior to a Representative's or employee's termination of employment with the House. At that time, reimbursement for the replacement cost of any lost items must be made to the Business Office.

Information Systems
Issued: May 23, 2007

ELECTRONIC MAIL AND INSTANT MESSAGING
INF 01.02

I. The House of Representatives provides electronic mail and instant messaging for its employees.

A. **Expectation of Privacy** - All aspects of the electronic mail and instant messaging systems are the property of the House of Representatives. Employees shall not have any expectation of privacy with any electronic mail or instant messaging transmissions. Examples of property within this context include, but are not limited to, passwords, attachments, messages sent and messages received.

B. **Confidentiality** - Employees shall not have any expectation of confidentiality with electronic mail or instant messaging transmissions.

C. **Guidelines** – While we attempt to keep mass communication by a Member in the confine of her/his district, we understand that electronic mail and video may not
consign itself to that limitation. However, the content of that communication must purport to House printing guidelines.

II. Employees shall abide by the following policy for using electronic mail and instant messaging:

A. An employee shall not use electronic mail or instant messaging services provided by the House of Representatives for non-business purposes. (Note: This includes campaign and campaign-related purposes.)

B. An employee shall not disclose confidential information via electronic mail or instant messages.

C. An employee shall not retrieve or read another employee's electronic mail, or instant messages, unless directed to do so by the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.

D. An employee shall not use electronic mail, or instant messaging, in any manner that is discriminatory, sexually offensive, or profane.

E. All electronic mail and instant messages may be subject to disclosure in an investigation.

F. An employee shall be responsible for the maintenance of their electronic mail and instant messaging. This maintenance includes, but is not limited to, deletion of messages sent, messages received, and emptying deleted items

G. Do not send confidential information via electronic mail or instant messaging. Electronic mail and instant messaging are not private.

III. Electronic Mail and Instant Messaging Policy Violations

A. Employees using electronic mail or instant messaging services provided by the House of Representatives for non-business purposes may have their electronic mail or instant message privileges revoked.

Information Systems
Issued: April 25, 2005

INTERNET ACCESS AND USAGE
INF 02.01

I. The House of Representatives has made substantial investments to make it possible to electronically communicate with fellow employees and constituents as well as to attain information from the worldwide web. The purpose of these investments is to help our employees perform their job in a more efficient manner.

A. **Expectation of Privacy** - All aspects of using the Internet with House computers are the property of the House of Representatives. Employees shall not have any expectation of privacy with any transmissions, searches, or other Internet features. Examples of property within this context include, but are not limited to, passwords, messages sent, messages received, and searches conducted.

B. **Confidentiality** - Employees shall not have any expectation of confidentiality with Internet activity, including but not limited to e-mail, instant messaging, and social network services.

II. **Rules of Usage** - Employees shall abide by the following policy for using the Internet:

A. An employee shall not use the Internet, Intranet or Portal access provided by the House of Representatives for non-business purposes.

B. An employee shall not disclose confidential information via the Internet, Intranet or Portal.

C. An employee shall not retrieve or read another employee's Internet, Intranet or Portal transmission, unless directed to do so by the Speaker or the Speaker's designee.

D. An employee shall not use the Internet, Intranet or Portal in any manner that is discriminatory, sexually offensive or profane. Any such messages may be subject to disclosure in an investigation.

E. Examples of unacceptable usage shall include but are not limited to:

1. Creating or forwarding chain mail
2. Usage of House computer equipment for personal profit
3. Usage of improperly licensed software
4. Downloading, archiving, displaying or storing of sexually explicit material.
5. Storing, printing or viewing of graphic files that are not directly related to legislative business. Examples of such files are, but not limited to, include downloading of games, jokes, audio files animations or movie segments.
6. Social networking sites that are not directly related to Legislative business.

III. **Internet Access and Usage Policy Violations**

A. Employees using the Internet, Intranet and Portal services provided by the House of Representatives for non-business purposes may have their Internet privileges revoked.

Search Emails:

1) Search mailboxes
tcourser@house.mi.gov
cgamrat@house.mi.gov
ahill@house.mi.gov
kcouture@house.mi.gov

to/from/cc/bcc
kcotter@house.mi.gov
nsaari@house.mi.gov
bswartzle@house.mi.gov
mgolden@house.mi.gov
gdassandro@house.mi.gov
lvogelsberg@house.mi.gov
nbishop@house.mi.gov
ldubreuil@house.mi.gov
timbowlin@house.mi.gov

dated on or after 2015-01-01 (195)

2) Search mailboxes
tcourser@house.mi.gov
cgamrat@house.mi.gov
ahill@house.mi.gov
kcouture@house.mi.gov

to/from/cc/bcc
tcourser@house.mi.gov
cgamrat@house.mi.gov
ahill@house.mi.gov
kcouture@house.mi.gov
bgraham@house.mi.gov
kallard@house.mi.gov
jcline@house.mi.gov

dated on or after 2015-01-01 (670)

3) Search mailboxes
kcotter@house.mi.gov
nsaari@house.mi.gov
bswartzle@house.mi.gov
mgolden@house.mi.gov
gdassandro@house.mi.gov
lvogelsberg@house.mi.gov
nbishop@house.mi.gov
ldubreuil@house.mi.gov
timbowlin@house.mi.gov

Keywords (OR)
todd
cindy
courser
Gamrat
ben
graham
keith
allard
extramarital affair
Radisson

dated on or after 2015-01-01 (178)

Open Outlook
Select File, Open & Export, Open and Outlook Data File
Navigate to E:\Search 1\ and select a file (aka Search 1 - Cathy Hunter....pst)

(It take a few minutes to load the file)

Scroll to the bottom of the Folder menu and click on teh arrows to expand the menus.

When finished reviewing, right-click on the Search 1... folder and select "Close Search 1 ....."

Lisa Curtis

From: Cindy Gamrat
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 3:57 PM
To: Republican_Representatives
Subject: We can correct this

Speaker Cotter,

Since I have not heard from you since our meeting where I was expelled from caucus, I feel compelled to reach out to you regarding this. Since this is affecting our entire caucus, I have also copied each Republican representative on this as well.

I am still in the dark as to why I was expelled beyond what you told me, when you told me it was my Facebook post. I am concerned that this situation is not healthy for our party, our caucus, or our credibility as legislators or leaders.

Whether I like it or not, whatever touches me automatically lights the press on fire. It is not something I have lit in any way in this situation. Just minutes after the caucus without me, every media outlet was all over me. I have not spoken to any media regarding this, except for 1 call interview I accepted on Our Defending fathers station in the UP. I have only posted two statements on Facebook, the last being last night, because I have been forced publicly now to have to defend my integrity and character in public and I will do so for the sake of those I represent.

However, I cannot put off all of the local and statewide media much longer. This story is the leading story on every television, online and paper news and radio news on the west side of the state. My constituents deserve to know what is going on with their representative and I am not comfortable participating in a cover up regarding charges about leaks that I don't even know about that are being laid on my shoulders.

I am not the leak (if there is one), yet I have been tried and convicted without charges, evidence, or a jury of my peers, and the verdict announced to the public no less. And I have no choice for myself and the people I represent to defend my name, integrity and character.

Maybe I'm wrong but I don't think this is how you meant it all to go, but I believe we can rectify it and I am willing to try and extend that opportunity to you, to us, and to the caucus.

We have the ability to end this fiasco and can step up and exemplify what good leadership looks like and resolve this situation. I am more than willing to sit down and discuss what these charges are and be given the opportunity to defend myself and get this all resolved. I would request that it be done with a few others present or even the entire caucus as I am no longer comfortable meeting alone with you and Brock.

I understand that it may be difficult or confusing as to how to approach me as a representative who was elected as an advocate and to advocate on the issues important to my district. But I believe that we can work together and walk through all that together in a way that demonstrates integrity, respect for each other and the districts we serve, and with open and honest discussions. It may not have started that way but we have the opportunity to redirect this onto a better path.

We can get this resolved for the betterment of the caucus but also more importantly for the betterment of those we serve and represent. I believe wholeheartedly that this group of legislators has a very special calling and path ahead for us and that we will forge ground together that hasn't been forged. I truly believe that God has his hand in this situation and that we have the choice before us to do it better, to change the way politics is typically done, and to be the servant leaders we are called to be. I believe we will leave a mark on Michigan history when we close out this chapter of our terms, and I am honored and humbled to be a part of this group and what God is doing in Michigan.

I hope you consider my offer and we work together to get this resolved and stem the damage that has been done by this already, and rise above in a way that inspires and gives confidence back to the people in their representatives.

With firm reliance,

Cindy

Lisa Curtis

om: Todd Courser
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 9:51 PM
To: Republican_Representatives
Subject: Are we seeking justice and loving mercy....

Dear Colleagues:

Are we seeking justice and loving mercy....

Private - I have not sent this to anyone but the members of the Republican Caucus; I have not, as of yet, made any public statements as of yet in regards to the dispute between our Speaker and Representative Gamrat. My hope was that there would be some solid steps taken by leadership to resolve this; first, by simply taking steps to meet and talk thru the situation with Rep Gamrat and if needed by bringing their charges and then letting her respond; that hasn't happened.

I am writing this to ask all to pray about this and think through what this situation says about each of us, the caucus, and our leadership.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...Love never fails...Gamrat has clearly reached out to leadership and should be afforded a reasoned response to the claimed allegations; I believe it is absolutely crucial for leadership to act wisely and justly in such sensitive dealings with a member and to be ever carefilled and sensitive to not act in a totalitarian way but rather to act as servants to the caucus they serve.

I know I have a reputation of being very direct and tough, that reputation is probably warranted, and sometimes harshly so, but in this email I am in no way attempting to hurt or harm anyone with my words; my heart is genuinely hoping that all of this can be resolved well for both parties involved; my effort here is to make sure there is no confusion on what is at stake and what we are losing as leaders and in our loss of integrity. I am not sure my thoughts here on these events will be helpful, but I am just offering them to help frame the discussion with a genuine hope that someone will step up and stop this train wreck before it does permanent damage to the caucus, and to our party, and to the ability of the leadership to effectively govern. I am sincerely glad to help in anyway possible to facilitate and help these issues arrive at a more thoughtful outcome...

First I would like to say that I have enjoyed the caucus and have even spoken from time to time when the issue was of importance to me; I have enjoyed the visits I have had with all of the reps and I have felt there was a great deal of respect and decorum in the way the caucus has been run and I have honestly been impressed with the way the leadership has worked to include everyone's opinion on the heated issues, but what I saw unfold this past caucus was a serious departure from that routine and I am hoping that it can be corrected this week; this past week what I saw was a person's reputation be maligned and their character called into question and no evidence was offered and no opportunity afforded to that person to see the evidence that they had violated the caucus confidentiality. To me this is not in anyway keeping with the spirit of what I have seen the past four months nor is there anything American about indicting someone for something and offering nothing to substantiate it and demanding everyone keep silent on it.

"To not speak is to speak and to not act is to act..."

"Is this a caucus to discuss things in private or is it rather a cabal to destroy reps and their reputations?" If we stand silent then share in the responsibility for the treatment being dealt out on Representative Gamrat. The pretexts being shared as the reasons are totally inadequate to justify the way she has been treated by our leadership; even if she had done what they are claiming; there is no justification for this line of character assassination.

To me it is not appropriate to have a "caucus" in a lobbyist office building with the doors open and their staff present and calling it a "budget workshop" and then, for some reason, expect that somehow that those proceedings are private. The public has a right to know what their representatives are doing to them just as much as those in the lobbyists offices; I think there is an appropriate spot

to hold strategy sessions and to have a proper caucus role, but this meeting was nothing that needed or should have expected to have any expectation of privacy. We, in our party, and with the public, have a issue with "secretiveness versus transparency" and these events now showcase what some see as being what is wrong with this part of the political process; we were having a meeting in any environment that in no way could have had an expectation of privacy, that lobbyists know about, but for some reason the public cannot? A caucus has a proper spot in the process, but should be used carefully and should not be used to inflict detriment on a member while requiring silence from those within the caucus.

Right now we have a member of the caucus who has been thrown out, and then, neither she or the public, are afforded the opportunity to see the evidence of where she violated the confidentiality rules in her alleged numerous infractions? To me there isn't anything American about this sort of "Execute, Charge, Indict!" I believe all of us should, no matter what the charges, at the very least, be afforded an opportunity to know the charges and the evidence against us, and know and trust that there is a clear process to allow us to clear our name and reputation; this has not in any way been done here; even to the point of allowing one or two witnesses on each side if needed, this should be the bare minimum from our leadership; and this should be done before our names and our reputations are destroyed in the public sphere by our own leadership.
Our Responsibility - At this point, whether we like it or not, we all as members of this caucus own this and due to our silence share in the responsibility. The members of the caucus who have not spoken up about this do not stand absolved of their responsibility. Presently, publicly it looks as if we all are agreeing with the Speaker and supporting his position; I do not and cannot given the method by which he has now shown to have conducted himself in making this decision; that being said, I would genuinely like this resolved well for all involved. I am again writing this to hopefully help move this to a good result this week. I have received no less than two dozen requests for interviews; I have not as of yet made any statements. I have felt that my entry into this right after it happened would not give this situation the best chance at being resolved well for all involved. But this idea of being told by leadership to sit silently while no evidence is offered, and while a person is being mercilessly attacked amounts to being simply evil and does not in any way sit well with me, nor should it sit well with anyone to see someone destroyed without evidence. If there is evidence of her wrong doing, it needs to come out so this can be put to bed; if no evidence is offered then this should all be put to bed and she should be allowed back into the caucus immediately. If there is a meeting to resolve this and the issues surrounding it, then Rep Gamrat should be afforded the opportunity to have those she trusts hear the charges and evidence being brought by the Speaker or the Speaker needs to simply just bring the evidence out so the public can see his reasoning on the violations of the "confidentiality rule."

The Pretexts - Unfortunately we are now all seeing and hearing the pretexts and the justifications and even excuses for the actions by the Speaker; the story goes - she isn't liked in the caucus, she advocates too strongly for her issues and it indicts reps who disagree with her, her "no" votes in appropriations is making other reps look bad, she makes people nervous, she speaks around the state as a candidate without asking, and she is exposing the working of the party to the public....Casting blame, but providing no proof in no way justifies the actions of this Speaker to destroy her and her reputation; furthermore his "requests" or "requirement" for others to remain silent while he destroys her is disturbing; as is submission to such a request from any leadership. Many are now speculating that this is politically motivated due to her speaking about Proposal 1 in the tent that day, or her run for RNC Committeewoman, or her being the only "no" vote on most every increasing appropriation, but I am not at all coming to you to speculate on any of that; to me the question is, "are we seeking justice and loving mercy" for all involved.

Proper Steps to Dispute Resolution - There are proper time tested steps to resolve such situations. In Scripture the steps are clearly layed out, if you have a issue, you go to that person privately and try to work it out and discuss it, in so doing you bring your witnesses and evidence; this was never done. So unfortunately we are having this all play out in the public sphere which is in no way good for the party or the effectiveness of our mantle of leadership. I am asking that the leadership take a step back and consider what it is doing to Representative Gamrat by making such charges and offering no evidence and that steps be taken to correct this immediately. The Speaker was visibly moved and shaken when he announced he had unilaterally removed Rep Gamrat from the caucus; well my question is whether he was moved and shaken because he felt bad about doing it, or was it because he knew he was wrong in taking the steps he was taking in the way he was taking them. He has in no way done any steps required as a leader in this situation. My hope is that he will take a step back, as we all who are leaders, should and must in such situations and think about whether he is acting honestly and forthrightly and with justice and mercy; it is a hard test, but that is what is required from a servant leader; it is the same test required placed upon all of us if we are to maintain the public trust and confidence.

High Bar for Leadership - The burdens of Leadership, as we all know, are tough and can be incredibly difficult to navigate thru, but that being said, Leadership must be above reproach, honest and forthright in it's dealings with it's members, and also be totally aware and sensitive in how its words and actions affect its members and the public at large. Our Speaker is at this moment very close to losing his mantle of leadership, and the respect of the members of the caucus and the public. If there is a issue with a member then there should have been a quiet process to review the issue and come to a determination. That did not happen in any way; leadership must also be self-controlled; leadership must be ever vigilant to not overstep in accusing a member without offering

proof of such breach, in this case "of confidentiality." Finally, Leadership cannot, if it wants to maintain the goodwill and trust of its members, throw out a member without evidence and a thoughtful process for doing so. When it steps out and removes a member without a thoughtful process, it greatly risks losing its credibility. Our Speaker physically threw out a member of the caucus from a meeting and said it was for a Facebook post, then the next day denied entry into the caucus stating the same reason; he has now made some amazing charges, but has offered no evidence to substantiate his position. He has also denied or asked that the rest of the members remain silent on the whole of the events. Regardless of how this is spun, and I hope this isn't the case, but it is looking more and more like a witch hunt and an clear abuse of power. The Speaker is at this moment on very shaky ground; once honor and respect are replaced by withholding info, denying the free speech of the members abuse isn't far behind; he will probably retain his position, but this is beginning to look very self-serving and will be interpreted by a great many as if he is simply acted rashly and has no evidence. I am honestly not sure how the caucus will or should handle this. I am hopeful that cooler heads will look at this and figure out a way to redeem Representative Gamrat from her Speaker-imposed exile, then hopefully there is some way salvage the Speaker's credibility from the handling of this situation, and finally also to salvage the strength and unity of the caucus.
Right now there is going to be a stain of some sort; Rep Gamrat is a lightning rod and the public has great interest in her story and she has a following across the state and around the nation; she cannot help but have media falling all over themselves to capture this story. Both publicly and privately there are only a few options here for how this will all end up looking; a few steps from leadership will go a long way to helping this end up well; Rep Gamrat as now reached out to the leadership, but from my knowledge at this point she has heard nothing in response. Unfortunately the public will see this one of a few ways; first, he has possibly "just failed to do a proper process, had overstepped, had become a bit overzealous in his actions and has now corrected it." Second, "he is doing this with political motivations to remove her." Third, regretfully "He is telling the truth" (if so he should bring his evidence to justify his actions and put this to rest). Finally, even more regretfully, "he is not telling the truth and is now attempting to cover it up." Unfortunately, if he doesn't bring out his case, regardless if he is telling the truth or not, he will, and is being viewed already in certain circles as simply lying to maintain his power; this is resulting in a loss of respect and admiration of the public and a great many members of the caucus. To do what he has done without any proper resolution steps on the front end does not look to be well thought out or well considered; not to mention it now looks as if he just targeted one of the very most conservative members of the caucus for termination and destruction and has done this without any regard for her or her reputation. None of this looks good internally or publicly; I do absolutely hope this can all find a good result for all involved and I am praying to that end.

Further Notes...

Also it is worth remembering that this all started from a very innocent looking post on Facebook; where she was physically thrown out, personally by the Speaker, while it was being shouted from the front "this is a caucus!" Clearly her post of several minutes prior was the catalyst, and if not then what gives at that moment for the Speaker to act in this way? Or for Al to act in this way? And at that moment the Speaker informed her of as much. From what she thought and several others thought, including myself, that it was a "budget workshop," a review of the already public, and already passed sub-budgets. Now there are claims it had nothing to do with the innocent Facebook post, but instead was for multiple infractions of breaching confidences of the caucus? Is this the way such an issue should be handled by the leadership? Is this really the way multiple infractions should be handled?

All of this can be corrected, but It will take the leadership stepping up to acknowledge their failure to, at the very least, carrying out a respectable process before destroying a member; then there must be a new commitment to move forward and correct the way this has been done and how it will be done in the future. All very simple and yet but none of it easy; so please simply again keep it all in prayer.

In Christ Alone

todd

Lisa Curtis

From: Anne Hill
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Kevin Cotter; Tom Leonard
Cc: Cindy Gamrat
Subject: RE: Request for Meeting to Discuss Caucus

Dear Representative Cotter and Representative Leonard,

I hope the summer recess is going well for you, and that both of you are able to spend time with your family as well constituents. I would like to see if there is time on your calendars for you to meet with Representative Gamrat for the purpose of discussing her participation in caucus. If your staff could contact me with proposed dates, I would be happy to coordinate a meeting.

Thank you in advance.

Anne Hill
Legislative Aide
Representative Gamrat

From: Anne Hill
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 11:10 AM
To: Kevin Cotter; Tom Leonard
Cc: Cindy Gamrat
Subject: Request for Meeting to Discuss Caucus

Dear Representative Cotter and Representative Leonard,

Representative Gamrat is interested in setting up a meeting with you to discuss caucus. Please let me know what times would be available and your preference for meeting location so that I may coordinate. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Anne Hill

Legislative Aide

Representative Gamrat

3-5726

Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 7:17 PM
To: Tim Bowlin; Cathy Hunter
Cc: Kevin Cotter
Subject: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Tim and Cathy, as I discussed a few minutes ago with Tim, we want to preserve ALL House records out of an abundance of caution. It is my understanding that this has already taken place, but just to confirm, please institute a full freeze on all records effective immediately.

If possible, begin immediately search the following custodians' House Outlook accounts:

Group A
Todd Courser
Cindy Gamrat
Courser/Gamrat staffers (Ben/Keith/anyone else)

Group B
Kevin
Norm
Brock
Gideon
Matt Goldon
Lindsay
Neal
Laura
Tim

1) Pull all communications between someone in Group A and someone in Group B. So, for example, an email between Todd and Norm, or between Ben and Lindsay.

2) Pull all communications between anyone in Group A. So, emails between Cindy and Todd, Todd and Ben, etc.

3) With respect to Group B, pull emails that have any of the following search terms: Todd, Cindy, Courser, Gamrat, any of the staffers' names, extramarital affair, radisson.

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viewing, copying, disclosing, or distributing by someone who is not the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you believe or should reasonably believe that you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies, electronic or otherwise, of the communication, including any attachment.

Lisa Curtis

om: Tim Bowlin
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 7:24 PM
To: Brock Swartzle
Cc: Cathy Hunter; Kevin Cotter
Subject: Re: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Mr. Speaker and Brock,

We will start on this as soon as possible. As Cathy is going to be out of town until Sunday evening, we will not begin the search until Sunday night or Monday morning. Think we need to make sure the search is accurate and not rush this process. Also, since I was asked to conduct this review (investigation), I think I should be the person to initially review the search results.

Hope this meets with your approval. Please call or text with any concerns.

Tim.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:16 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> Tim and Cathy, as I discussed a few minutes ago with Tim, we want to preserve ALL House records out of an abundance of caution. It is my understanding that this has already taken place, but just to confirm, please institute a full freeze on all records effective immediately.
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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 7:31 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Cc: Cathy Hunter; Kevin Cotter
Subject: Re: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

I agree you should be the one to review initially. Please proceed as soon as you are able (ie, Sunday). While we do not want to rush, we do want to be proactive with regard to the investigation.

Just to confirm--the records are being maintained now, so we won't be losing any by waiting until Sunday, correct?

Sent from my iPhone

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Lisa Curtis

From: Tim Bowlin
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 7:36 PM
To: Brock Swartzle
Cc: Cathy Hunter; Kevin Cotter
Subject: Re: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Correct. Nothing will be lost and we will proceed Sunday night. Will start reviewing reach results Monday morning.
I already have a lot of background information compiled.

Thanks all. Try to have a peaceful weekend.

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:31 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 8:12 PM
To: Kevin Cotter
Cc: Tim Bowlin; Cathy Hunter
Subject: Re: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Tim, as a follow-up to our discussion a few minutes ago, please secure any hardcopy documents in Cindy's or Todd's offices that may be responsive to your investigation. Confirm whether their laptops are in their offices and, if not, let me know and I will contact them about returning the laptops so that we can image them. My understanding is that you will be able to do this first thing Saturday morning.

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:46 PM, Kevin Cotter <kcotter@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> Thank you very much Tim. I greatly appreciate all of your efforts.
>
> Kevin
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:36 PM, "Tim Bowlin" <timbowlin@house.mi.gov> wrote:
>
>> Correct. Nothing will be lost and we will proceed Sunday night. Will start reviewing reach results Monday morning.
>> I already have a lot of background information compiled.
>>
>> Thanks all. Try to have a peaceful weekend.
>>
>> Tim
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>> Sent from my iPhone
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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 8:24 PM
To: Brock Swartzle
Cc: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.

Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 8:27 PM
To: Laura DuBreuil; Tim Bowlin; Cathy Hunter
Subject: Fwd: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

Laura, please review any hardcopy records that Norm may have left re: below.

Tim/Cathy, please review the local drives of my laptop (the one I had prior to the surface) as well as Norm's.

Brock A. Swartzle
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Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
> **Date:** August 7, 2015 at 8:24:11 PM EDT
> **To:** Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
> **Cc:** Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
> **Subject: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD*****
>
> All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.
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Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Kevin Cotter; Tim Bowlin
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

Kevin and Tim, I confirmed with Norm that he took no hardcopy or electronic files with him.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:26 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> Laura, please review any hardcopy records that Norm may have left re: below.
>
> Tim/Cathy, please review the local drives of my laptop (the one I had prior to the surface) as well as Norm's.
>
> Brock A. Swartzle
> Chief of Staff and General Counsel
> Michigan House of Representatives
> 621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
> P.O. Box 30014
> Lansing, MI 48909-7514
> 517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov
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>
> Begin forwarded message:

From: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Date: August 7, 2015 at 8:24:11 PM EDT
To: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.

Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
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Lisa Curtis

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Hassan Beydoun
Subject: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Hassan, on Monday, please begin drafting a resolution creating a special committee as well as subpoena power to look into whether Rep. Courser or Rep. Gamrat misused House resources related to an alleged extra-marital affair that they were having. It is still too soon to tell whether we will need such a resolution, but we should at least start the preparation.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Lisa Curtis

From: Kevin Cotter
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Brock Swartzle
Subject: Re: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION*** Courser/Gamrat

Thank you

Kevin
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 2:33 PM, "Brock Swartzle" <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

fyi

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Date: August 9, 2015 at 2:32:18 PM EDT
To: Hassan Beydoun <HBeydoun@house.mi.gov>
Subject: ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION* Courser/Gamrat**

Hassan, on Monday, please begin drafting a resolution creating a special committee as well as subpoena power to look into whether Rep. Courser or Rep. Gamrat misused House resources related to an alleged extra-marital affair that they were having. It is still too soon to tell whether we will need such a resolution, but we should at least start the preparation.

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Tim Bowlin

From: Neal Bishop
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Courser/Gamrat

I have performed the search as described by Brock and have found nothing.

Neal Bishop
Deputy Legislative Director
Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter

Office: (517) 373-1789
Direct: (517) 373-5754
[redacted]

Tim Bowlin

From: Matthew Golden
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: RE: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

Tim,

I don't have any hardcopy files regarding your investigation. However, there was verbal contact from both Rep. Courser and Gamrat's staff to staff in Constituent Relations regarding the affair. This was passed along to Norm and the staff was directed to talk to Norm about any concerns. Please let me know if you need more details.

Thanks,

Matt

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 5:39 PM
To: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, by C.O.B. Tuesday, August 11, 2015, please confirm directly to Tim Bowlin that you have performed the search described below and that you have either provided him with the described records/files or that you do not have any such records/files.

Thank you.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.
>
> Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.
>
> If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
>
> Brock A. Swartzle
> Chief of Staff and General Counsel
> Michigan House of Representatives
> 621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
> P.O. Box 30014
> Lansing, MI 48909-7514
> 517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov
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Tim Bowlin

From: Laura DuBreuil
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:30 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: FW: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

Good morning, Tim,

I do not have any such records or files.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Laura

Laura DuBreuil
Executive Assistant/Scheduler
Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter
517-373-2135

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 5:39 PM
To: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, by C.O.B. Tuesday, August 11, 2015, please confirm directly to Tim Bowlin that you have performed the search described below and that you have either provided him with the described records/files or that you do not have any such records/files.

Thank you.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives

621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.
>
> Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.
>
> If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
>
> Brock A. Swartzle
> Chief of Staff and General Counsel
> Michigan House of Representatives
> 621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
> P.O. Box 30014
> Lansing, MI 48909-7514
> 517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov
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Tim Bowlin

From: Hassan Beydoun
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

Same here, Tim. I've reviewed and have found no records relevant to the investigation.

Hassan Beydoun
Majority Legal Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor
Michigan House of Representatives
Office: (517) 373-0935
[redacted]

On Aug 10, 2015, at 5:45 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

Tim, I have reviewed my hardcopy files, and I have no records relevant to the investigation described below. You have my House-issued laptop, so I will presume that you or someone at your direction will check the hard-drive for any such records, though I have no reason to believe that any exist.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Date: August 10, 2015 at 5:38:52 PM EDT
To: Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>
Cc: Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, by C.O.B. Tuesday, August 11, 2015, please confirm directly to Tim Bowlin that you have performed the search described below and that you have either provided him with the described records/files or that you do not have any such records/files.

Thank you.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

> All, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic records saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether Todd Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.
>
> Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.
>
> If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Tim Bowlin

From: Gideon DAssandro
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: FW: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

I have completed the search and have no such records.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Brock Swartzle
Sent: 8/10/2015 5:38 PM
To: Brock Swartzle
Cc: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Re: Courser/Gamrat ***PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION---DO NOT FORWARD***

All, by C.O.B. Tuesday, August 11, 2015, please confirm directly to Tim Bowlin that you have performed the search described below and that you have either provided him with the described records/files or that you do not have any such records/files.

Thank you.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov> wrote:

Ah, if you have any (1) hardcopy documents or (2) electronic reco saved to your local drive that may be relevant to whether To Courser or Cindy Gamrat misused state resources related to their alleged affair, please secure them and forward them to Tim Bowlin in the House Business Office. I do not expect that many, if any, of you will have any such records, but out of an abundance of caution, please review your hardcopy files and local drive and forward any potentially relevant records to Tim.

Anything related to Outlook or the network will be handled by Tim directly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Brock A. Swartzle
Chief of Staff and General Counsel
Michigan House of Representatives
621 South, Anderson House Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
517-373-5916, bswartzle@house.mi.gov

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Tim Bowlin

From: Rosemary Jones
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Cc: Patti Tremblay-Pluta
Subject: No Courser/Gamrat records found

Tim,

I have reviewed my hardcopy files for anything pertaining to the alleged misuse of state funds by Rep. Courser or Rep. Gamrat and do not have anything relating to the alleged incident.

Rosie Jones

Rosie Jones
House Democratic Communications

Tim Bowlin

From: Amy Beard
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 1:00 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Courser/Gamrat Investigation

Hi Tim,

I have reviewed my files as requested and do not have any files relating to the alleged misuse of state funds by Representative Courser or Representative Gamrat. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thank you,

Amy

Amy Beard
Director of Policy
House Democratic Caucus
O: 517-373-4683
F: 517-373-8490

Tim Bowlin

From: Ryan Sebolt
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Cc: Patti Tremblay-Pluta
Subject: Reps Courser and Gamrat

Tim,

I have reviewed my hardcopy files and have no files relating to the alleged incident involving Representatives Courser and Gamrat.

Ryan Sebolt
Office of House Democrat Floor Leader Sam Singh
69th District

Tim Bowlin

From: Megan Gill
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Records/ Files check

Hi Tim,

I am emailing to confirm that I have performed the requested records search and I do not have anything of relevance.

Megan Gill
Legislative Assistant
Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter
517-373-5505

Tim Bowlin

From: Todd Cook
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:11 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Cc: Patti Tremblay-Pluta
Subject: Document request

Upon review, I have no hard copy files for anything pertaining to the alleged misuse of state funds by Rep. Courser or Rep. Gamrat.

Todd Cook
Chief of Staff
House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel
(517) 373-0475

Tim Bowlin

From: Katie Carey
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Investigation
Attachments: TPs Courser-Gamrat8 7 15Final.docx

Tim –

Per your (Patti's) request, attached is a set of talking points I drafted for folks to use when messaging/answering questions on the Courser/Gamrat affair.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Katie Carey
Deputy Director of Democratic Central Staff
Press Secretary, House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel & the House Democratic Caucus
517.373.8924 (office)
[redacted]
kcarey@house.mi.gov

Detroit News – Courser/Gamrat Affair
Friday, August, 7, 2015

Friday Response

- I'm (Leader Greimel is) deeply troubled by the actions that have recently come to light of Representatives Courser and Gamrat.
- As serious as these revelations are, it's still not clear if we have the facts. There may be more information to show scope of it.

Monday Response

- After reviewing over the weekend, we are left with more questions on how deep this affair goes.
- Was it illegal to use state funds (staff) for personal use to try and cover up their affair?
- What did Speaker Cotter, Floor Leader Nesbitt and Speaker Pro Tem Leonard know and when were they made aware of the situation?
- Clearly there is the strong potential of wrong doing, I (we/House Dems) call on Attorney General Bill Schuette to investigate any misuse of state resources as he is the more appropriate source for this type of investigation.

Questions

Should they resign?

It is outrageous that state funds were used for a Representative's extramarital affair and I'm concerned with the level of coercion that took place toward the state employee to try and cover it up.

Why Attorney General Bill Schuette?

Tim Bowlin and the House Business Office do not hold the same legal authority as Schuette and the full weight of the law should be behind this investigation.

Tim Bowlin

From: Lindsay Vogelsberg
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Tim Bowlin
Subject: Documents/Data

Tim,

I apologize I never confirmed with you. I do not have any information, data, documents, etc related to the ongoing investigation.

Lindsay

Lindsay Vogelsberg
Legislative Director
Office of Speaker Kevin Cotter
Direct: 517-373-9009
[redacted]

Salary Projections By Section Report

Courser, Todd (Rep)

Human Resources

Monday, August 10, 2015 6:53 AM

Courser, Todd (Rep)	Agency Charges	YTD Salary Used	Remaining Projection
	$ 0.00	$ 32,900.33	$ 14,953.85

Allotment	Salary Projection	Office Projection	Balance	Next Year
$ 102,000.00	$ 47,854.18	$ 4,590.18	$ 49,555.64	$ 36,000.00

Employee Name	Salary	YTD Paid	Projected Salary	Effective Date	Reason
Cline, Joshua	1,346.15	9,826.90	9,826.90	01/02/2015	New Hire
Cline, Joshua	1,346.15	0.00	0.00	04/15/2015	Terminated
Couture, Karen Marie	18.00	900.00	900.00	06/08/2015	New Hire
Couture, Karen Marie	1,384.62	4,153.86	19,107.71	06/22/2015	Status Change
Graham, Ben R	1,346.15	13,596.12	13,596.12	01/02/2015	New Hire
Graham, Ben R	1,426.92	4,423.45	4,423.45	05/25/2015	Salary Adjustment
Graham, Ben R	1,426.92	0.00	0.00	07/07/2015	Terminated

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Cline, Joshua

P.P. 08 (3/29/2015-4/11/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
3/30/2015	W	0:00
3/31/2015	W	0:00
4/1/2015	W	0:00
4/2/2015	W	0:00
4/3/2015	W	0:00
4/6/2015	W	0:00
4/7/2015	W	0:00
4/8/2015	W	0:00
4/9/2015	W	0:00
4/10/2015	W	0:00

3/30/2015 W 0:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
01/2015	0:00	0:48	0:00	0:00			0:48
02/2015	0:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:48
03/2015	8:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:48
04/2015	16:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:48
05/2015	24:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			32:48
06/2015	32:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			40:48
07/2015	40:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			48:48
08/2015	48:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			56:48
09/2015	56:48	1:36	0:00	-58:24	Leave Payout		0:00

08/2015 48:48 8:00 0:00 0:00 56:48

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 4/10/2015 2:43:19 PM

Timecard was submitted by Cline, Joshua on 4/10/2015 1:23:03 PM

card was approved by Courser, Todd on 4/10/2015 2:43:19 PM

☐ Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

HUMAN RESOURCES/10 SOUTH HOB

Personnel Action Form

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Karen Couture
EMPLOYEE NAME

[redacted]
SSN

Rep. Todd Courser
SECTION

kcouture@house.mi.gov
EMAIL

S 1186
OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE

☐ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

TITLE:

BIRTHDATE:

STATUS: ○ FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

○ REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

○ PART-TIME /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☒ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE*: **6-22-15**

◉ ANNUAL SALARY:	FROM		TO **$36,000.00**	* *(EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)*
○ HOURLY SALARY:	FROM	/HOUR	TO	/HOUR
○ HOURS:	FROM **50**	/PAY PERIOD	TO **80**	/PAY PERIOD
○ REDUCED SCHEDULE:	FROM	/PAY PERIOD	TO	/PAY PERIOD

◉ JOB TITLE:	FROM **Misc. Hourly**	TO **Legislative Assistant**
○ SECTION:	FROM **Rep. Todd Courser**	TO **Rep. Todd Courser**
○ LOCATION:	FROM **S 1186**	TO **S 1186**

☐ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

○ VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

○ TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

○ OTHER

○ RETIREMENT

○ EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

○ TRANSFER AGENCY:

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

Tel: 373-3069
Fax: 373-5816

REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL 6/30/15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

RECEIVED 6-30-15 DATE

ENTERED 6-30-15 DATE

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE/EMPLOYER INFORMATION

As outlined in House Guidelines and Policies (HUM 02.04), I hereby request my supervisor's and the Speaker's approval for supplemental employment, whether I currently have supplemental employment or am seeking supplemental employment.

NAME OF EMPLOYEE: KAREN COUTURE

NAME OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYER: TODD A. COURSER & ASSOC., PLLC

ADDRESS OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYER: 455 [redacted] S. MAIN ST., LAPEER, MI 48446

NATURE OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE WORK

COMMENCING DATE OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYMENT: JUNE 8, 2015

WORK HOURS OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYMENT: 8

ANTICIPATED END DATE OF SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: Karen Couture

DATE: 6-11-15

Please complete, print sign, and return this form to:
Business Office, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building
Tel: 373-6339
Fax: 373-4763

APPROVED ☑ DENIED ☐ SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE DATE 6-11-15

APPROVED ☑ DENIED ☐ SIGNATURE OF SPEAKER/SPEAKER'S DESIGNEE DATE 6/17/15

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

EMPLOYEE NAME: KAREN COUTURE

SSN: [redacted]

SECTION: Courier (HD-82)

EMAIL:

OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE:

☒ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6-8-15

TITLE: misc. hourly

BIRTHDATE: 8-28-60

STATUS: O FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

O REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

☒ PART-TIME 18 /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD: ~~25~~ 50

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☐ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE*:

O ANNUAL SALARY: FROM TO

O HOURLY SALARY: FROM /HOUR TO /HOUR

O HOURS: FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O REDUCED SCHEDULE: FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

* *(EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)*

O JOB TITLE: FROM TO

O SECTION: FROM TO

O LOCATION: FROM TO

☐ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

O VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

O TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

O OTHER

O RETIREMENT

O EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

O TRANSFER AGENCY:

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

el: 373-3069
ax: 373-5816

REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL 6-2-15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL 6/4/15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

RECEIVED 6-3-15 DATE

ENTERED 6-5-15 DATE

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Couture, Karen

P P 16 (7/19/2015-8/1/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
7/20/2015	W	0:00
7/21/2015	W	0:00
7/22/2015	W	0:00
7/23/2015	W	0:00
7/24/2015	W	0:00
7/27/2015	W	0:00
7/28/2015	W	0:00
7/29/2015	W	0:00
7/30/2015	W	0:00
7/31/2015	W	0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
14/2015	0:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:00
15/2015	8:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:00
16/2015	16:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:00
17/2015	24:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			32:00

7/20/2015 W 0:00

16/2015 16:00 8:00 0:00 0:00 24:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 7/31/2015 8:04:05 AM

Timecard was submitted by Couture, Karen Marie on 7/28/2015 9:23:25 AM

Timecard was approved by Courser, Todd on 7/31/2015 8:04:05 AM

☐ Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Couture, Karen

P.P. 16 (7/19/2015-8/1/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
7/20/2015	W	0:00
7/21/2015	W	0:00
7/22/2015	W	0:00
7/23/2015	W	0:00
7/24/2015	W	0:00
7/27/2015	W	0:00
7/28/2015	W	0:00
7/29/2015	W	0:00
7/30/2015	W	0:00
7/31/2015	W	0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
14/2015	0:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:00
15/2015	8:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:00
16/2015	16:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:00

7/20/2015 W 0:00

16/2015 16:00 8:00 0:00 0:00 24:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

STATUS: Update Time Card

Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Timecard applied on 7/31/2015 8:04:05 AM

Timecard was submitted by Couture, Karen Marie on 7/28/2015 9:23:25 AM

card was approved by Courser, Todd on 7/31/2015 8:04:05 AM

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Couture, Karen

P.P 15 (7/5/2015-7/18/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
7/6/2015	W	0:00
7/7/2015	W	0:00
7/8/2015	W	0:00
7/9/2015	W	0:00
7/10/2015	W	0:00
7/13/2015	W	0:00
7/14/2015	W	0:00
7/15/2015	W	0:00
7/16/2015	W	0:00
7/17/2015	W	0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
14/2015	0:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:00
15/2015	8:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:00
16/2015	16:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:00

7/6/2015 W 0:00

15/2015 8:00 8:00 0:00 0:00 16:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 7/16/2015 11:54:34 AM

Timecard was submitted by Courser, Todd on 7/16/2015 11:54:27 AM

card was approved by Courser, Todd on 7/16/2015 11:54:34 AM

Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Couture, Karen

P.P. 14 (6/21/2015-7/4/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
6/22/2015	W	0:00
6/23/2015	W	0:00
6/24/2015	W	0:00
6/25/2015	W	0:00
6/26/2015	W	0:00
6/29/2015	W	0:00
6/30/2015	W	0:00
7/1/2015	W	0:00
7/2/2015	W	0:00
7/3/2015	H	0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
14/2015	0:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:00
15/2015	8:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:00
16/2015	16:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:00

6/22/2015 W 0:00

14/2015 0:00 8:00 0:00 0:00 8:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 7/15/2015 1:56:48 PM

Timecard was submitted by Couture, Karen Marie on 7/1/2015 5:07:00 PM

card was approved by Courser, Todd on 7/14/2015 2:42:42 PM

☐ Projection Mode

New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Time Card / Part-Time Employee

Search Edit

Couture, Karen

2015 PP # 13 (06/07/2015 -- 06/20/2015)

Pay Period 13 (06/07/2015 – 06/20/2015)

Section Courser, Todd (Rep)

	Morning IN	Noon OUT	Noon IN	Night OUT	Extra IN	Extra OUT	Row Total	Grid Total
Sun Jun 07 2015								
Mon Jun 08 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM			8:00	8:00
Tue Jun 09 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM			8:00	16:00
Wed Jun 10 2015					2:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:00	17:00
Thu Jun 11 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM			8:00	25:00
Fri Jun 12 2015								
Sat Jun 13 2015								
Sun Jun 14 2015								
Mon Jun 15 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	9:00	34:00
Tue Jun 16 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM			8:00	42:00
Wed Jun 17 2015	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	5:00 PM			8:00	50:00
Thu Jun 18 2015								
Fri Jun 19 2015								
Sat Jun 20 2015								

Total Hours Worked **50:00**

Save

Revert

Cancel

ATUS:

Timecard applied on 6/22/2015 8:47:12 AM

Submitted by Couture, Karen Marie on 6/17/2015

Approved by Courser, Todd on 6/17/2015

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Ben Graham
EMPLOYEE NAME

[redacted]
SSN

Rep. Courser
SECTION

N/A
EMAIL

HOB S 1186 / x31800
OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE

☐ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

TITLE:

BIRTHDATE:

STATUS: O FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

O REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

O PART-TIME /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☐ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE*:

O ANNUAL SALARY:	FROM		TO		* (EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)
O HOURLY SALARY:	FROM	/HOUR	TO	/HOUR	
O HOURS:	FROM	/PAY PERIOD	TO	/PAY PERIOD	
O REDUCED SCHEDULE:	FROM	/PAY PERIOD	TO	/PAY PERIOD	

O JOB TITLE: FROM TO

O SECTION: FROM TO

O LOCATION: FROM TO

☒ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: **07/06/2015**

O VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

◉ TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

O OTHER

O RETIREMENT

O EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

O TRANSFER AGENCY:

- paid in lieu through 7-20-15
- benefits through 6-31-15

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

Tel: 373-3069
Fax: 373-5816

REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL 7/6/15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

RECEIVED 7-6-15 DATE

ENTERED 7-6-15 DATE

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BUSINESS OFFICE
P.O. Box 30014 / Lansing, MI 48909-7514 / 517-373-6339

July 6, 2015

Ben Graham
[redacted]

Dear Ben:

I regret to inform you that, as an "at will" employee, your services will no longer be needed as of today, July 6, 2015. You will be paid in lieu of notice through July 20, 2015 and your benefits will continue through August 31, 2015.

A member of the Human Resources staff will be available to conduct an exit interview with you to answer any questions that you might have about your termination.

As an at-will employee, no grounds are necessary to terminate an employee with the House of Representatives. If prospective employers contact the Human Resources Office about your qualifications, they will be notified of your beginning and completion date and not be given any reason for your termination.

Respectfully,

Tim Bowlin, Director
Business Office

cc: Human Resources

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Ben Graham
EMPLOYEE NAME

[redacted]
SSN

House
SECTION

bgraham@house.mi.gov
EMAIL

Rep. Courser
OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE

☐ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

TITLE:

BIRTHDATE:

STATUS O FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

O REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD.

O PART-TIME /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☒ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/25/15

● ANNUAL SALARY FROM 35,000 TO 37,100 (EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)

O HOURLY SALARY FROM /HOUR TO /HOUR

O HOURS FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O REDUCED SCHEDULE FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O JOB TITLE FROM TO

O SECTION FROM TO

O LOCATION FROM TO

☐ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE

O VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

O TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

O OTHER

O RETIREMENT

O EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

O TRANSFER AGENCY

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

Tel: 373-3069
Fax: 373-5816

REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL 5-19-15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL 6-3-15 DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

RECEIVED 5-19-15 DATE

ENTERED 6-3-15 DATE

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Graham, Ben

P.P. 14 (6/21/2015-7/4/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
6/22/2015	W	0:00
6/23/2015	W	0:00
6/24/2015	W	0:00
6/25/2015	W	0:00
6/26/2015	W	0:00
6/29/2015	W	0:00
6/30/2015	W	0:00
7/1/2015	W	0:00
7/2/2015	W	0:00
7/3/2015	H	0:00

6/22/2015 W 0:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

Leave Time

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
04/2015	16:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:48
05/2015	24:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			32:48
06/2015	32:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			40:48
07/2015	40:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			48:48
08/2015	48:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			56:48
09/2015	56:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			64:48
10/2015	64:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			72:48
11/2015	72:48	8:00	8:00	0:00			72:48
12/2015	72:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			80:48
13/2015	80:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			88:48
14/2015	88:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			96:48
15/2015	96:48	0:48	0:00	-97:36	Leave Payout		0:00

14/2015 88:48 8:00 0:00 0:00 96:48

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 7/2/2015 2:14:21 PM

Timecard was submitted by Graham, Ben R on 7/2/2015 11:32:18 AM

card was approved by Courser, Todd on 7/2/2015 2:14:21 PM

☐ Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Employee History Form

Search History | Service |

Employee Name Graham, Ben Social Security Number [redacted] HRMN ID [redacted]

Date	Job Title	Section	Party	Emp.Type	Status	Benefits	Annual
[redacted]							
5/25/2015	Legislative Assistant	Courser, Todd (Rep)	Republicans	Full Time	Active	Yes	$ 37,100.00
1/2/2015	Legislative Assistant	Courser, Todd (Rep)	Republicans	Full Time	Active	Yes	$ 35,000.00

Salary Projections By Section Report

Gamrat, Cindy (Rep)

Human Resources

Monday, August 10, 2015 6:52 AM

Gamrat, Cindy (Rep)	Agency Charges	YTD Salary Used	Remaining Projection
	$ 0.00	$ 35,565.51	$ 14,953.85

Allotment	Salary Projection	Office Projection	Balance	Next Year
$ 102,000.00	$ 50,519.36	$ 4,350.13	$ 47,130.51	$ 36,000.00

Employee Name	Salary	YTD Paid	Projected Salary	Effective Date	Reason
Allard, Keith J	2,096.15	21,171.12	21,171.12	01/02/2015	New Hire
Allard, Keith J	2,221.92	6,887.95	6,887.95	05/25/2015	Salary Adjustment
Allard, Keith J	2,221.92	0.00	0.00	07/07/2015	Terminated
Carra, Stephen P	14.00	2,937.20	2,937.20	02/18/2015	New Hire
Carra, Stephen P	14.00	0.00	0.00	06/02/2015	Terminated
Hill, Anne Marie	18.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	06/08/2015	New Hire
Hill, Anne Marie	1,384.62	2,769.24	17,723.09	07/06/2015	Status Change

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Keith Allard
EMPLOYEE NAME

[redacted]
SSN

Rep. Gamrat
SECTION

N/A
EMAIL

HOB 1099 N / x30836
OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE

☐ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

TITLE:

BIRTHDATE:

STATUS: O FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

O REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

O PART-TIME /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD:

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☐ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE*:

O ANNUAL SALARY: FROM TO * (EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)

O HOURLY SALARY: FROM /HOUR TO /HOUR

O HOURS: FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O REDUCED SCHEDULE: FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O JOB TITLE: FROM TO

O SECTION: FROM TO

O LOCATION: FROM TO

☒ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: **07/06/2015**

O VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

◉ TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

O OTHER

O RETIREMENT

O EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

O TRANSFER AGENCY:

-paid in lieu through 7-24-1.
-benefits through 8-31-15

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

Tel: 373-3069
Fax: 373-5816

Cindy Gamrat 7/6/15
REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL DATE

7/6/15
LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

RECEIVED	DATE 7-6-15
ENTERED	DATE 7-6-15

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BUSINESS OFFICE
P.O. Box 30014 / Lansing, MI 48909-7514 / 517-373-6339

July 6, 2015

Keith Allard
[redacted]

Dear Keith:

I regret to inform you that, as an "at will" employee, your services will no longer be needed as of today, July 6, 2015. You will be paid in lieu of notice through July 20, 2015 and your benefits will continue through August 31, 2015.

A member of the Human Resources staff will be available to conduct an exit interview with you to answer any questions that you might have about your termination.

As an at-will employee, no grounds are necessary to terminate an employee with the House of Representatives. If prospective employers contact the Human Resources Office about your qualifications, they will be notified of your beginning and completion date and not be given any reason for your termination.

Respectfully,

Tim Bowlin, Director
Business Office

cc: Human Resources

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Keith Allard
EMPLOYEE NAME

[redacted]
SSN

House – HD-80
SECTION

Rep Gamrat

Kallard@house.mi.gov
EMAIL

1099 N
OFFICE LOCATION / PHONE

☐ NEW EMPLOYEE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

TITLE

BIRTHDATE:

STATUS O FULL-TIME /ANNUAL SALARY

O REDUCED WORK WITH BENEFIT PACKAGE /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD

O PART-TIME /HOUR HOURS PER PAY PERIOD

ANTICIPATED ENDING DATE:

☒ CHANGE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/25/15

☒ ANNUAL SALARY: FROM 54,500 6% TO 57,770 *(EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF A PAY PERIOD)*

O HOURLY SALARY FROM /HOUR TO /HOUR

O HOURS: FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O REDUCED SCHEDULE FROM /PAY PERIOD TO /PAY PERIOD

O JOB TITLE FROM TO

O SECTION: FROM TO

O LOCATION: FROM TO

☐ TERMINATION

EFFECTIVE DATE

O VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION

O TERMINATION OF AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

O OTHER

O RETIREMENT

O EXPIRATION OF APPOINTMENT *(pages only)*

O TRANSFER AGENCY

Please complete, print, sign and return two (2) copies of this form to: Human Resources, 10th Floor, South Tower, House Office Building

Tel: 373-3069
Fax: 373-5816

Cindy Gamrat 5-14-15
REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF DIRECTOR APPROVAL DATE

6/3/15
LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

LEADERSHIP APPROVAL DATE

FOR HUMAN RESOURCE USE ONLY

MJM 5-19-15
RECEIVED DATE

MJM 6-3-15
ENTERED DATE

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Allard, Keith

P.P 14 (6/21/2015-7/4/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
6/22/2015	W	0:00
6/23/2015	W	0:00
6/24/2015	W	0:00
6/25/2015	W	0:00
6/26/2015	W	0:00
6/29/2015	W	0:00
6/30/2015	W	0:00
7/1/2015	W	0:00
7/2/2015	W	0:00
7/3/2015	H	0:00

6/22/2015 W 0:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
04/2015	16:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:48
05/2015	24:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			32:48
06/2015	32:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			40:48
07/2015	40:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			48:48
08/2015	48:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			56:48
09/2015	56:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			64:48
10/2015	64:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			72:48
11/2015	72:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			80:48
12/2015	80:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			88:48
13/2015	88:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			96:48
14/2015	96:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			104:48
15/2015	104:...	0:48	0:00	-105:36	Leave Payout		0:00
	96:48	8:00	0:00	0:00			104:48

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 7/2/2015 3:22:51 PM

Timecard was submitted by Allard, Keith J on 7/2/2015 3:19:09 PM

card was approved by Gamrat, Cindy on 7/2/2015 3:22:51 PM

Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Search History | Service |

Employee History Form

Employee Name Allard, Keith Social Security Number [redacted] HRMN ID [redacted]

Date	Job Title	Section	Party	Emp.Type	Status	Benefits	Annual
[redacted]							
5/25/2015	Legislative Assistant	Gamrat, Cindy (Rep)	Republicans	Full Time	Active	Yes	$ 57,770.00
1/2/2015	Legislative Assistant	Gamrat, Cindy (Rep)	Republicans	Full Time	Active	Yes	$ 54,500.00

Time Card - Full Time Employee

Search Edit

Hill, Anne

P.P. 16 (7/19/2015-8/1/2015)

Electronic Timecard:

Date	Action	Leave
7/20/2015	W	0:00
7/21/2015	W	0:00
7/22/2015	W	0:00
7/23/2015	W	0:00
7/24/2015	W	0:00
7/27/2015	W	0:00
7/28/2015	W	0:00
7/29/2015	W	0:00
7/30/2015	W	0:00
7/31/2015	W	0:00

Leave Time:

Period	In	Earned	Used	Adjust	Reason	Description	Out
15/2015	0:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			8:00
16/2015	8:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			16:00
17/2015	16:00	8:00	0:00	0:00			24:00

7/20/2015 W 0:00

8:00 8:00 0:00 0:00 16:00

Total Leave Used: 0:00

STATUS: Update Time Card

Timecard applied on 8/6/2015 3:19:32 PM

Timecard was submitted by Hill, Anne Marie on 7/29/2015 5:14:56 PM

card was approved by Gamrat, Cindy on 8/6/2015 3:19:31 PM

☐ Projection Mode New Leave Time

Save

Revert

Cancel

Radisson

Mi House of Representatives
Attn. Mr. Tim Bowlin, CFO
PO Box 30014
Lansing MI 48909

Courser, Todd
COPY OF INVOICE
Membership No. :
A/R Number : MI HOUSE OF R
Group Code :
Company Name :

Room No. : 1023
Arrival : 01-28-15
Departure : 01-29-15
Page No. : 1 of 1
Folio No. : 308685
Conf. No. : 1652472
Cashier No. : 18
Invoice No : 103565

02-03-15 11:28:56 AM EST

Date	Text	Charges	Credits
01-28-15	Room Rate	75.00	
01-28-15	5% County Assessment	3.75	
01-28-15	2% GLCVB Assessment	1.50	
	Total	**80.25**	**0.00**
	Balance		**80.25**

Club Carlson: A faster way to a free night stay at over 1000 Carlson hotels worldwide.
Enroll and learn more at the front desk or at clubcarlson.com

Thank You For Staying With Us

I agree that my liability for this bill is not waived and agree to be held personally responsible in the event that the indicated person, company or association fails to pay for any portion or the full amount of these charges.

Guest Signature_____

Radisson Hotel Lansing
111 N. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Telephone: (517) 482-0188 Fax: (517) 487-6646
Email: rhi_lans@radisson.com

Radisson

RADISSON HOTEL LANSING

Mi House of Representatives
Attn. Mr. Tim Bowlin, CFO
PO Box 30014
Lansing MI 48909
United States

Date : 02-03-15

A/R Account Number : MI HOUSE OF REP

Amount Paid : $ _____

Date	Inv. No.	Bill No.	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
01-29-15	103565	308685	Courser, Todd	80.25		80.25
					Balance Due	80.25

Aging Summary :

Up to 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 - 120	121 and Over
80.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Radisson Hotel Lansing
111 N. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Telephone: (517) 482-0188 Fax: (517) 487-6646
Email: rhi_lans@radisson.com

Speaker Cotter offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 129.

A resolution to create a House select committee to examine the qualifications of Representative Cindy Gamrat of the Eightieth House District and Representative Todd Courser of the Eighty-second House District, State of Michigan, and determine their fitness to continue holding the high office to which they were elected.

Whereas, Article IV, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan provides in relevant part: "...Each house shall be the sole judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its members, and may, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members elected thereto and serving therein, expel a member. The reasons for such expulsion shall be entered in the journal, with the votes and names of the members voting upon the question. No member shall be expelled a second time for the same cause."; and

Whereas, Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan provides in relevant part: "All officers, legislative, executive and judicial, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of ..... according to the best of my ability."; and

Whereas, House Rule 74(4) states: "A Member shall not convert for personal, business and or/campaign use, unrelated to House business, any supplies, services, facilities, or staff provided by the State of Michigan. This includes, but is not limited to, telephones, telecopy machines, computers, postage, and copy machines."; and

Whereas, Confidence in government is a prerequisite to the functioning of a democratic society; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That there is created a House select committee to consist of six members, appointed by the Speaker of the House, four members from the House Republican Caucus and two members from the House Democratic Caucus recommended by the House Minority Leader, to examine the qualifications of Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser and determine their fitness to continue holding the high office to which they were elected. The House select committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the House select committee may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and examine the books, records, and tapes of any person, partnership, association, or corporation, public or private, involved in the matter properly before the committee; may call upon the services and personnel of any agency of the state and its political subdivisions; and may engage such assistance as it deems necessary; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the House select committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, to be paid from the appropriation to the House of Representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be served on Representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser and that they be given a reasonable opportunity to appear before the House select committee and be represented by counsel.

From: George Rathburn <georgerathburn520@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2015 at 7:36:08 AM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Subject: Todd Courser, our State Rep

Breaking Scandal!
State Rep Courser Caught behind a Lansing nightclub!

-

Christian conservative or Godless Addicted Monster!

-

Truth!!!! Courser secretly Removed from Caucus several weeks ago due to male on male paid for sex behind a prominent Lansing nightclub! Action soon coming to remove Courser!

He is a bi-sexual porn addicted sex deviant! All over Lansing since the election and that is why he was thrown out of caucus!

-

her involvement is the real reason she was thrown out! She shouldn't have ever been trusted as state rep or national committeewoman she is a tramp, a lie, and a laugh for this bi-sexual cock sucking monster!

-

This Teabagger takes his title seriously! Moaning and groaning fucking and screwing man on man man on woman and whoever he can pay! Pictures and video youtube tell the hoel story and of all of his exploits behind night clubs and hotels at some of the best and worst places in Lansing with all the grinding hot and sweaty sex and drug use – it is too much to hide anymore he is a scam!

From: Todd A. Courser [courserlaw@gmail.com]
Received: Monday, 31 Aug 2015, 7:55PM
To: TODD COURSER [todd@toddcourser.com]
Subject: My Initial Response to the House Findings -

My Initial Response to the House Report regarding alleged misconduct; and some ancillary background notes that people are asking me to comment on…

Nothing in this post negates my own responsibility or culpability for my actions – in my faith, to my family, to my constituents, and to you the public at-large, but some questions need to be asked about the players involved and the motives behind their actions. Some of you have already made up your minds and do not need any more information in the events surrounding these issues, but some of you may be asking if there is more behind all of the stories – you will have to decide if there are more questions to ask. Many of you have asked me to comment on the findings of the report, but despite assurances that I would be able to review the findings, I have not been allowed to see any of the evidence now being alluded to in the media and that will soon be given to the committee. Given I have not been able to see the evidence against me, I can't really comment on it. I can only speak from what I know from the sanitized report that was just released and what I have heard in the media myself.

So it is a little confusing to read the abridged and doctored report that has been released - So if you water this all ›wn, one thing that is striking to me, is that the report says I was apparently credible enough to "relieve these staffers of their employment," and apparently justified in letting them go, but the report says I am untrustworthy and deceitful in explaining why I let them go? So which is it? So apparently, per the report, my assessment was good enough to have them removed, but it is now their word that is trusted? There were many legitimate reasons for their removal, which this report refuses to disclose; these former employees were not asked to cover up anything; they are simply disgruntled former employees, who are "former" for very legitimate reasons.

Regarding these former staffers it is best to take the word of the current staffers who worked with these former disgruntled staffers…their statements (if they are so willing) and mine should be released to the public so the public can just decide for themselves the voracity of the accusations that are being leveled by these former staffers.

Now what you do not find in the report today -

What has not been released, nor do I expect to see released, is any of the evidence that shows the truly egregious performance of these prior staffers over a long period of time, which has been attested to by other staffers. If it were released it would paint a much different picture than the one now being presented in the abridged report. The current staffers who witnessed the work performance of these 3 former staffers would be the best guide on whether or not they were removed, as has been portrayed, due to some cover up, or was it due to their egregious work performance. These current staffers witnessed the former staffers: their lack of attendance, their failure to come to the office, their

look at putting these accusations over to the Secretary and allowing that process to commence to determine what if any fine is appropriate – right now we are wasting the people's time and resources on something that would normally end up being an issue that would be handled by the Secretary of State. In this case, even though the Speaker knew, and was meeting with the staffers secretly, there were no warnings given and now they are pushing for an expulsion? Does the level of, even the alleged misconduct rise to expulsion? Why not a fine? Or censure? To me it is time to get back to taking care of the people's business on taxes, spending, the roads, and a whole host of other areas that need addressing - if there is a violation then there are already proper channels thru the Secretary of State to handle such accusations. Does this really rise to the level of forming a committee and doing a house investigation? Or is there another purpose in doing so?

Third, what standard is the leadership using to judge my fitness to hold office? What standard of "qualification" is being employed? And is it different in my current situation than in these other incidents of men who went along with the progressive establishment? Is every member being scrutinized and held to the same standards, or are there members right now who could have the exact same charges, whatever they are, brought against them?

Fourth, does the alleged misconduct arise to the level of expulsion? Or should there be a censure? Or should the people decide in either a recall effort or in the next election? You will have to decide from the evidence put forward, that which has been neatly combed through, picking out anything that fits their agenda and disregarding all evidence to support me, whether the evidence supports a call from the leadership for expulsion or is there another penalty more appropriate. The Speaker's office employs the staffers and places them in the representative's offices. The staff works for the Speaker. The Speaker met secretly with the staffers who were secretly taping me and allowed the release of these state employees to take place. The Speaker now handpicks the evidence to be presented to the handpicked committee to make the decision if I should be expelled – I will be given little to no ability to defend myself in the committee action or to present any evidence to counter any allegations. I was never informed of any wrongdoing from the Speaker – in regards to the now alleged conversations surrounding family matters or in regards to any political conversations.

Fifth, why have I not been allowed to see what I'm accused of? The investigation has been finished. Why aren't they going to disclose the entire investigation? What are they trying to doctor up in their findings? I have not been allowed to see the evidence, so I am going from what I have been told; do "these state house tapes," of conversations about family issues on state property + political conversations on state property = expulsion? I am waiting with the public on the full findings; I can only hope that all the other reps, who are delivering their political fundraising flyers throughout the house daily (oh, this is ok because their staffers are made to do it on their own time and it's a complimentary invitation for other reps asking for campaign donations), have followed the rules that I will be accused of.

Sixth, from what I have heard through the media, the tapes give an account of hours of meetings – albeit taped during the time when I am eating my lunch; noting conversations that are of a personal family nature and some focused on political conversations. Also the staffers knew they were creating the tapes so they were tailoring the conversations and their comments to fit their final objective. Normally, one would think a rep, new to the house, would be warned by the house business office or the Speaker's office, if such a wrongdoing was taking place. But in this case, the Speaker's office, even though they were in constant secret communication with the staffers, who were actively acting in the effort to set up and tape the conversations, gave no such warning, while the staffers continued to tape and record.

The removal of these staffers was approved by both the house business office and the Speaker's office, even though the Speaker's office was constantly meeting with the staffers from as far back as the beginning of the term. No allegations of misconduct were brought up to HR in their employment files or in their exit interviews.

What we know, but still have questions about – not sure anyone will even ask these questions or care to consider these parts, but here is a short list…

7. Much has been made of the fact that the now fabled email was sent in some way using state resources – it was not. There is no way to say anything to justify sending it or making it; I will suffice it to say, I can't really explain it away in any real way, but to say looking back it was a terrible choice made in some really trying circumstances and I am surprised even at myself in those moments. You may believe that there was an extortionist who was wiretapping, or not, but until you have that sort of pressure being applied in your life with confirmations about their access to your private info, and that they are going to bring that info out in the next moments, you're not sure who it is our what they have or how they are connected, either to the leadership or to your own staff – not even knowing what info they have or don't have, you can't really say what you would do or not do. I have no words to justify my actions in those moments, but to say it was done in a really trying moment; under some difficult personal issues and with an incredible amount of personal stress, you can assign whatever motive you feel is appropriate to it – but it was and is a tremendous personal failure on my part.

To me the reason the extortion issue is important is because if this is the type of pressure that is and can be asserted in the background to require a rep to resign, then it can to a much lesser degree be applied to force a vote in a direction, or force a pledge of support, in a critical moment for anything that those who hold such power desire – if knowledge about a person or their family is known that would destroy the rep or their loved ones then it can turn into undue influence on the whole representative process. People always ask me, "Why do people turn to being progressive champions once elected?" Well, don't wonder "why" anymore, because this is why.

That night when the now infamous tape was made, the meeting was off state time, off state property, and at a location that the staffer used as a contractor for his consulting business. He had worked out of that location for several years as a political consultant both for myself and for other candidates. He had been in the office literally hundreds of times in his role as a consultant both for me and for other clients, even sleeping in the office overnight on consulting projects. He used my computers for his business. This is the location where he kept his computer equipment and also where he registered his office was for his business. He had never come to that office as a staffer employed by the state – his contention that he came that night as a state employee isn't supported by the facts from the prior 3 plus years and hundreds of stop ins as a political consultant.

8. The release of the partial report notes the use of a database called Nationbuilder – this database was set up to help administer the intake of constituent issues and is completely separate from my political database. It is a database to organize and assemble constituent issues related to the official office operation and to my knowledge is entirely separate from the political campaign database. I have personally paid the cost of the database and it has cost the taxpayers nothing for its use – the database along with a series of excel spreadsheets and other software tools were used to create an organized framework for the administration of the office.

In closing I want to again thank all of you who have continued to pray for myself and my family. I really can't thank you enough for your prayers. They have meant the world to us. God bless each of you!

Todd Courser

A confession of sorts - There has been mention of some odd parts that just don't make sense to people - me missing some of my committee meetings, wondering what was going through my mind the night of the now fabled email, and my lying down on the floor during a staff meeting. There are a few more incidents that appear odd if added into this conversation – sitting down in the hallway outside the committee hearing room and my lying down up in the corner of the gallery during a long session – they are all somewhat connected.

I have avoided sharing this even as I am working through it. It is not something someone would normally share in a political life, but it is probably time. I have a heart condition, for which I am seeing a cardiologist, it that allows me to maintain my blood pressure, even as my heart rate drops off in a moment by half or more and causes a feeling that

MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Oversight and Ethics

Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:30 a.m. Room 521 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics was called to order by Representative Ed McBroom, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives McBroom, Howrylak, Graves, Theis, Robinson, and Pagan. (6/6)**
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of May 14, 2015 as printed.

Representative Theis moved to adopt the minutes of May 14, 2015 as printed.
There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 4540 (H-2).

HB 4540 (Heise) Civil rights; public records; public body records, documents, or information disclosable under freedom of information act; exempt critical energy infrastructure and cybersecurity-related information

The committee adopted the substitute (H-2) for House Bill 4540 on Thursday, May 14, 2015.

Representative Graves offered, explained, and moved to adopt the following amendment to House Bill 4540 (H-2):

1. Amend page 2, line 6, after "**WOULD**" by striking out "**NEGATIVELY AFFECT**" and inserting "**HAVE A DEBILITATING IMPACT ON**".

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives McBroom, Howrylak, Graves, Theis, and Pagan, (5/6)
Nays: Representative Robinson. (1/6)

The amendment was adopted.

Veterans Affairs (Report Number 511-0300-14, May 2015, which is attached. Mr. Hess and Mr. Lamb gave an overview of the audit. Discussion and questions followed.

Brigadier General Michael A. Stone, Assistant Adjutant General-Installations in the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and Jefferey R. Connell, Director of Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, provided the response to the audit report and their handouts are attached. Discussion and questions followed.

Cadet Madeline West and her mother, Rachel West; Alejandro Alaviz; Shane B. Farlin, Sr., and Cameron Greer shared their experiences about their involvement with the academy.

Representative Hooker moved to excuse Representative Courser from today's committee meeting.
There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the members were excused.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Hughes moved to adjourn the meeting.**
The motion prevailed, the time being 11:59 a.m.
The Chair declared the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs adjourned.

The Chair turned the gavel over to the Presiding Chair.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Howrylak moved to adjourn the meeting.**
The motion prevailed, the time being 11:59 a.m.
The Chair declared the Committee on Oversight and Ethics adjourned.

_____
Ed McBroom, Chair
House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics

_____ _____
Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk Date approved by the committee

Aaron Van Langevelde

From: Hassan Beydoun
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Aaron Van Langevelde
Subject: Fwd: RNC decision

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
> **Date:** September 4, 2015 at 10:39:50 AM EDT
> **To:** Brock Swartzle <BSwartzle@house.mi.gov>, Hassan Beydoun <HBeydoun@house.mi.gov>, Shanda Greco <SGreco@house.mi.gov>
> **Subject: FW: RNC decision**
>
> Rep. Gamrat would like this email and a 2nd to follow to be submitted for the record.
>
> Tim
>
> **From:** Michael J. Nichols [mailto:mnichols@nicholslaw.net]
> **Sent:** Friday, September 4, 2015 10:13 AM
> **To:** Tim Bowlin <timbowlin@house.mi.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: RNC decision
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
> > **Date:** September 3, 2015 at 4:01:54 PM EDT
> > **To:** Mike Nichols <mnichols@nicholslaw.net>
> > **Subject: Fwd: RNC decision**
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Cindy Rep** <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
> > Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 1:09 AM
> > Subject: RNC decision
> > To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>
> >
> > Team,

Aaron Van Langevelde

From: Hassan Beydoun
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Aaron Van Langevelde
Subject: Fwd: RNC Campaign

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Michael J. Nichols" <mnichols@nicholslaw.net>
> **Date:** September 4, 2015 at 10:11:29 AM EDT
> **To:** "hbeydoun@house.mi.gov" <hbeydoun@house.mi.gov>
> **Subject: RNC Campaign**
>
> I forgot that my client wanted me to send this to you and Tim
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Cindy Gamrat <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
> > **Date:** September 3, 2015 at 4:02:23 PM EDT
> > **To:** Mike Nichols <mnichols@nicholslaw.net>
> > **Subject: Fwd: RNC Campaign**
> >
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Cindy Gamrat** <cindygamrat80@gmail.com>
> > Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015 at 11:53 PM
> > Subject: RNC Campaign
> > To: "team@cindygamrat.com" <team@cindygamrat.com>
> >
> > Unless I missed something I didn't see any response back from my request for assistance on the RNC race, and being that it has to be worked on off Lansing hours and we are now going into the workweek and Monday morning, and also that there is only about a month to throw it together, a lack of a response to my email and text over the last two days in itself is a response.
> >
> > So I just wanted you to know you can rest easy from having involvement in it, I have found someone who will be helping me on it.
> >
> > Thanks anyway,
> > Cindy

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE(www.legislature.mi.gov)
Printed on Thursday, September 3, 2015
Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 130 of 2015

Search Results

(12 found)
Search Criteria: Legislative Session = 2015-2016; Sequence Number = 2; Sponsor = Todd Courser; Chamber = House

Document	Type	Description
HJR Z of 2015	House Joint Resolution	Insurance; exchanges; creation of an American health benefit exchange; prohibit. Amends the state constitution by adding sec. 55 to art. IV. Last Action: 07/15/2015 - printed joint resolution filed 07/15/2015
HB 4174 of 2015	House Bill	Liquor; licenses; direct sale of beer and wine from supplier to consumer; allow. Amends sec. 203 of 1998 PA 58 (MCL 436.1203). Last Action: 02/11/2015 - printed bill filed 02/11/2015
HB 4194 of 2015	House Bill	Economic development; economic development corporations; authority to operate as a public entity; eliminate. Amends 1984 PA 270 (MCL 125.2001 - 125.2094) by adding sec. 15. Last Action: 02/17/2015 - printed bill filed 02/13/2015
HB 4252 of 2015	House Bill	Crimes; public safety; provision relating to gasoline filling stations and public automobile garages; repeal. Repeals sec. 501 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.501). Last Action: 03/03/2015 - printed bill filed 02/27/2015
HB 4317 of 2015	House Bill	Transportation; motor fuel tax; motor fuel tax; modify. Amends secs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14, 22, 40, 53, 63, 122, 151, 152, 153, 154 & 155 of 2000 PA 403 (MCL 207.1002 et seq.). TIE BAR WITH: HB 4318'15 Last Action: 03/11/2015 - printed bill filed 03/11/2015
HB 4318 of 2015	House Bill	Sales tax; collections; collection of sales tax on gasoline; eliminate. Amends secs. 2, 4, 6a & 25 of 1933 PA 167 (MCL 205.52 et seq.) & adds sec. 2c. Last Action: 03/11/2015 - printed bill filed 03/11/2015
HB 4339 of 2015	House Bill	Weapons; other; pistol entry database; eliminate. Amends secs. 2 & 2a of 1927 PA 372 (MCL 28.422 & 28.422a). TIE BAR WITH: HB 4340'15 Last Action: 03/17/2015 - printed bill filed 03/13/2015
HB 4340 of 2015	House Bill	Weapons; firearms; sentencing guidelines; update. Amends sec. 11b, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.11b). TIE BAR WITH: HB 4339'15 Last Action: 03/17/2015 - printed bill filed 03/13/2015
HB 4380 of 2015	House Bill	Elections; voting procedures; straight ticket voting; eliminate. Amends secs. 736c, 782b, 795c, 803 & 804 of 1954 PA 116 (MCL 168.736c et seq.). Last Action: 03/25/2015 - printed bill filed 03/25/2015
HB 4731 of 2015	House Bill	Family law; marriage and divorce; requirement for issuance of marriage license; eliminate. Amends title & secs. 1, 2, 3 & 4 of 1897 PA 180 (MCL 551.201 et seq.) &

58	R	Eric Leutheuser		
59	R	Aaron Miller		
60	D	Jon Hoadley		
61	R	Brandt Iden		
62	R	John Bizon		
63	R	David C. Maturen		
65	R	Brett Roberts		
71	R	Tom Barrett		
73	R	Chris Afendoulis		A fen dou lis
80	R	Cindy Gamrat		Gamrat you
82	R	Todd Courser		Core sir
84	R	Edward J. Canfield		
90	R	Daniela Garcia		
-	R	Holly Hughes		Holly Hughes
95	D	Vanessa Guerra		Vanessa Gara
98	R	Gary Glenn		
104	R	Larry C. Inman		
105	R	Triston Cole		
107	R	Lee Chatfield		

BILL NO. 4174

Introduced by: Todd A. Carter

Cindy Gamrat (80)

Courser

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4252

Introduced by: Todd C. (82)

Courser

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4317

Introduced by: Todd A. Cruser (80)

Cindy Lamrat (80)

Cruser

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4318

Introduced by: Todd A. Carter (80)

Cindy Gamrat (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4339

Introduced by: [signature] Todd (82)

Courser

Cindy Jamat (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4340

Introduced by: Todd (82)

Lourser

Cindy Gannet (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4380

Introduced by: [illegible] todd (82)

Courser

Cindy Gannet (80)

[illegible] 24

Marta Hoyt 41

[illegible] # 33

[illegible] 107

[illegible] 97

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4731

Introduced by: [signature] Todd (82)

Cindy Garnet (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4732

Courser

Introduced by: [signature] Todd (83)

Cindy Garnet (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

Cuirser

JOINT RESOLUTION Z

Introduced by: [illegible] Todd 82

Cindy Garnet (80)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE(www.legislature.mi.gov)
Printed on Thursday, September 3, 2015
Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 130 of 2015

Search Results

(16 found)
Search Criteria: Legislative Session = 2015-2016; Sequence Number = 2; Sponsor = Cindy Gamrat; Chamber = House

Document	Type	Description
HJR J of 2015	House Joint Resolution	Administrative procedure; rules; expiration; provide for expiration of rules and executive reorganizations after set time. Amends the state constitution by adding sec. 31, art. V. Last Action: 03/10/2015 - printed joint resolution filed 03/06/2015
HJR T of 2015	House Joint Resolution	Individual income tax; other; imposition of state income taxes on individuals and businesses; prohibit. Amends sec. 7, art. IX of the state constitution. Last Action: 06/18/2015 - printed joint resolution filed 06/18/2015
HB 4279 of 2015	House Bill	Health; other; protection of unborn baby; establish. Amends sec. 3 of 1846 RS 1 (MCL 8.3) & adds sec. 3x. Last Action: 03/05/2015 - printed bill filed 03/05/2015
HB 4309 of 2015	House Bill	Health; other; religious liberty and conscience protection act; enact to allow health care payers, health facilities, and health providers a right to decline to provide or pay for certain objectionable health care services. Creates new act. Last Action: 03/10/2015 - printed bill filed 03/06/2015
HB 4310 of 2015	House Bill	Elections; other; electoral votes; require to be chosen from each congressional district. Amends secs. 42 & 45 of 1954 PA 116 (MCL 168.42 & 168.45). Last Action: 03/10/2015 - printed bill filed 03/06/2015
HB 4619 of 2015	House Bill	State financing and management; purchasing; prohibition from receiving a state contract for corporations or business entities that participate in collection of electronic data and metadata of individuals; provide for. Amends sec. 261 of 1984 PA 431 (MCL 18.1261) & adds sec. 261e. Last Action: 05/20/2015 - printed bill filed 05/20/2015
HB 4728 of 2015	House Bill	Health facilities; certificate of need; requirement to obtain certificate of need; eliminate. Amends secs. 2612, 20101, 20115, 20145, 20155, 20161, 20164, 20165, 20166, 20511, 21551 & 21563 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.2612 et seq.) & repeals sec. 20143 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.20143), sec. 21420 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.21420), pt. 222 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.22201 - 333.22260), sec. 8t of 1945 PA 47 (MCL 331.8t) & sec. 47 of 1969 PA 38 (MCL 331.77). Last Action: 06/18/2015 - printed bill filed 06/18/2015
HB 4729 of 2015	House Bill	Health facilities; certificate of need; references in administrative procedures act; eliminate. Amends secs. 7, 8 & 28 of 1969 PA 306 (MCL 24.207 et seq.). TIE BAR

BILL NO. 4273

Introduced by: Indy Garnet

[signature] Todd 82!

[signature] 98

[signature] 107

[signature] 19th

[signature] 57

[signature] 97

[signature] PN2

[signature] 108

[signature] 42

[signature] 105

[signature] 23

[signature] #7

[signature] #36

[signature] 87

[signature] 189

ACJ [signature]

[signature] 47

NEJ [signature] 57

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4305

Introduced by: Cindy Garnet (80)

[illegible] Todd 82

Tom Hoehn 77

[illegible] 98

[illegible] 108

[illegible] #33

[illegible] 23

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO.

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrit (80)

Todd 82

Tom Hooker 77

[illegible] 98

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. [illegible]

Introduced by: Cindy Hammat (80)

[illegible] (82)

[illegible] 98 #

[illegible] #34

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

Yamott

Introduced by: Cindy Yamott

(82)

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

against

BILL NO.

Introduced by: Cindy Hammat (8C)

Todd 82

98

John Bizon 62

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4730

Introduced By: Cindy Hamrat (80)

Todd (82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. _____

Introduced by: Cindy Garrett 80

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO.

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrit (82)

(82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. _____

Introduced by: Cindy Yeomit (82)

(82)

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. 4775

Introduced by: Cindy Jannet (80)

(82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO.

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrick (81)

(82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. [illegible]

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrit (82)

[illegible] (82)

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

BILL NO. [illegible]

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrit (82)

(82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

JOINT RESOLUTION _____

Introduced by: Cindy Hamnat

[illegible] Todd c '82

[illegible] #36

[illegible] #107

[illegible] 59

[illegible] 98

Tom Hooker 77

[illegible] 105

[illegible] 94

[illegible] 108

[illegible] 71

Ray [illegible] 101

[illegible] #33

Jan Bu[illegible] 100

Referred to Committee on _____

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Introduced by: Cindy Hamrat (80)

Todd C (82)

Referred to Committee on

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU