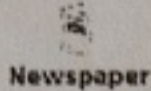


GOP's Zahm endorses Democrat for sheriff



Newspaper

The Beacon News - Aurora (IL)
August 7, 2002 | Marie-Anne Hogarth

BATAVIA -- In a move Kane County Sheriff Ken Ramsey terms "the best thing that has happened to my campaign," a well-known conservative Kane County Republican committeeman has endorsed the sheriff's Democratic opponent, Pat Perez. John Zahm of Batavia, who admits that he has gone "nose to nose" with Ramsey on more than a few occasions, wrote a letter to The Beacon News explaining that he favors Perez, a sergeant in the sheriff's office, and telling why he opposes Ramsey.

Over the years, Ramsey and Zahm often have found themselves in opposing camps, each favoring different rival candidates.

According to Zahm, Ramsey's eight years in office are defined by his complaints when

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Jon Zahm Campaign Finance Violations

In 1997, Jon Zahm Served As Campaign Manager For Richard Reinke, A Campton IL Township Trustee Candidate. "In fact, two days before the April 1 election, a splinter group from CAMPTON mailed out a highly negative flier to residents. Reinke denied involvement, but his own campaign manager, Jon Zahm, later admitted he sent out the flier 'on my own.' At a cost of \$ 995, that flier would have eaten up the bulk of Zahm's \$ 1,600 consulting fee. 'I can't control him,' Reinke explained." (Eric Krol, "Behind calm in Campton Twp., political storm rages," *The Daily Herald*, 2/23/98)

- **Reinke And Zahm Mailed A Negative Flier To Campton Voters, With Zahm Claiming It Was His Idea.** "Reinke denied involvement, but his own campaign manager, Jon Zahm, later admitted he sent out the flier 'on my own.' At a cost of \$ 995, that flier would have eaten up the bulk of Zahm's \$ 1,600 consulting fee. 'I can't control him,' Reinke explained." (Eric Krol, "Behind calm in Campton Twp., political storm rages," *The Daily Herald*, 2/23/98)

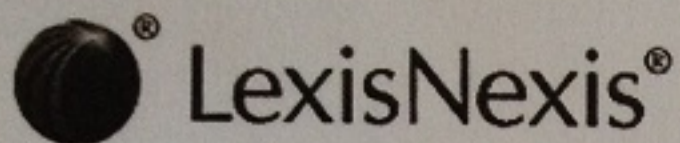
A State Board Of Elections Investigation Found That The Group That Ostensibly Sent The Negative Fliers Was Comprised Solely Of Zahm. "The most serious charge in Greben's report, however, is Reinke conspired with his campaign manager, Jon Zahm, and the owner of a well-known political flier mailing business to skirt campaign spending laws. At the February hearing, Schreiber questioned the origin of a highly negative flier put out just days before the election by an organization called Citizens for a Better Campton, which actually was made up of only Zahm." (Eric Krol, "Campton Twp. Trustee Broke Laws, State Says Election Board Recommends Criminal Prosecution," *The Daily Herald*, 4/8/98)

The Board's Investigation Found That The Cost Of Zahm's Negative Fliers Was \$995, Just Below The State Board Of Election's \$1,000 Reporting Threshold And That An Identical Number Of Fliers Purchased On The Same Day From The Same Merchant Cost \$4,000. "Greben questioned why a positive flier mailed out by Reinke cost nearly \$ 4,000 while a negative flier mailed out by a one-man citizens group made up of Zahm cost \$ 995 - \$ 5 under the state limit to report campaign expenditures. The fliers were the same weight and were paid for on the same day to the same company. Beyond that, Zahm was paid only \$ 1,600 for his campaign work, making it unlikely he would spend more than half of that on a flier, the report stated. (Eric Krol, "Board finds against Campton trustee," *The Daily Herald*, 6/16/98)

- **"Greben Said That The Evidence, While Circumstantial, Showed That Reinke, Zahm, And Roger Stanley, The Man Who Sold The Fliers, Conspired To Skirt Election Law."** (Eric Krol, "Board finds against Campton trustee," *The Daily Herald*, 6/16/98)

The State Board Of Elections Placed Reinke On Probation For One Year And Referred The Case To Kane County Prosecutors For Criminal Investigation. "The State Board of Elections on Monday decided to turn over to prosecutors complaints that a Campton

Township trustee intentionally violated campaign finance laws in his bid for office. The elections board also put Campton Trustee Richard Reinke on probation for one year. The moves against Reinke, which came after a sometimes heated two-hour debate, are the latest chapter in the aftermath of the storied April 1, 1997, election in Campton." (Eric Krol, "Board finds against Campton trustee," *The Daily Herald*, 6/16/98)



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Chicago Daily Herald

April 08, 1998, Wednesday, Fox Valley, Tricities

SECTION: News; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 584 words

HEADLINE: Campton Twp. trustee broke laws, state says Election board recommends criminal prosecution

BYLINE: Eric Krol Daily Herald Staff Writer

BODY: A state board of elections hearing officer found a Campton Township trustee purposefully skirted campaign finance laws as part of his bid for office last spring.

The officer's report blasts Campton Township Trustee Richard Reinke for failing to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures on time and accuses him of filing a false report when he finally did so.

The hearing officer, Mark Greben, recommends the state elections board turn over the case to the Kane County State's Attorney or Illinois Attorney General for criminal prosecution.

Beyond that it remains unclear what, if any, other penalties the board might levy against Reinke. Under state election law, the board can issue a fine of up to \$ 1,000.

The report, which the elections board will discuss Monday in Springfield, comes after a late February public hearing into a complaint filed against Reinke by Edward Schreiber, a candidate he defeated in the trustee race April 1, 1997.

Among other things, Schreiber told election officials Reinke failed to file campaign finance disclosure reports on time and didn't disclose all of his donations.

Greben's recommendation to the election board substantiates virtually all of Schreiber's complaint.

Greben said the evidence shows Reinke purposefully ignored a deadline to file a statement of organization for his political action committee. Reinke filed the document with the state July 7, well past an April deadline.

The report also took Reinke to task for failing to meet a state requirement to report within two days contributions of \$ 500 or more made in the closing weeks of the campaign.

The most serious charge in Greben's report, however, is Reinke conspired with his campaign manager, Jon Zahm, and the owner of a well-known political flier mailing business to skirt campaign spending laws.

At the February hearing, Schreiber questioned the origin of a highly negative flier put out just days before the election by an organization called Citizens for a Better Campton, which actually was made up of only Zahm.

Schreiber provided records showing Zahm's flier was paid for on the same day to the same company for the same number of fliers as a separate flier Reinke sent out earlier in the campaign. While Reinke's flier cost about \$ 4,000, Zahm's flier cost just \$ 995 - \$ 5 below the amount that would have required Zahm to report it to the state.

Greben agreed with Schreiber's argument that Zahm, Reinke and the owner of the flier-mailing business, Roger Stanley, "embarked on a path of deception" to violate campaign disclosure law.

Reinke was out of town, and his attorney declined comment, saying he had yet to discuss the report with Reinke.

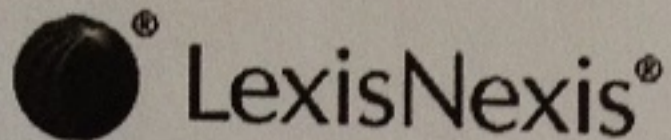
Zahm denied any conspiracy took place, reiterating his claim that Reinke had nothing to do with the negative flier. Zahm also unloaded a barrage of criticism on Greben, calling his report rife with "spelling errors and inaccuracies."

"I would have to call the capability and professionalism of this hearing officer into question," Zahm said.

Schreiber called the report an "unequivocal indictment" of the campaign tactics Reinke and Zahm used.

"I think the evidence has clearly shown this was not a case of sour grapes," Schreiber said. "I've said from the beginning that this case is about honesty, openness and following election law."

Greben also recommended to the elections board that it order an investigation into Zahm and Stanley. Stanley could not be reached for comment.



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Chicago Daily Herald

March 27, 1999, Saturday, F3

SECTION: News; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 328 words

HEADLINE: Campton Twp. trustee in the clear County will not pursue campaign finance allegations

BYLINE: Eric Krol Daily Herald Staff Writer

BODY: Kane County prosecutors said Friday they will not file charges against a Campton Township trustee and his campaign manager over allegations they conspired to skirt state campaign finance laws.

A spokeswoman for State's Attorney David Akemann said a probe into the activities of Campton Trustee Richard Reinke and campaign consultant Jon Zahm of Batavia did not unearth enough evidence to prove criminal charges.

"We reviewed the entire matter, conducted our own investigation, and we cannot prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt," spokeswoman Robin Roe said.

The announcement comes four months after prosecutors initially said they would not file charges and then reopened the case a day later after receiving new information.

The State Board of Elections referred Reinke's and Zahm's case to prosecutors last summer after endorsing a scathing report about the duo's involvement in the April 1997 Campton election.

The state report found Reinke and Zahm conspired to hide the cost of a negative campaign flier that went out just days before the election. A positive flier sent out by Reinke cost nearly \$ 4,000, while the similarly styled negative flier was reported to cost \$ 995 - \$ 5 less than the state threshold to report campaign expenditures.

The state board also put Reinke's campaign committee on one year probation, which Reinke is appealing.

Ed Schreiber, a losing Campton trustee candidate who filed the election complaint, said he was disappointed but not surprised by prosecutors' decision not to file charges. Schreiber said prosecutors gave a thorough examination to evidence he presented to them but reached a different conclusion than he did.

Neither Reinke nor Zahm could be reached for comment.

Zahm is well-known in political circles as a campaign consultant who helped lead a South Elgin slate to victory in 1997 and aided state Rep. Tim Schmitz in emerging from a tough, four-way primary fight a year ago.

LOAD-DATE: March 29, 1999