In The Supreme Court Of Ohio

State ex rel. Summit County Republican Party Executive Committee, Relator,

vs.

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, Respondent.

: Case No. 08-0478
: Original Action in Mandamus

RESPONDENT'S EVIDENCE – VOLUME V
Deposition Of Jennifer Brunner - Transcript Exhibits A through C

MARC DANN (0039425)
Ohio Attorney General

Richard N. Coglianese (0066830)
rcogliane@ag.state.oh.us
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30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-2872
614-728-7592 fax

Attorneys for Respondent
Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner

FILED
MAR 14 2009
CLERK OF COURT
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO
Certificate of Service

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing Respondent's Evidence, Vol. V, was served upon the following, on this 14th day of March 2008, by US Mail, postage prepaid:

Timothy J. Grendell  
Grendell & Simon Co., LPA  
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147  
440-746-9604 (Fax)

Attorney for Relator

[Signature]

Richard N. Coglianese
Dear Marijean:

Thank you for checking your records for a copy of the Summit County Republican Party's Constitution and/or By-laws for either the Central or Executive Committees. Although I understand a copy is not currently on file in your records, if one should be found or if a new copy is submitted to the Summit County Board of Elections, please let me know right away.

Sincerely,

David M. Farrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
and Director of Elections
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State
180 E. Broad Street - 15th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 995-5221 (w)
(614) 485-7060 (fax)
Gilbert, Bobbie

From: Farrell, David
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2008 4:30 PM
To: Speelman, Eleanor
Subject: FW: Sigel Letter and Affidavit

Eleanor:

Please see the e-mail below regarding Summit County.

David

David M. Farrell
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
and Director of Elections
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State
180 E. Broad Street - 15th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 995-5221 (w)
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-----Original Message-----

From: Yashniklaw@aol.com [mailto:Yashniklaw@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2008 4:23 PM
To: Farrell, David
Cc: SLYESQ@aol.com
Subject: Sigel Letter and Affidavit

I am an attorney and I am working with Mr. Scott Sigel. Attached is a letter and affidavit (that was previously e-mailed to you) from Mr. Scott Sigel, a member of the Summit County Executive Committee, concerning the recent recommendation for appointment of a member to the Summit Board of Elections.

If you have any questions, please feel free the contact me or Mr. Sigel.

We respectfully request that your forward this information to the Secretary of State for her urgent attention.

Steven L. Yashnik
3250 W. Market St., Suite 14
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333
(330) 867-1500
SLYESQ@aol.com

Scott Sigel
1007 Buinker Drive
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333
(330) 414-7729
Scott_Sigel@yahoo.com

Regards.
Scott W. Sigel  
180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3726

VIA E-MAIL  
February 28, 2008

Honorable Jennifer Brunner  
Ohio Secretary of State  
180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3726

Dear Secretary Brunner:

I am deeply concerned about the pending issue of the replacement for Alex Arshinkoff as member of the Summit County Board of Elections. Since you will be shortly deciding whom you will appoint to this position, I feel obligated to contact you immediately concerning irregularities in the manner in which the most recent nomination from the Summit County Republican Party was approved.

Attached is my sworn affidavit with the following exhibits:

Exhibit A - Roster of Executive Committee for roll call and vote purposes (6 pages).
Exhibit B - Summit County Republican Executive Committee February 16, 2008 meeting agenda (10 pages)

I have served two terms on the Summit County Republican Executive Committee. Most recently, I was appointed following the reorganization of the party in 2006. Prior to that, I served a term in the mid-1990s. During this period I have not taken the responsibilities of the position lightly; nor do I see my role as a rubber stamp to ratify the decisions of any particular persons. Despite certain events, I had approached this pending nomination with an openness.

Following your recent decision not to reappoint Alex Arshinkoff, I received notice that a Summit County Republican Executive Committee meeting to address any reply to your decision meeting was to be held on February 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. from. Later I was advised that the meeting was at Independence.

I attended the meeting and brought a copy of the Executive Committee minutes to the meeting of the Board of Elections. This list contained the names of 17 members. When I at the meeting I requested a copy of the minutes of the June 2008 meetings of the county party.
provided documentation which contained a list of 120 individuals on the Executive Committee. Lastly, on the night of the meeting, I asked the executive director of the party for the most recent list of members. That list contained 112 names.

The meeting began with a roll call of members' names. As they were called, I marked them as present. At the conclusion, Mr. Arshinkoff hurriedly declared a quorum present. However, by my count one did not exist, using any of the set of base figures as to total members. Fifty-four members were present prior to the nomination of Mr. Daley. At that point, I rose and addressed a point of order to Mr. Arshinkoff, pointing out the lack of a quorum to legally transact business. He dismissed my objections, stating "...the law was changed several years ago and we no longer need a majority of [total] members present..." Rather than argue the point further, I asked that this be reflected in the record. I subsequently voted no on the Daley nomination based on this flagrant irregularity.

With this lack of quorum and the deliberate disregard to the requirements of parliamentary procedure and the law, I feel the nomination approved that night by the Summit County Republican Party is null and void. I view their actions as undermining the legitimacy of the electoral process, a violation of my rights as a committee member, and as having made a mockery of the process in which you fulfill your duty of choosing a personal representative to serve on the Board of Elections.

This incident along with numerous others, I think, shows a disregard for the rule of law, lack of respect for fundamental fairness, and a pattern of abuse of power by the leadership of the party both within its operation and as reflected on the Board of Elections. Even more telling, as this after this sham was perpetrated, Mr. Arshinkoff had the audacity to denounce you as a Soviet style judge. I found the comments to be both unfounded and offensive.

In order to restore confidence in this process, I humbly request that you disregard this tainted and legally invalid nomination. While I am not versed in the law, I feel that as Ohio's chief elections officer it must be within your power to appoint someone unilaterally who has the respect, credibility, and independence to carry out their duties in a fair, impartial and objective manner. Also key to obtaining this goal is the need for the reestablishment in this county of civility, fairness, and respect for not only the staff of the Board of Elections but also for yourself and the Office of Secretary of State by all members of this Board regardless of any personal field political biases.

I appreciate your review of this letter and would be more than willing to discuss any issue in the course of this process with you or your staff.

Respectfully yours,

Scott W. Sigel
AFFIDAVIT

State of Ohio

County of Summit

I, Scott Siegel, being over eighteen years of age and having
first been duly sworn and duly warned as to the penalty for perjury,
accordance to law, hereby depose and say, upon personal knowledge,
the following:

1. I am a member of the Summit County Republican Executive
   Committee (Executive Committee).

2. I attended the February 26, 2008 meeting (Meeting) of the
   Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

3. An item on the agenda for said Meeting concerned the
   consideration of Brian K. Daley to be recommended for
   appointment as a member of the Summit County Board of
   Elections.

4. I brought a list of Executive Committee members with me to
   the Meeting that was on file with the Summit County Board of
   Elections containing the names of 117 individuals.

5. On the night of the Meeting, I received from the Summit
   County Republican Party executive director a list of 117
   names, in response to my request for the actual record list of
   members of the Executive Committee.

6. After the Meeting was called to order, each roll of
   attendance of members, containing the roll names on the
   list provided to me by the executive director, was read.

7. As the roll of names was called, it the members were
   present and in attendance at the Meeting, I marked the
   check mark in the list of the names on the roll of
   names of the members of Executive Committee.

8. A true and correct copy of the list of Executive Committee
   members as I received it on February 26, 2008 is attached.

 shinia w. Sìges, Secretary of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

Sworn to before me on February 26, 2008.

Scott Siegel, Secretary of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

Sworn to before me on February 26, 2008.
10. Prior to any further consideration of Brian K. Daley's appointment, I rose and addressed a point of order with the chairman, pointing out the lack of a quorum to legally transact business and continue to proceed with the meeting agenda.

11. At that time, I asked that my objection to moving forward without a proper quorum be reflected in the record of the Meeting.

12. Subsequently, a motion was made to recommend Brian K. Daley for appointment as a member of the Summit County Board of Elections.

13. I voted "no" on the Daley recommendation. The Daley recommendation was supported by only 53 votes.

14. The specific motion concerning the Daley appointment, referenced in part, "that the Chairman and Secretary of said Executive Committee, be and they are hereby authorized and instructed to send to the Secretary of State a certification of the action taken by said Executive Committee; . . . and that such resolution was passed at a meeting of said Executive Committee by a majority vote of members thereof." An authentic copy of the Meeting agenda, labeled Exhibit B, is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

15. The resolution recommending the appointment of Brian K. Daley as a member of the Summit County Board of Elections was passed by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, as stated in the record of the resolution.

16.Considering the facts that I am a member of the Executive Committee and that the Daley recommendation was presented therefor, I state . . .

17. As a member of the Executive Committee, I hereby certify that I requested a certified copy of the Summit County regulations, by-laws, and resolutions. I have been made aware thereof.
14. I am aware that no by-laws have been currently filed with the Secretary of State as prescribed by law.

15. Minutes from a June, 2006 Central Committee organizational meeting indicate that a series of resolutions were adopted. None of said resolutions make changes with regard to the number of people required to constitute a quorum. References in said Central Committee meeting minutes indicate that the Summit County Republican Party committees follow Robert's Rules of Order.

FURTHER APPENDIX SAVETH SAUGHT.

[Signature]
Scott Sigel

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 25th day of February, 2008, in the County of Summit, State of Ohio.

[Signature]
RENAE L. YASHINK, Notary Public

RENAE L. YASHINK, Notary Public
Residence: Summit County
State With Jurisdiction Of: Ohio
My Commission Expires: 2/15/2013
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2006 Executive Committee

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<td>Ann</td>
<td>Young</td>
<td>(330) 699-8990</td>
<td>(330) 414-1690</td>
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AGENDA

ARSHINKOFF  Asks members to stand for the Invocation by Margaret Ann Brosnan and to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance by John Widowfield.

Brosnan  Invocation

Widowfield  Leads the Pledge of Allegiance

ARSHINKOFF  Thanks Margaret Ann Brosnan and John Widowfield and asks members to be seated for dinner.
ARSHINKOFF calls the meeting to order. Asks Jack Morrison, Jr., to read the roll call.

MORRISON Reads the roll call.

ARSHINKOFF Asks Jack Morrison, Jr. to read the meeting call.

MORRISON Reads the meeting call.

ARSHINKOFF Entertains a motion that the order of business and agenda presented to the Committee be the official agenda of this evening's meeting.

So moved

Seconds the motion

ARSHINKOFF *It has been moved and seconded that the order of business and agenda presented to the Committee be the official agenda of this evening's meeting*
All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying "aye". Those opposed, "nay". The "ayes" have it, motion carried.

ARSHINKOFF If any member would like to have the minutes of the previous meeting read, please so indicate. If not, is there a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes?

_____________
So moved

_____________
Second

ARSHINKOFF It has been moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with. All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying "aye". Those opposed, "nay". The "ayes" have it, motion carried.

ARSHINKOFF Calls on Kim Arnold, Treasurer of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee to read the Treasurer's report.
The last Treasurer’s report was on January 29, 2008. At that time, the balance was $36,363.19.

Contributions received as of February 26, 2008 are $50,010.00.

Expenditures as of February 26, 2008 are $43,225.93.


Are there any questions? If not, I will entertain a motion that we accept the Treasurer’s report.

So moved

Second
It has been moved and seconded that we accept the Treasurer's report. All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying "aye". Those opposed "nay." The "ayes" have it, motion carries.

ARSHINKOFF

Gives Chairman's report.

A. Review of Lincoln Day Dinner
B. Review of the 2008 Republican Primary campaign
C. Review of Secretary of State's Correspondance

ARSHINKOFF

Refers to the meeting call.

Recognizes ____________ for the purpose of offering a motion
relating to the Summit County Board of Elections.

I move that Brian K. Daley, whose residence is 132 South Main Street, Hudson OH 44236, who is an elector qualified to perform the duties of Republican Member of the Summit County Board of Elections, be recommended by this Committee for appointment as a Member of the Summit County Board of Elections for the term commencing March 1, 2008 and ending February 29, 2012. And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and Secretary of said Executive Committee, be and they are hereby authorized and instructed to send to the Secretary of State a certification of the action
taken by said Executive Committee, and said Brian K. Daley is an elector qualified and competent to perform the duties of such office, and that this resolution was passed at a meeting of said Executive Committee by a majority vote of members thereof.

Seconds the motion

ARSHINKOFF

It has been moved and seconded that Brian K. Daley, whose residence is 132 South Main Street, Hudson OH 44236, who is an elector, qualified to perform the duties of Republican Member of the Summit County Board of Elections, be recommended by this Committee for appointment as a Member of the
Summit County Board of Elections for the term commencing March 1, 2008 and ending February 29, 2012 and that the Chairman and Secretary of said Executive Committee, be and they are hereby authorized and instructed to send to the Secretary of State a certification of the action taken by said Executive Committee; and said Brian K. Daley is an elector qualified and competent to perform the duties of such office, and that this resolution was passed at a meeting of said Executive Committee by a majority vote of members thereof.

All those in favor of the motion please signify by saying "aye".
Those opposed "nay." The "ayes" have it, motion carried.

ARSHINKOFF

Thanks everyone for attending the meeting. Asks if there is any other business to come before the committee.

Entertains a motion to adjourn.

So moved

Second

ARSHINKOFF

All those in favor, please signify by
saying “aye.” All those opposed “nay.”

MEETING ADJOURNED AT ___________________________.
Secretary Brunner,

I am writing to you because I believe Alex Arshinkoff is incompetent to serve as Board Member on the Summit County Board of Elections. I believe Mr. Arshinkoff has abused his position of trust. Mr. Arshinkoff has developed a pattern of intimidation from common pleas judges to clerks at the Summit County Board of Elections. There are many issues that I am going to bring to your attention but I will divide it between the Board of Elections and other issues of moral turpitude.

**Board Of Elections**

Issue # 1 - Recently the Summit County Republican Party was referred to the Ohio Elections Commission for failure to file an accurate and auditable report. This was the dual recommendation of the Democrat, Rose Debord and the Republican, Scott Sigel. Since the meeting when Scott recommended that Summit GOP be referred, Scott has been moved out of the campaign finance area and put in ballot layout. The move was made because he was told by Director Bryan Williams that he “was no longer a good republican.” Due to the fact that it is so close to the election that moving inexperienced people into new very important positions has caused a undue burden on the BOE staff as they try to prepare for an election. Alex Arshinkoff ordered the move. (see exhibits #1, #2 & #3)

Issue # 2 - This the second time a Republican Campaign finance person has been summarily removed by Alex Arshinkoff for “doing their job”. Lynn Hamilton was not rehired after she refused to alter her story regarding Mr. Arshinkoff’s order to have her tell the State Auditor what reports to look at. (see exhibits #4 & #5)

Issue # 3 – Heather Nagel, Republican board employee, quit recently (9/06/07) because she was required to circulate petitions and sell tickets for Alex Arshinkoff or lose her job. (see exhibits # 6 & # 7)

Issue # 4 – Vondelise Jones and Bonnie Henderson, Republican part time board employees, filed Civil Rights Commission complaints (1-17-08) against Mr. Arshinkoff and Mr. Williams. (see exhibits # 8, # 9 & # 10)

Issue # 5 - Contrary to the SOS ethics policy, Mr. Arshinkoff had two republican board employees making calls from the board during work hours to promote his election to the chairmanship of the Summit County Republican party.

Issue # 6 – The arrogance of Mr. Arshinkoff is further exemplified by the fact that he requires a Republican board employee to stand outside regardless of the weather to protect his parking space on board meeting days. This is done despite the fact that there are always more than enough spaces. Mr. Arshinkoff has the employee hold an umbrella for him when it is raining. In addition, Mr. Arshinkoff prohibits the republican board employees from talking or socializing with any democrats. In fact, he even prohibited them since 2005 from participating in the annual Christmas luncheon at the board because the democrats would be there.
Issue # 7 - Statement of Donald Longshore current Republican employee of the board. 
(see exhibit # 11)

Issue # 8 - On January 10th, 2008 there was a board meeting. Mr. Arshinkoff went into a rage and falsely accused fellow board member Wayne Jones of being behind a conspiracy to oust him as party chairman. This attack was started because Mr. Jones stated in the board meeting that all nominating petitions needed to be treated the same. Mr. Arshinkoff admitted that the petitions of pc’s the New Republican Party were scrutinized at a much higher level than those petitions filed by the current leadership of the Summit GOP where Mr. Arshinkoff is the party chairman. 
(see exhibit # 12 ----a 9-minute tape of meeting)

Alex Arshinkoff does not stop with his bully tactics at the Summit County Board of Elections. Below are more examples of intimidation and issues of moral turpitude.

OTHER ISSUES O/S the Board of Elections

Issue # 1 - Intimidation of three Common Pleas Judges (2 Republicans and 1 Democrat). 
(see exhibits # 13 , #14 and #15-- affidavits from the Judges and exhibit # 16 - ABJ editorial)

Issue # 2 - Threats and intimidation of a member of Hudson City Council 
(see exhibit # 17 ---two channel 23 news stories)

Issue # 3 - Summit County Engineer quits because of Arshinkoff (see exhibits #18 & # 19)

Issue # 4 - Arshinkoff attacks the Summit County United Way and the Akron Zoo 
(see exhibits #20 and #21)

Issue # 5 - Police Report of Arshinkoff picking up a college student (see exhibit #22)

Issue # 6 - Scene Magazine article “Godfather in the closet” (see exhibit #23)

Issue # 7 - Plain Dealer article “Summit County’s Godfather of GOP” (see exhibit #24)

These are not isolated incidents. This is a pattern of behavior by an individual who doesn’t care about the community. He lives by intimidation and retaliation. You are welcome to call any of these individuals including the Judges to verify their statements.

I ask that you send a strong message to all that serve the public that this type of behavior cannot be tolerated. Please deny Alex Arshinkoff’s appointment to the Summit County Board of Elections. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mistakes fill GOP finance reports

Summit Republican books called 'impossible to audit'

By Stephanie Warsmith
Beacon Journal staff writer

Published on Thursday, Dec 27, 2007

With a battle raging for control of the Summit County Republican Party, the party's finances came under increasing scrutiny Wednesday with books that were said to be "impossible to audit."

Supplemental filings reviewed by the county Board of Elections were missing required information, staff members said during a Wednesday board meeting.

"Until these items are resolved, they will not be in compliance," said Scott Sigel, the board's Republican administrative assistant for campaign finance.

Rose DeBord, Sigel's Democratic counterpart with the board, termed the party's finance reports "impossible to audit."

The supplemental information the party provided was supposed to clear up questions that resulted in the board filing a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission this month.

Instead, Sigel and DeBord gave board members a packet Wednesday with pages of errors and questions on the party's finance reports. These included missing receipts, incorrect dollar amounts, omitted addresses and discrepancies between different documents.

Questions on the party's finances come as state Sen. Kevin Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, mounts a campaign to unseat Alex Arshinkoff as chairman of the county Republican Party.

Arshinkoff — who is also a member of the election board — has basically remained silent during discussions of the party's finances at board meetings.

Coughlin, meanwhile, is trying to recruit enough candidates for the party's central committee in the March primary to install a new, as-yet-unnamed chairman, and has been critical of the way the party's finances have been handled.

This backdrop has made the probe into the party's filings particularly ugly, with Arshinkoff supporters claiming Sigel is in league with Coughlin. (Sigel denies this and says he's just doing his job.)

At the board's Dec. 7 meeting, Arshinkoff abstained from voting on the election commission complaint against the party.

Filings defended

Jack Morrison Jr., the other Republican member of the election board — who is also secretary of the party's executive committee, Arshinkoff's lawyer, and a member of the party's finance committee — came to the defense of the filings during the finance discussions. But, he sided with the two Democratic board members in the vote on the election commission referral.

That complaint claims the party failed, after being given a final, 21-day notice, to file the required campaign finance documentation for several elections in 2005 and 2006. Political parties, like candidates, are required under state law to file campaign finance reports.

The commission likely will address the complaint at its March meeting, said Philip Richter, executive director of the election commission.

Richter said it is common for the election commission to decide complaints involving candidates failing to file — or submitting incomplete or late — campaign finance reports. He said referrals against county political parties are made less often "but it does happen."

The commission could find there is no violation, Richter said. If a violation is found, the commission could impose a fine, refer the matter for prosecution — a step seldom taken — or decide no action is warranted, he said.

The election board will forward the additional — and apparently incomplete — campaign finance information provided by the party to the election commission. A letter also will be sent to the party, asking that the missing documentation be submitted to the board.

Questions still remain about whether the party properly reported in its finance reports loans from Arshinkoff to the party and if it was proper for the party to pay Arshinkoff interest on the loans.

Nothing illegal

Assistant Summit County Prosecutor John Manley, who reviews legal matters for the board, told board members Wednesday there was nothing
illegal about the interest Arshinkoff received. But Manley said he wants to look over documents pertaining to the loans and report back to the board at its next meeting on Jan. 8.

Vorison stressed after the meeting that Manley found "no wrongdoing" on the party's part pertaining to the loans.

In terms of the other information missing from the party's campaign finance reports, he called it "administrative" and said the party will "find the receipts and produce them."

'I can assure that the (party's) central committee will produce the copies for whatever is needed here," he said.

Stephanie Warsmith can be reached at 330-996-3705 or swarsmith@thebeaconjournal.com.

Find this article at:

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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**Something's amiss with the Summit Republican Party's finances**

*Wed, Jan 23, 2008 at 05:44:19 AM*

When Scott Sigel made his presentation before the Summit County Board of Elections, he thought he was just doing his job.

For five years, Sigel, a Republican-appointed board employee, had been in charge of filing and auditing campaign finance reports. But in December, he found discrepancies with his own party's finances.

He told the Board that the Summit County GOP had failed to submit receipts for numerous expenditures. “The numbers just didn’t add up,” he says. “The records were inauditable.”

But that was the least of his concerns...

Sigel also said that Republican Chairman Alex Arshinkoff claimed that he personally loaned the party $75,000, and was now being repaid with interest. “Usually people don’t charge interest on a loan like that,” Sigel says. “But in this instance, [Arshinkoff] was claiming he wanted interest. It sent up a red flag.”

Even more alarming: The loan had supposedly been deposited into a bank account that hadn’t been previously reported by the party. “We had no proof that the loan was even made,” Sigel says.

But when he suggested the party resubmit its filings, Arshinkoff threw a fit. He accused Sigel of being on a personal and political crusade against him. “I was just doing my job,” Sigel says. “I always thought my role was to be impartial and fair. Sure, I’m a political appointee, but while doing my job, there are no politics involved.”

Arshinkoff, a man known for his vendettas ["The Godfather in the Closet," June 11, 2003], wasn’t seeing it that way. He had Sigel reassigned to the ballot layout department last week. “I have no training in this type of work,” Sigel says. “I don’t really think that’s in the public’s best interest. It’s less than 60 days before a major presidential primary.”

Perhaps more alarming, Arshinkoff replaced him with Gary Hagen, who has no training auditing campaign finance records. “My view is that this is purely political retaliation,” Sigel says. You could also call it a cover-up.

Though Sigel says he’s always been an Arshinkoff supporter, he’s now joining a Republican insurrection to oust the chairman. “Most of the people in the party have been afraid of speaking out against Alex,” says Kevin Coughlin, who’s leading the rebellion. “They are afraid of his revenge. I don’t give a shit. I decided I’ve had enough of this nonsense.”

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**Category: News**
January 22, 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing you to relay information concerning my experiences at the Summit County Board of Elections. I have been an employee since September, 2002.

The Summit County Board of Elections, I believe, is the most negative, back-biting, unprofessional, juvenile, and hypocritical atmosphere I have ever worked in my seventeen-year work career. The prime management tool is to threaten an employee at every instance that they will lose their job if they do not carry out the whims of the Republican management.

The Republican administration of the Board, led by Alex Arshinkoff, sets the tone for the office. Some of the issues that I want to bring to light include the following:

I was transferred as retaliation for carrying out my duties by Director Williams for presenting to the Board damaging information about the Summit County Republican Party's finance reports. Also, I allege that this transfer was because I testified on behalf of a fellow employee at an Unemployment Compensation hearing, divulging negative information about Board activities and the Republican Party operation, under oath. I also am running against Mr. Williams for Republican State Committeeman in March, 2008.

On more than one occasion I was required to clock out at lunch to circulate petitions. I was forced to take additional time in order to take a lunch period during those instances. I felt if I did not do this my job would have been jeopardized.

Alex Arshinkoff, in December 2005, called a special meeting at Republican HQ where he berated the staff and ordered them not to socialize or befriend any Democrat at the Summit County BOE. He had threatened to fire one employee at the Winter Conference that year, who happened to drive down with a Democratic co-worker. Republican staff had also been cautioned not visit the Bricco restaurant in downtown Akron—this restaurant is supposedly partially owned by Democratic Board member Wayne Jones.
I have been required to attend numerous meetings at the Summit County Republican HQ. Republican staff members including Steve Kotsatos, Gary Hagen, Peggy Steen, Maria Kotsatos, and Amanda Hagen, and maybe once me, have gone around on county time to inform Republican staff to attend these meetings. Often, we were informed that Alex Arshinkoff had ordered us to do so.

I have witnessed Maria Kotsatos and Patrice Kormushoff in Alex Arshinkoff’s board office making calls for recruiting PCs for the Arshinkoff reelection in December 2007 and January 2008. I asked their Democratic counterparts a couple of times where they were. They indicated in the Board office calling people to recruit for PC. Also, after there was public criticism of this, these ladies returned to their posts and continued to make calls at their respective desks.

I am also aware of certain instances where Maria Kotsatos fired booth workers who had expressed criticism of Alex Arshinkoff. This is unfortunate since we suffer an acute lack of Republican workers.

In the summer of 2006, I witnessed workers being told they could not work overtime hours while others employees could because certain Republican staff had not reached their quota of 1000 signatures for two initiative petitions being circulated by the party.

Also in December 2005/January 2006 I recruited and circulated two petitions for PC in northern Summit County. One was for John Bolek, the other for Mike King. After completing their petitions, I was told they were unacceptable candidates. I was forced to find replacements and to circulate their petitions also. I am unaware as to what happened to these petitions. I am aware that the original gentlemen did not appear on the ballot.

I am also aware of the tactic used by Mr. Arshinkoff to harass and intimidate employees who are out of favor. He has repeatedly transferred employees from one position to another as a means to drive them out or as a means to ensure that they failed. Persons that are transferred never received any training upon being moved. Also, many times individuals with no experience or background in the position replaced someone with more seniority or expertise.

I attended two meetings in the summer of 2006 at Republican HQ. At one meeting, Maria Kotsatos indicated that if we didn’t meet our quota we would be fired. She later tried to backtrack by saying she was merely joking. At another meeting, Pat Boyle, Heather Nagel, and Don Longshore were denounced by Bryan Williams as being lazy before fellow Republican staff members, since they were not meeting their signature goals for the petition drive that year. We were reminded that the Board members could use any criteria they wanted to determine who was rehired every two years.

In October 2007, I was called in Director William’s office and told by Alex Arshinkoff not to associate with “that dog woman” [Heather Nagel]. He did so in front of other staff. I was embarrassed and found it very unprofessional.
Later in October 2007, I again was berated by Alex Arshinkoff for questioning the right of Director Bryan Williams to rummage through our financial report cabinets after hours. Mr. Williams had left two cabinets unlocked. I had not initiated the complaint but agreed with it, since up to that point only my Democratic co-worker and I had access to the reports. He also tried to intimate that I had not been doing my job.

Lastly, I met the Summit County Republican Party executive director on December 31, 2007 in my office to discuss problems with the Republican Party’s finance reports. At the conclusion of that meeting, Mrs. McMillen indicated that I should work to placate Mr. Arshinkoff and that if I “played ball”, I might keep my job. I was incensed.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss these items.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Scott W. Sigel
On Tuesday, October 7, 2003, Edna transferred a call to me. I spoke with John O’Nan, Chief of Investigations for the State of Ohio. Mr. O’Nan told me that he was doing an investigation of Orians House, and that he and Dan Warner, Criminal Analyst, would like to look at Campaign Finance Reports and wanting copies. They wanted to see the files for the judges, council and maybe Mayor Plusquellic, and anyone else that may be helpful to this investigation. He told me that they would be arriving between 9:00am and 9:30am on Wednesday, October 8, 2003.

I called Republican Headquarters and spoke with Kim Arnold and told her about the investigators coming and asked her if there were any committees Mr. Arshinoff would like the people to look at. She told me she would speak to Alex. Later that afternoon, Mr. Arshinkoff was at the Board and I still hadn’t heard from Kim Arnold, so I asked Steven if he knew if Alex had any committees he wanted the investigators to look at. He went into Edna’s office and later came out with some names on a post-it note. He went over the names and years with me and told me to write it up so it would be more legible.

On Wednesday morning, October 8, 2003, I took the list that Steven gave me and typed the following heading:

“Chairman Arshinoff has requested that your office look at the following campaign finance reports:”

It has always been Board Policy that anytime anyone requests copies or looks at reports we are to write it up in our book. The reason I put the heading on the list was because I believed the list was per Alex’s request. After I typed the list, I gave it to Steven and asked that he and Edna go over it to see if I made any typographical errors. Steven came into my office and handed me the list and said it was okay.

Mr. O’Nan and Mr. Warner arrived around 10:00 am, I escorted them back to my office. I showed them the list, and they said that they were going to ask to see the sheriff’s and county executive’s reports plus Harold White and Ted Schmederian. They said they wished that Mr. Arshinoff’s name was not on the list because they didn’t know Mr. Arshinkoff or have ever spoken with him, and that this is an impartial investigation. At that time I asked to be excused and left and got John and Edna. They said they wanted every name on that list plus others. They looked at Judge Adams and Judge Bond’s reports and stopped. They were under the impression that they could take the reports and make copies of them. Mary Pat and I told them that the reports are not to leave our office and that we would make any copies they would want. They crossed off all City Council, and said they thought this was County Council, which is what they wanted. Mary Pat and I went over a new list of reports with the investigators that they wanted copies of.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Lynn J. Hamilton
January 22, 2008

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Heather Nagel and I am a former Summit County Board of Elections employee. I voluntarily quit my job at The Summit County Board of Elections August 13, 2007 after working there for almost two years, due to a hostile work environment created by Republican Board Member Alex Arshinkoff, Director Bryan Williams, and his assistant Steven Kotsatos. In sum, I was being required to politic on county time, spy on co-workers, clock out during the work day to obtain signatures on petitions for Alex Arshinkoff, demanded to “donate” thousands of dollars a year to The Summit County Republican Party, etc. I could no longer physically and morally tolerate working in such an environment.

While employed at The Summit County Board of Elections, I was subject to hostile working conditions in which my job was repeatedly threatened if I would not perform duties outside of paid employment and perform the duties of supervisor Steven Kotsatos. When I refused to cover up for Steven Kotsatos’ errors, I was only retaliated more and more. His refusal to do his job duties and blame his refusal on me made it very difficult to effectively do my job. Numerous times I was required to work for Summit County Board of Elections Director Bryan Williams, under the direction of Summit County Board of Elections Member Alex Arshinkoff at a rate of no pay outside of work hours in which if I did not comply, I was told I would not be reappointed. When I was hired I agreed to work the job that was described to me during the working hours of Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Not once did I ever agree to work for free for anyone. This was not
only never explained to me at time of hire, the demands worsened and worsened throughout my employment.

When I was hired, I was guaranteed $4,000+ overtime to supplement my hourly wage, but when opportunities for overtime arose, I was denied overtime unless I performed duties outside of my job pay and description. Unless I circulated petitions and obtained thousands of signatures, or opted out by donating thousands of dollars in place of circulating, I was denied overtime.

I was required to “donate” thousands of dollars to The Summit County Republican Party. When I notified supervisor Bryan Williams I did not have the large amounts of money to “donate”, I was told this would be remembered when reappointment of my job was up. I was also told numerous times to clock out to obtain signatures for The Summit County Republican Party when I was to be working for my hourly wage. This is not only a violation of Federal Wage & Hour Division laws; this also created a financial hardship for me.

Due to mounting harassment from supervisors because of not performing duties above and beyond job pay and description, I was faced with a physical hardship. I was treated by ER staff during work hours the morning of February 22, 2007 and further testing was ordered by my physician. As a result, medications were prescribed to allow me to handle the level of stress placed on me by Republican superiors.

My physical and financial hardship worsened as I discussed the situation repeatedly with the Director of The Summit County Board of Elections. When discussed with Mr. Williams, situations were not resolved or remedied, but worsened.

I had no other choice then to leave the Summit County Board Elections after the retaliation against me significantly worsened when Bryan Williams advised me on August 7, 2007 that I was being transferred to the back room. I was given no reason and was being replaced by the wife of a large donor to the Summit County Republican Party. Not only was I replaced by someone who had no seniority, she had broken English and could not
use a calculator! I was told that I had to train her and that if I did not train her as well as they feel that I should, Alex would take issue to it. I did not want to be transferred, nor did I do unsatisfactorily in my job performance. I know this was another form of harassment and retaliation because on the afternoon of August 8, 2007 I spoke to Bryan Williams about my refusal to be transferred into a lesser position. He advised me that I was once a rising star and that at this point the party felt I was not committed to the cause and was not a team player. I was told by Bryan Williams that I needed to quit my charitable work during my personal time and commit my free time to the party. He also berated my family and used explicatives when talking about them because they were not party loyalists.

The actions of Alex Arshinkoff and his staff are in violation on county policies, federal wage & hour laws, and guidelines set forth by the Secretary of State. His bullying tactics have demoralized the election process and have made it a deplorable place to work. I have numerous upon numerous instances I could give about the Board that would appall you. Instead of conducting elections and servicing the voters of Summit County, Republican workers such as myself were made to be political slaves to Alex Arshinkoff’s personal vendettas and issues.

Please feel free to contact me at the above contact information.

Sincerely,

Heather E. Nagel
OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
NOTICE THAT A REQUEST FOR APPEAL HAS BEEN FILED

CLAIMANT'S NAME: HEATHER E. NAGEL

BENEFIT YEAR ENDING DATE: 08/09/2008

DATE ISSUED: 09/11/2007

RETURN TO:
SUMMIT COUNTY FISCAL
175 S MAIN ST
OHIO BLDG 4TH FL RM 400
AKRON, OH 44308

REDETERMINATION UNIT
PO BOX 182292
OHIO DEPT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
COLUMBUS, OH 43218-0000

PHONE: (877) 574-0015
FAX: (614) 752-4810

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - DEADLINE FOR REPLY: 09/18/2007

A. A request for appeal of the initial determination # 214675221 mailed on 09/06/2007 has been filed by:

HEATHER E. NAGEL

B. This party submitted the reason(s) given in Paragraph C, below, for requesting a change of the previously issued determination. If you disagree with the statement(s), submit your reply within five days of this notice's Date Issued to the address shown above.

The lack of a reply could result in a redetermination based on the statement(s) in Paragraph C.

C. Reason(s) for filing the request for appeal:

Hardship created by requiring unpaid acquisition of petition signatures for the Republican Party during lunch and evening hours. My Mother (Patricia A. Mihaly) is disabled (SSD) and requires assistance. This demand severely affected my caring for my disabled mother, creating a hardship for myself and severely affected the care of my disabled Mother. Threats were made by Director Brian Williams that when jobs would be reappointed in March (08), Alex Arshinkoff (Rep. Party Chairman) would review how many petition signatures were obtained and event tickets sold to determine if job would be reappointed. The demand for evening/weekend hours created a major hardship in caring for my disabled Mother. Demands were made to clock out during work day to obtain petition signatures. I informed Director Brian Williams that I need my wages. He told me that "you can't pay your bills if you don't have a job". Lost wages would have created a financial undue hardship. Physical deterioration, caused by ongoing threats, was creating an undue hardship. Continuing threats by Brian Williams and harassment by supervisor Steve Kotsatos required medical intervention by Hospital Emergency Room treatment.

Si usted no puede leer esto, llame por favor a 1-877-644-6662 para una traducción.
For Immediate Release—January 17, 2008

Contact for Additional Information:

Vondelise Jones, 330-631-7780 (cell)

Bonnie Henderson, 330-773-1231, 330-690-0833 (cell)

Vondelise Jones, a Republican part-time employee at the Summit County Board of Elections filed a formal complaint with the OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION today against the Summit County Board of Elections, Republican employee Maria Kotsatos and her supervisor-son Steven Kotsatos, Director Bryan Williams, and Republican Board member Alex Arshinkoff. Among her allegations are intimidation, harassment, workplace bigotry, and a general hostile work environment encouraged by the Republican Board administration’s refusal to take corrective action or to address her complaints.

Ms. Jones provided detailed allegations including a reference to being spit at by Mrs. Kotsatos and other humiliating and degrading actions by her and other Board employees during her most recent tenure at the Board of Elections.

Ms. Jones further alleged that efforts to bring these incidents to the attention of her supervisor and Director Williams met with indifference and no action. Also, Ms. Jones and her coworker Ms. Henderson attempted repeatedly to contact and set up a meeting with Board member and Republican chairman Alex Arshinkoff to no avail.

Ms. Jones also has not ruled out pursuing civil litigation against the Board and the individuals involved apart from her Civil Rights Commission complaint. Likewise, she will consult with community civil rights leaders to present her complaint and to seek assistance in order to obtain redress of her grievances at the Board of Elections, including the removal or discipline of the perpetrators of the actions against her at the Board of Elections.
January 24, 2008

Vondelise Jones
765 Donald Ave
Akron, OH 44306

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked at the Summit County Board of Elections as a part-time and intermittent clerical worker since 2005. I am writing to comment on the conduct of Board member Alex Arshinkoff and Director Bryan Williams.

While an employee of the Board of Elections, I have witnessed or experienced the following:

- I was spit on at work by coworker Maria Kotsatos.

- I asked Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams to take disciplinary action. They declined and did nothing.

- I was ordered to attend mandatory Republican Party meetings at party headquarters by coworkers while we were all at work at the Board.

- I witnessed coworkers Cecilia Robart, Tina Alexander, Amanda Hagan, and Debbie Walsh scrutinizing Republican central committee candidate petitions without a Democratic staff member present.

- I was asked to buy tickets to Republican Party events on county time on several occasions.

- I was told by my supervisor, Steve Kotsatos, not to associate with Democratic coworkers or with coworkers Scott Sigel and Bonnie Henderson.

- I was told by coworker Steve Kotsatos not to report complaints to Deputy Director Marijean Donofrio because she is a Democrat.

- Coworker Maria Kotsatos ordered me to clock out of work and circulate Republican central committee petitions. My supervisor Steve Kotsatos refused to correct my time sheet, calling me “greedy.”

- My supervisor, Steve Kotsatos, interrogated me about the fact that coworker Scott Sigel circulated a central committee petition for coworker Bonnie Henderson. I was asked if I supported Alex Arshinkoff for party chairman and feel my job was threatened.
All of these actions were the result of orders handed down by Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams. I believe they show a pattern of arbitrary and capricious decision making on the job.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Vondelise Jones
January 25, 2008

Bonnie Henderson
1322 5th Ave
Akron, OH 44306

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked at the Summit County Board of Elections as a Registration Clerk since 2002. I am writing to comment on the conduct of Board member Alex Arshinkoff and Director Bryan Williams.

While an employee of the Board of Elections, I have witnessed or experienced the following:

• I recently filed to run for Summit County Republican Central Committee. I was discouraged from running by coworker Patrice Kormushoff. Since then, I have suffered various forms of intimidation and hostility by Republican co-workers and superiors.

• I was ordered to attend a mandatory Republican Party meeting at party headquarters by coworkers Gary Hagen and Andy Wright while we were all at work at the Board.

• I was ordered to attend a mandatory Republican Party meeting at party headquarters regarding central committee petition circulation by coworker Andy Wright while we were at work at the Board.

• In 2006, Director Bryan Williams spoke at a meeting at Republican headquarters. The meeting was about gathering signatures for two county charter ballot issues. Williams told Board employees at the meeting that failure to meet a quota of signatures on these petitions would result in non-reappointment to our jobs at the Board of Elections.

• In 2006 during the same ballot initiative petition drive, I was told I could not work overtime because I was needed to circulate petitions.

     Steve Kotsatos
     Director Bryan Williams informed me that I had to take a lunch break in order to circulate a candidate petition and that I would have to take personal time.

• I was told by Maria Kotsatos and Steve Kotsatos not to associate with Democratic coworkers at the Board, even outside work.

     People need to be treated fairly and equally; no one is above the law!
All of these were the result of orders handed down by Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams. I believe they show a pattern of arbitrary and capricious decision making on the job.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Henderson
January 25, 2008

Donald Longshore
1834 Esther Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44312

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked at the Summit County Board of Elections as a Filed Operations Supervisor since March 2006. I am writing to comment on the conduct of Board member Alex Arshinkoff and Director Bryan Williams.

While an employee at the Board of Elections, I have witnessed or experienced the following:

- After the 2007 General Election, I became aware that Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams accused me of speaking on the phone with Senator Kevin Coughlin. Since then, I have suffered various forms of intimidation and hostility by Republican co-workers and superiors.

- I was ordered to attend mandatory Republican Party meetings at party headquarters by coworkers Gary Hagen and Amanda Hagen while we were at work at the Board of Elections.

- Co-worker Maria Kotsatos informed me that “you will be fired if you didn’t get enough signatures” on petitions I circulated for Republican candidates.

- Director Bryan Williams informed me that I had to take my lunch break in order to circulate a candidate petition. I was forced to use my personal time to take lunch as a result.

- I was told not to associate with Democratic co-workers at the Board.

- I was asked to put up yard signs by co-worker Gary Hagen, while we were working. He added that “Chairman Arshinkoff won’t be happy if you don’t do it.”

- I have been solicited to attend Greater Akron Republican Club meetings while I worked at the Board.

- I was ordered to check petitions filed by Republican central committee candidates suspected of being against Alex Arshinkoff a third time—meaning after staff had already checked them for mistakes twice. Deputy Director Marrijean Donofrio asked why they were being overscrutinized. I was ordered to do so by my Republican superiors.
All of these actions were the result of orders handed down by Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams. I believe they show a pattern of arbitrary and capricious decision making on the job.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Donald Longshore
The undersigned, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and states from personal knowledge, information and belief, as follows:

1. I am currently a Judge in the general division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court and have held that position since 1991.

2. Pursuant to R.C. 2301.55, the Judicial Corrections Board ("JCB") has oversight authority over the Community Based Correction Facilities ("CBCF") in Summit County.

3. During my tenure on the bench, Oriana House, Inc. has professionally and competently operated the CBCF in Summit County through a professional services contract with the JCB.

4. Beginning in 2002, as I related in detail under oath in my deposition on August 9, 2004, Alex Arshinkoff attempted to interfere with the discharge of my official judicial duties by attempting to intimidate me to take adverse actions against Oriana House, Inc. including terminating the Board's contract with Oriana House, Inc.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Judge Jane Bond

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of September 2005.
The undersigned, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and states from personal knowledge, information and belief, as follows:

1. I am currently retired from sitting as a Judge on the Summit County Common Pleas Bench. While sitting on the bench in Summit County, I served on the Judicial Correction Board ("JCB").

2. Pursuant to R.C. 2301.55, the Judicial Corrections Board ("JCB") has oversight authority over the Community Based Correction Facilities ("CBCF") in Summit County.

3. During my tenure on the bench, Oriana House, Inc. professionally and competently operated the CBCF in Summit County through a professional services contract with the JCB.

4. Alex Arshinkoff attempted to interfere with the discharge of the official judicial duties of the Judges on the JCB by attempting to intimidate them to take adverse actions against Oriana House, Inc. including terminating the Board's contract with Oriana House, Inc.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYS NOTHING.

Retired Judge Ted Schneiderman

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of September 2005.

Michelle Herman, Esq.
Notary Public
My commission has no expiration
State of Ohio                      )  AFFIDAVIT
                                      )
County of Summit                     ) ss.

The undersigned, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and states from personal knowledge, information and belief, as follows:

1. I am currently a Judge in the general division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court and have held that position since January 3, 1985.

2. During the period of 1987-2002, I was the Chairperson of the Judicial Corrections Board ("JCB").

3. Pursuant to R.C. 2301.55, the JCB has oversight authority over the Community Based Correction Facilities ("CBCF") in Summit County.

4. Since 1987, Oriana House Inc. has professionally and competently operated the CBCF in Summit County through a professional services contract with the JCB.

5. Through his actions in the years 2001-2003, as I related in detail under oath in my deposition upon written questions on December 10, 2004, Alex Arshinkoff attempted to interfere with the discharge of my official judicial duties as Chairperson of the JCB and, being unsuccessful, thereafter attempted to intimidate me to take adverse actions against Oriana House, Inc. and terminate the Board’s contract with Oriana House, Inc.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Judge Mary F. Spicer

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of September 2005.

Janet L. Duff
Notary Public
The Arshinkoff effect
The party boss has been accused of intimidating county judges. Anyone believe that sounds out of character?

If you’re a judge, you would do well to stay away from Alex Arshinkoff, the Summit County Republican Party chairman and serial political bully. Ask Judge Bill Spicer of the county probate court. The Arshinkoff machine orchestrated his re-election campaign in 2002, including a television ad that recklessly attacked his opponent. On Wednesday, the Ohio Supreme Court, all seven justices, six Republicans and one Democrat, issued a public reprimand of Spicer for conduct arising from negative television advertising sponsored by his campaign committee.

The court split 5-2 on whether the ad constituted an in-kind contribution to the Spicer campaign. The majority awkwardly reasoned that enough distance existed between the judge and his campaign team. Put aside, apparently, that his campaign manager was also the court administrator and a co-owner (with Arshinkoff) of the consulting firm that purchased the air time and produced the ad. Whatever the technicality at work, Spicer, a judge with an otherwise solid reputation, has been tarnished by his relationship with the local political boss.

Tellingly, in the very same week that the high court ruled, news reports surfaced about affidavits from two common pleas judges (Mary Spicer, a Republican, and Jane Bond, a Democrat and the target of the vicious Spicer ad three years ago) stating that Arshinkoff sought to interfere with their judicial duties. A third judge (Ted Schnelderman, a Republican and now retired) claimed in a sworn statement that Arshinkoff attempted judicial interference.

Arshinkoff argues that Oriana House officials orchestrated the affidavits as part of his legal scrap with the alternative sentencing operation. He insists on his right to speak freely (and excitedly). That said, judges do not lightly sign affidavits, let alone engage in mere political stunts. It matters that judges of both parties have complained. They have asserted no less than the principle of judicial independence, something the rest of us should encourage and welcome, if Arshinkoff too often does not.

Of late, Arshinkoff has accused officials at the Board of Elections of "fixing" a parking ticket, although the circumstances were clearly extenuating. He has assailed two Hudson school district employees for falsifying election petitions. (More than likely, they unintentionally erred.) Might Arshinkoff agree that his precise reading of the law apply to him and his alleged intimidation of judges?

The law states that "no person, in a wanton or reckless manner, shall attempt to influence, intimidate or hinder a public servant, party official or witness in the discharge of the person’s duty." A violation amounts to felony of the third degree. Time for a special prosecutor? Or is the Arshinkoff transgression of a larger and familiar concern, one that should embarrass those who contribute heavily to the local Republican Party? He’ll do just about anything to get his way, worrying little, evidently, about the detrimental impact on the community as a whole.
A top-ranking official in the Summit County engineer's office said he recently resigned because of pressure from the county Republican Party for 12 workers in the office to be fired because they were "bad Republicans."

David Marquard, the county's chief deputy engineer, issued a lengthy statement this week detailing allegations of meddling in the operation of the engineer's office by county GOP officials or operatives.

"It became apparent that the undue influence of the Republican Party makes it impossible to properly serve the taxpayers, fairly treat employees and perform ethically as a manager," Marquard, 51, said.

Alex Arshinkoff, chairman of the Summit County GOP, issued a thunderous denial of Marquard's charges about GOP interference.

"It's craziness," Arshinkoff said.

Marquard also said that Arshinkoff asked Marquard how much money he could raise for the county GOP.

Arshinkoff said that there is no list of 12 people he wants fired and that he never asked Marquard to raise money for the county party. He said he did ask Marquard how much he thought he would have to spend to mount a credible election.

Arshinkoff said he didn't think Marquard would be an ideal candidate, in part because he has a difficult-sounding ballot name.

Marquard had wanted to become the next engineer after Esser, a Republican, resigned from the job earlier this year. State law requires that the county Republican Party select a replacement, and the party picked former Kent city engineer Greg Bachman.

Arshinkoff said that the party's duty to name a replacement for Esser allows the party to examine the operation of the engineer's office.

"It's poorly run," Arshinkoff said of the engineer's office. "We were given a blessing when Gene went into the private sector so we could make this change."

Arshinkoff said he did tell Marquard that one employee, who eventually resigned, should be evaluated because that employee was a Democrat, not a Republican. He also said that Mike Weant, who was the office's director of administration, should also be re-evaluated.

Weant said Marquard told him that he had to resign or he would be fired. Weant resigned, and Marquard said he felt awful about that afterward.

Marquard also said that Arshinkoff was upset with Esser because Esser hired workers in the engineer's office without notifying the Republican Party.

Esser said yesterday that Arshinkoff never forced him to hire anybody.

Esser recommended that Marquard should become the next county engineer, saying he is a quality engineer who is well-repected.

Esser also said that Weant was an outstanding employee.

Mike Stith, legal counsel to the engineer's office, said yesterday that the engineer's office is spending more money than it is taking in.

"We have to stop it," he said.
Our Opinion

Engineering loyalty

Alex Arshinkoff follows his pattern

Alex Arshinkoff would often praise Gene Esser for his performance as the Summit County engineer. The county Republican Party chairman would tout Esser’s integrity and professionalism. Now he suggests Esser spent excessively during his tenure.

Esser has countered that he used surplus money to generate federal and state matching funds. He has all but declared his recent departure (for the private sector) reflected his impatience with the chairman’s meddling in the operation of the office. David Marquard has echoed those complaints. The former deputy engineer has charged that Arshinkoff effectively dismissed four of the department’s seven patronage employees because they had run afoul of the party.

No surprise, really, that a political party would want to reward and punish with jobs. Arshinkoff protests that his concern is good government. The trouble is, the chairman has a track record that bolsters the Esser and Marquard side of the story.

Remember Kim Hoover (a Republican and judge in Cuyahoga Falls)? He would be county prosecutor—if he had followed Arshinkoff’s orders and dumped a highly respected deputy.

Judge Mary Spicer of the common pleas court has been the object of the chairman’s wrath. Her misdeed? She had the nerve to exercise her own judgment. Other Republican judges have felt the same to a lesser degree.

That is just a partial list of the episodes of heavy-handedness, the careless regard for the integrity of offices for the necessary independence.

Arshinkoff likes to contend that Democrats have done as much in the county juvenile court. The difference: Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio replaced a Republican. What’s more, there has been no question that she runs her court. That is what voters expect when they elected her. Who elected Alex Arshinkoff?
AKRON -- A Republican leader in Akron is calling for a boycott of the United Way of Summit County after a fund-raising scavenger hunt sent participants into the local office of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

County GOP Chairman Alex Arshinkoff says he'll also seek to get United Way's federal tax-exempt status revoked because of its partisan involvement.

The scavenger hunt sent participants to the Kerry-Edwards office in search of a piece of campaign literature about a Democratic candidate for common pleas judge.

Arshinkoff called it, quote, "a classic example of the liberal bias of the social activists."

United Way officials Monday acknowledged that stop on the employer-sponsored scavenger hunt was a mistake and said they hope Arshinkoff rethinks his position, which would damage not only the United Way but the many social service agencies it serves.

United Way is in the midst of its annual fund-raising drive.

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Irony & Arshinkoff
Summit County Republican Chairman Alex Arshinkoff has never been one to pick his battles or his paramours wisely. Last month, the Akron Zoo mailed out free tickets to more than 1,000 community leaders as thanks for their support. Arshinkoff didn’t find the gesture amusing. He returned his two complimentary $8 tickets along with a letter accusing zoo president Pat Simmons of an ethics violation. As a board member who sits in judgment of Akron Zoo filings, your tickets may be considered an illegal gratuity,” he wrote.

The irony was delicious, as deep guys like to say, since Arshinkoff treats Republican coffers like his own personal trust fund. And given the load of GOP scandals statewide, it was akin to a crack whore lecturing on safe sex.

According to the Ohio Ethics Commission, public officials are allowed to accept small gifts like an “inexpensive entertainment activity” — i.e., an $8 visit to the zoo. They aren’t allowed to receive items of “substantial value” — like, say, the free Audi Arshinkoff got from Republican sugar daddies.
POLICE DEPT. - AKRON, OHIO  FIELD REPORT

EXHIBIT 22

POLICE DEPT. - AKRON, OHIO  FIELD REPORT

[Handwritten text]

A POLICE OFFICER OBSERVED AN OCC.[illegible] DRIVING WITH AN OCC. STOPPED IN HIS CAR. THE OCC. StATED THAT HE PICKED UP ANOTHER PERSON, ALCHOLIC.

SPEEC. KEP.

COH. P0.2: POLICE DEPT. - AKRON, OHIO

M. ORR 997
Report number: Incident number: 2251476

Location ...............: E MILL ST/S BROADWAY ST
Apt / lot ..............:
Building ..............:
Nature .................: 39-TRAFFIC STOP
Date ...................: 12/27/02
Time ...................: 02:27:14
Shift .................: E
Priority ..............: 2
Grid ..................: 193
Method ................:
Call taker ............:
Dispatcher ............: KSD
Disposition 1 .........: 39
Disposition 2 .........: WR CCL
Primary unit ..........: A11
Primary officer ......: 687542
Time dispatched ......: 02:27:19
Time arrived ..........: 02:27:19
Time cleared ..........: 02:52:39
Vehicle tag ..........: ARA1
Vehicle state .........: OH
Vehicle color ........: BLK AUDI
Backup units ...........
Backup officers .......
Time dispatched .....:
Time arrived .........:
Time cleared .........:
Complainant name ....:
Complainant address :
Complainant phone ...
Location occurrence :
Suspects name ........:
Location name .......
Location name 2 ....:
Entry made ............
Elapsed time ..........:
Suspect description  :
Suspect number .......
Suspects vehicle .....:
Suspects tag ........: ARA1
Direction travel .....:
Animals ..............:
Fenced ...............:
Track molest ..........:
Weapons ..............:
Physical/verbal .....:
Intoxicated/drugs ...
Others ..............:
Bus open/Res home ...
Number hostages .....:
Valid alarm ..........:
Injuries ..............:
Officers name .......
Description ..........:
exit doors ...........
Activity .............:
Unit All current location: 9 RIDE TO 767 INMAN
Timer reset on unit All at 02:52:04
The Godfather In the Closet

The Republican boss of Summit County revels in crushing his enemies. Now his private life might crush him.

By Sarah Fenske

It was past 2 a.m. when the kid left the bar and headed for home. Back from college for Christmas, he’d met up with his high school buddies at Annabell’s, a neighborhood watering hole in Akron. Frustrated for reasons that no longer seem important, the 21-year-old Kent State student had been too annoyed to wait for a ride.

It wasn’t long before he wished he had. It had been a white Christmas. The ground was still blanketed, early that morning of December 27, 2002; the air frigid. Maybe a stranger would give him a lift.

As the kid would later explain in an interview with Scene, he tried to flag down the first car he spotted, a souped-up Mitsubishi, neon underbelly aglow. It didn’t stop. But when the new Audi behind it did, the kid got in.

The driver was a middle-aged white man. Dark hair, well dressed. He asked the kid how he was doing; the kid said OK, then offered a few dollars for gas. The man said not to worry.

It wasn’t long before he wished he had. It had been a white Christmas. The ground was still blanketed, early that morning of December 27, 2002; the air, frigid. Maybe a stranger would give him a lift.

The driver was a middle-aged white man. Dark hair, well dressed. He asked the kid how he was doing; the kid said OK, then offered a few dollars for gas. The man said not to worry.

The kid told him to take a right at Main Street. But the man didn’t. I’ll get you home, don’t worry about it, the kid remembers him saying. Then the man started rubbing his thigh. Are you gay? he asked. Are you bi? No? Are you sure?

The kid was trying not to freak out. He saw a red light ahead and clicked open his seatbelt, bracing himself for the jump out. But the light flicked to green.

What are you doing? The man asked. Are you nervous?

The kid said no, he was just trying to get comfortable. The man was caressing his thigh, grabbing at his crotch. "I didn't want to piss him off," he says. "He could just hit the gas, and I'd be stuck."

Do you want to make some money? The man asked. The kid laughed weakly
and said he had plenty. He was watching the light ahead, willing it to stay red.

The Audi pulled to a stop, and the kid saw his chance. He took off running. The Audi peeled off in a different direction.

Then the kid heard a siren. An Akron patrolman had witnessed his desperate departure, according to the police report. The cop stopped the car and questioned the driver. The man told him he'd picked the kid up, but he was too drunk and had hopped out.

But the kid, fearing trouble, doubled back to the cop car. Gasping for breath, he relayed his version. The man had tried to touch him, he said. He had to run. "You can arrest me for anything you want right now," he remembers saying.

The cop took the driver's information and let him go. Then he told the kid to relax, something like "What are you doing getting into a stranger's car, anyway?" He offered to take the kid home.

Then a second black-and-white pulled up. The officer gestured at the departing Audi with its ARA vanity plate. "Do you know who that was?" the kid heard him ask. "That was Alex Arshinkoff. He's the chair of the county Republican Party."

"My stomach just dropped," the kid says.

For years, Alex Arshinkoff topped the scale at more than 400 pounds. He was a man of giant appetites: for politics, for conversation, and of course, for food. A former dining companion says Arshinkoff would order one entrée, finish it, then order another. Sometimes he'd go for a third.

Thanks to the Atkins diet, a personal trainer, and daily nine-mile walks, Arshinkoff has shed half of his weight. But he's still larger than life. Head of the Summit County GOP for 25 years, he seems to burnish a reputation as the county's Dark Lord, a man who consumes politics and plays to win. To many insiders, he is Don Corleone in the flesh, with a dose of Machiavelli's Prince thrown in for good measure.

Through his assistant, Arshinkoff declined Scene's interview request.

Since two failed runs for city council more than two decades ago, Arshinkoff has never been the guy on the ballot. He's not a politician, as he'll tell anyone willing to listen.

He's far more powerful, and he knows it. He picks the candidates. He runs their campaigns. He tells them what to do. Who to hire. Who to fire. If they don't play ball, they're out. Just like that. He's done it to top Summit Republicans. He did it as a University of Akron trustee.

He was on George W. Bush's campaign finance committee. Karl Rove is said to call him for advice. When the first President Bush visited Akron in 1990, he started his speech by thanking Alex Arshinkoff.

"He's a master of the nuts and bolts of politics," says state Senator Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls). "He is just one of these old-school political leaders."

Arshinkoff lives for the job, calling up candidates at all hours of the night with advice and exhortations. Then he's not being compared to Machiavelli, he gets Boss Tweed.
'Even those who don't like him have to admit he's as shrewd as they come," says Republican County Councilman Mike Callahan.

He's made himself wealthy. He's on Senator Mike DeWine's payroll as a consultant; he also began a lobbying business in 1997, harvesting the ties he developed as party chairman. He represents nine companies, from FirstEnergy to Playhouse Square, offering his advice and pushing their interests in Columbus. He has a $200,000 home in Hudson, an antique Chevy Bel Air, and two Corvettes — in addition to the Audi paid for by the party.

His family has done well too. One brother is a bailiff; so is a sister-in-law. One niece is Barberton's clerk of courts; another is the party's attorney; a third works for the county engineer. Until Republicans lost the judge's seat this January, his nephew-in-law worked for the Juvenile Court. In other counties, party chairs aren't so powerful, and there's little reason Summit County should be an exception. Akron has long been heavily Democratic. Despite suburban growth, the county retains a three-to-two Democratic edge.

But you'd never know it, looking at a list of Summit County officeholders. Under Arshinkoff, Republicans have put practically every seat in play. They hold a majority of judgeships, the Probate Court, the sheriff's office, both Ohio House districts, and the state senate seat.

He has created the most effective county organization in the state," says Arshinkoff's Cuyahoga County counterpart, state Representative Jim Trakas. "Republicans in Summit County do better than they should. And state and national candidates do much better there than they should too."

A relentless fund-raiser, Arshinkoff gets $100,000 checks from lawyers and $1 million donations from CEOs. He also collects from the little guys: A list of campaign contributions shows bailiffs, magistrates, low-level county flunkies and their spouses -- all chipping in their $100 or $1,000 when asked.

He's a great motivator. "He has always kept the heat on, kept the pressure on," says state Representative Bryan Williams (R-Akron). "He keeps people prepared and primed and ready to go."

In 2000, the county party raised more than $2.19 million and spent $200,000 on TV ads, $300,000 on the sheriff's campaign, and $700,000 in a failed bid for the county executive's office.

The money doesn't just stay in Akron. In the last decade, the party gave $64,000 to Bob Taft, $46,500 to Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, and a whopping $339,000 to Ohio Auditor Betty Montgomery.

To Arshinkoff, though, the local game is paramount. He's not so much interested in policy, though friends insist he's a true right-wing believer. For him it's the power, and power is in the money: the salaries, retirement benefits, and perks intrinsic in several hundred county jobs.

It all has to do with raising money, contracts, pay-to-play," says County Executive James McCarthy, a Democrat. "If you don't give money to his party, you're not going to get jobs from the county -- or state contracts."

Democrats point to lawyer Deidre Hanlon. From 1996 to 2001, she earned $1.69 million from Attorney General Betty Montgomery's office. Most of the money came from an exclusive contract, allowing Hanlon to sell assets of deceased Summit County residents to pay off their Medicaid bills. As The Plain Dealer first reported, she was one of only two lawyers in the state to get such a contract.

Her luck may have followed the money trail: From 1996 to 2001, Hanlon donated $121,000 to the county GOP. Meanwhile, under Arshinkoff, the Summit GOP gave Montgomery $244,400 during the
Democrats say it's a system where those who play ball are rewarded; the recalcitrant are punished.

Consider Saundra Robinson. She beat a Democrat for a Juvenile Court judgeship in 1990 -- a surprising upset and a major victory for a party that counts its success by the jobs it controls.

Arshinkoff was in heaven. But Robinson was no pushover. "He made suggestions," she says. "Some of them were good." She had no problem hiring loyal Republicans who were qualified, she says, but refused to hire those who weren't.

That was her fatal mistake. When it came time for her reelection four years later, Arshinkoff ran another Republican in the primary -- with the party's full support. Robinson lost. "If I wanted to stay there, there were rules to play by. I didn't," she says. "I know I could have gone the other way and still be sitting here today."

Kim Hoover, then a Cuyahoga Falls councilman, found himself in a similar position in 1994. The county prosecutor's seat opened up when its longtime holder was appointed a judge; Hoover was widely considered the Republican Party's top choice.

But first Arshinkoff wanted to talk. The day before the appointment was to be announced, Arshinkoff informed him of the people to be fired his first day, Hoover says. One was Fred Zuch, chief of the criminal division, a widely respected bulldog who paid no mind to the orders of party bosses.

Arshinkoff's reasons seemed nebulous at best, Hoover says. He refused.

It didn't take long for Arshinkoff to find another candidate: Maureen O'Connor, then a common pleas judge. She took the job.

'O'Connor didn't have to fire Zuch; Hoover's plight was leaked to the newspapers, and even Arshinkoff wasn't bold enough to order Zuch's termination after that. But the opportunity Hoover missed is clear.

Five years later, O'Connor was elected lieutenant governor. She now sits on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Today Hoover is a Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court judge. He hears traffic violations, DUIs, and minor drug busts.

He has no regrets. "I know who and what I am," he says. "Alex can say to me, 'If you'd listened to me, you could be lieutenant governor, you could be a Supreme Court justice.' Well, I have no interest in those types of things. And he can't beat me here in my own town -- and that's a source of great frustration to him."

Last election, Hoover faced a challenger in the Republican primary. He beat her handily. Soon after, Arshinkoff appointed her to an open Municipal Court seat. She'd done her job by challenging the rogue Republican; she'd earned it.

Let people talking about Arshinkoff, and soon enough they'll mention the incident involving the Kent state student. "You've heard about that report, right?" they'll ask. Feign ignorance, and they'll offer you a copy.

In the six months since that night, the police report has been circulated among politicos, pushed at newspaper reporters, and whispered about wherever Democrats gather. The kid got a call from someone
who works for Summit County and someone at The Plain Dealer. The first wanted to know if he thought Arshinkoff was dangerous; he didn't call the second back.

The kid isn't exactly basking in the attention. He doesn't want his name used; he has no intention of filing suit. "It's water under the bridge to me," he says. But he can't help but wonder: "What is a public official going and picking up people like that?"

Nothing official became of the report. The kid says the police never talked to him again. He didn't press the matter, either. Akron Deputy Police Chief Mike Madden says the cops generally don't investigate field reports, which are generated by traffic stops rather than official complaints.

"You've got a he said/she said situation, or in this case, he said/he said," Madden says. "There's no way or me to make a case off of that." Sure, if the kid is telling the truth, the incident could be a case of sexual imposition, Madden says. But who's to say? There are no witnesses, no physical evidence.

"I don't know that anyone even took cognizance of this report when it came in," Madden says. "If it weren't that particular name on it, no one would even care."

But it is that name. And people do care. For a Republican who touts "family values," there's a question of hypocrisy. There's also the antagonism factor: Arshinkoff has made so many enemies, they're practically a political party of their own. Even people who say positive things about him are glad to mark when they know it won't get back to him.

Of course, every powerful man has enemies, but the hatred Arshinkoff engenders goes beyond that. Now, perhaps emboldened by the report, many people who've felt his lash are breaking their silence for the first time.

Eete Kostoff, the mayor of suburban Fairlawn for 11 years, was a loyal party man who shared Arshinkoff's Macedonian heritage. Their fathers were friends, and they'd attended the same Eastern Orthodox church for years. Kostoff was considered one of Arshinkoff's top lieutenants.

That meant little when Kostoff endorsed a Democrat in the Cuyahoga Falls mayoral race. It wasn't just any Democrat — it was his law partner and close friend, Wayne Jones. Kostoff thought it would be OK, because Jones was taking on Don Robart, a Republican known to be on the outs with Arshinkoff.

Indeed, Kostoff thought he had Arshinkoff's blessing. "He told me I'd have to sit out for a period of time, but then I'd be brought back to the party," Kostoff says. Like a good soldier, he agreed to step down from the party's central and executive committees, presuming it was temporary. Arshinkoff told him that he would also be supporting Jones, however quietly.

But as the campaign heated up, it became apparent that Arshinkoff was doing no such thing. Robart's campaign literature was vintage Arshinkoff. It showed an aerial view of Jones's five-acre spread, calling him out for supporting low-income housing because he didn't have to live by it.

After Jones lost and it came time for Kostoff's promised rehabilitation, he and Arshinkoff met for lunch. "You'll have to buy a little time," Kostoff remembers his friend saying.

After six months, Kostoff could read the writing on the wall. "There are a lot of people pissed off at you," Arshinkoff told him.

"I was hoping you'd help explain this to them," Kostoff protested.

No such luck. "It became convenient for me to be expendable," Kostoff says.
Within the next three years, Kostoff's uncle was fired from the Board of Elections -- just one year before he could retire with a decent pension, Kostoff says. His brother was fired from the engineer's office. His sister-in-law, the chief magistrate at Juvenile Court, returned from a week's vacation to find a letteracked to her front door. She, too, had been sacked.

"At the end of the day," Kostoff says, "people can say it's just politics, but I don't think you use politics to hurt people. He and his gang seem to enjoy inflicting hurt on people."

Kostoff gives money to Republicans he thinks are independent. He considers himself part of the Republican Party. But he won't give it money, not as long as Arshinkoff is around. "Sooner or later, other people of conviction are going to stand up and tell him it's time to move on."

Common Pleas Judge Mary Spicer had always been a good Republican, though she was occasionally annoyed by Arshinkoff's directives. He'd summon the Republican judges to lunch at Tangier or the Portage Country Club, then tell them who to hire, she says. She resented it.

Spicer was the court's point woman for Oriana House, a halfway house the county used as a sentencing alternative to hard time. Though Spicer did the nitty-gritty supervision work, all eight judges signed off on decisions and appointments. They were, technically, a "judicial corrections board," she says, though they didn't officially meet or take minutes.

Such leadership may have seemed lackadaisical, but no one considered it a problem. The county was happy with Oriana, says County Executive McCarthy. So were the judges.

Or so they thought.

In February 2002, it was Spicer's task to get the other judges to sign off on appointments to Oriana's citizens' advisory board. Most were reappointments -- people involved with the issues at hand, such as vocational training and rehab programs.

But that wasn't what her fellow Republican, John Adams, noticed when Spicer gave him the papers to sign.

"These are all Democrats," he told her.

Spicer was surprised. She'd never thought of party affiliation as an issue. Still, she agreed to let Adams take the appointment papers and think it over. She couldn't formalize the appointments until another judge returned from vacation anyway.

Adams says he "may have issue" with Spicer's recollections, but would prefer not to revisit "these things."

Then Spicer's phone rang. It was her cousin, Probate Court Judge Bill Spicer. He reminded her that the filing deadline for their reelection campaigns was a week away. He also asked her to hold off on the Oriana appointments. "These are our last bargaining chips," he said. (Bill Spicer declined comment for his story.)

Mary Spicer knew that Adams, Arshinkoff, and her cousin were tight. She also knew that another Common Pleas judge, Democrat Jane Bond, was planning to challenge her cousin for his seat. The link was clear, she says: The GOP would approve the appointments only if Bond got out of the race.
Spicer thought it ridiculous. Then she got a call from Arshinkoff.

He was irate, Spicer says, and launched into a rant about Oriana House. "He said there was all this fraud and theft and corruption," she recalls, still amazed. But he offered no evidence, no specifics. Yelling, he said he was only telling her because he had to protect "his" judges.

Spicer yelled back, finally shouting that she wasn't going to talk about it anymore. Then she hung up.

In short order, she got a visit from her cousin and his bailiff, Chris Masich. They asked her to get Bond to drop out of the Probate Court race, she says. They told her she could promise Bond that she'd never face an opponent again.

Spicer resisted. She saw the party boss's hand. "This is how Alex Arshinkoff works," Spicer says. "He sends other people with messages, so he can say, 'I never said that.'"

Shortly thereafter, Masich sent Spicer a note telling her to forget the whole thing. Judge Adams started making a stink to the papers about problems with Oriana House's leadership, using buzzwords of "fraud" and "corruption."

The only judge to second him was another Republican running for reelection; after that judge announced her concerns, her challenger, another Republican, decided not to run after all.

Insiders believe Arshinkoff wanted control of the jobs at Oriana. If the organization could be proved corrupt, the county could take it over — meaning direct oversight by Republican judges, meaning more jobs for the GOP to fill.

"Alex likes any place that has people," McCarthy says, "because that becomes patronage, contributors, campaigners."

Jim Lawrence, Oriana's executive director, would accuse Arshinkoff of "running a political operation out of Common Pleas Court." But it was effective: State Auditor Jim Petro agreed to do an audit.

Then Adams -- despite only four years' experience as a Common Pleas judge -- was appointed to a federal judgeship. And Arshinkoff's niece, attorney Betty Konen, announced that she was running against Mary Spicer as an independent.

Arshinkoff pushed an unprecedented amendment through the GOP's executive committee: From then on, the party could give support — and cash — to independents, even those challenging Republicans.

Spicer won her reelection, despite not getting a penny from the party or use of its in-house communications firm. She was also barred from using the party's bulk-rate postage unless Arshinkoff first approved her mailers. (She declined.)

Still, Arshinkoff had his own interpretation of Spicer's victory. He noted to a friend that Spicer had been forced to spend $70,000 of her own money on the campaign.

Spicer isn't bitter. "I'm still here," she says. "And I have a new birth of freedom. I don't get calls summoning me to lunch." She doesn't get told who to hire, either. She just gets ignored.

The Oriana House fallout continues. Montgomery, one of the largest recipients of Arshinkoff's largesse, took the auditor's position in January. A month later, she announced that the ongoing performance audit would be teamed with a more extensive "special audit."
Due to Montgomery's ties to Arshinkoff, Oriana's attorney asked her for an independent, outside review. She refused.

Four months later, she has yet to announce any major findings or problems, or complete the first audit. She's still looking.

With Arshinkoff, politics always comes first. Callahan, the county councilman, remembers Arshinkoff saying at a late-night poker game, "I've got a lot of friends in this business, but I'm in the business of getting people elected. That comes first. The job comes first." Good government can finish no better than a distant second.

In 1999, two Common Pleas judges completed a study showing that the Court needed two more judges. The recommendation was approved by the county and the Ohio Supreme Court. The bill was written. And then it died.

The reason? State Senator Roy Ray, an Akron Republican and Arshinkoff ally, lobbied fellow legislators to kill it. His official reason: The courthouse didn't have room for two more judges.

But Judge Mary Spicer says word drifted back from Columbus that Arshinkoff had stopped it. After all, more judges meant more openings for Democrats, in years when Arshinkoff already had several expensive races to run.

The same fate befell plans to add a second Juvenile Court judge. For years, court workers had pushed for another judge as well as building renovations.

But talks between County Executive McCarthy, a Democrat, and Juvenile Court Judge Judy Hunter, a Republican, reached a stalemate in 2001. So Hunter asked Kostoff to run interference.

The Kostoff plan, recorded in a letter signed by Hunter in February 2001, agreed to details of building expansion and signed off on adding a second judge once renovations were complete.

One month later, McCarthy got a terse, one-paragraph letter from Hunter. She wrote that she "must and hereby rescind" her previous statements. She gave no explanation.

Kostoff says Arshinkoff caught wind of the plan and stopped it. He was afraid Democrats would win the second judgeship and wrest partial control of the Juvenile Court, which Republicans then held.

Hunter denies this, although she offers no explanation. "There were a whole lot of dynamics at work with that whole scenario, including other issues beside court expansion," she says. As for Arshinkoff's involvement, "You would have to talk to him about that."

Arshinkoff's goal might be protecting his party, but it's irritated his opponents to the point of open contempt. "I have no respect for him, for a lot of reasons," says Jones, now the county Democratic Party's finance chairman. "He's been in powerful positions, and he's used that position in no way to help the county. It's all for his personal gain."

Arshinkoff's power plays extend beyond government. He sat on the University of Akron Board of Trustees for nine years and was its chairman from 1997 to 2001.

Under his watch, the board drummed out university President Peggy Gordon Elliott, after
comissioning a report from then-Attorney General Montgomery on Elliott's hiring practices. Montgomery's report finished with "no recommendations or ultimate conclusions," but it was enough for the trustees to send Elliott packing, settlement agreement in hand. The trustees who supported her ouster were Republicans; Democrats were irate, but outnumbered.

John Wray was the university's treasurer when he drew Arshinkoff's ire. Wray says he's still not sure what happened, though he won't dispute that politics played a role. William Beyer, then the associate vice president of administrative support services and Wray's boss, is more outspoken.

"John's work was outstanding," he says. "But you could see what was going on. There was talk for a couple years that they weren't happy with him, because he did a lot of work for [then-Democratic Congressman] Tom Sawyer. That's the way things were up there."

Wray, whose contract wasn't renewed, headed off to Walsh University in Canton.

It was hard to fight. Trustees are appointed by the governor, and for years, Ohio's governor has been Republican. Akron's board is stacked with big Republican contributors: Of the nine members currently serving, eight have contributed more than $7,000 to county party coffers in the last four years, according to records. As for the ninth, her husband provided the money.

Arshinkoff may be gone from the university, but his relatives are still making money there. The university began using the firm Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs for substantial amounts of legal work in 1999. In 2001, the firm's workload dropped precipitously, and the university took on a new firm, Amer Cunningham Co., according to financial records.


Hardball campaign ads have become Arshinkoff's signature. He uses TV extensively, even for judicial seats, though Summit County is dependent on costly Cleveland airtime. Every penny seems to bring torrents of mud.

In one ad, Judge Bond — who lost a tight Probate Court race last year — was accused of being under investigation by the Ohio Supreme Court because her husband did work for Oriana House, while she supposedly supervised it.

Never mind that she hadn't actively supervised the program. Or that her husband earned a total of $2,000. Or that the Supreme Court had received a complaint from one of Arshinkoff's buddies, but wasn't necessarily investigating.

Presumably, a man who plays this brand of hardball should know the ball will eventually be fired back.

Michael Curry believes so. In the summer of 2001, Curry, who works for the Summit County Board of Elections, spotted Arshinkoff at the Leather Stallion, a gay bar on St. Clair. The Democrat made a point of greeting Arshinkoff "just to freak him out," he says.

Thirty minutes later, Arshinkoff came over and asked him to stay quiet about seeing him there, Curry says. Curry replied that it wasn't his style to out people. "It's just not my belief system," he says.

Arshinkoff seemed relieved. "If there's anything I can do for you, I'd be happy to do it," he said, according to Curry.
Joking, Curry seized the gambit. He named two friends, both Democratic judges. "I want to see that the
wo of them never have any opponents," he said.

'I can do that," Arshinkoff responded.

'I was shocked at the transference of power," Curry says. He'd been joking, after all. But when he ran
nto Arshinkoff several months later, at a gay dance club called The Grid, Arshinkoff waved him over.
He said he'd live up to his end of the bargain," Curry recalls.

Curry decided not to live up to his. "I've just decided he's a hypocrite about it," he says. "He's gone out
nd recruited candidates who are homophobic and anti-gay." Also, it's tempting to envision the fallout:
If he ever openly admitted he was gay, I think a lot of the money would dry up."

The pyre is growing. The newest memo circulating among the anti-Arshinkoff crowd is a complaint
phoned in to the board of elections. In the conversation, a former Municipal Court employee claims
Arshinkoff sexually harassed him.

It's public record, duly noted by a deputy clerk. Coupled with the police report, it's led to talk of an
overthrow.

But Democrats aren't sure how to play it. "We're a party that supports gay rights," says county Chairman
Russ Pry. "We don't believe in outing people. But we don't believe in being hypocrites, either. We don't
believe in condemning someone's lifestyle -- and then secretly living it."

Adds McCarthy, "If this was an elected official who had picked up a young girl, I think people would
ave been all over that. And if Alex is a cruiser, if that's his M.O. ... I'm sure there are people within his
party that would be upset."

Chris Bleuenstein, who recently quit the Republican central and executive committees, says he thinks
the gay issue may be the straw that finally breaks Arshinkoff's back. "Most people are aware of it," he
says. "Stupid him -- he just keeps getting caught."

The party, Bleuenstein believes, is probably "not enlightened enough" to deal with a gay leader. "I would
envision a coup," he says, adding, "He is not going to step down."

Madden, the Akron police deputy, says the whole thing doesn't seem fair. Arshinkoff hasn't been
charged with anything, and homosexual acts -- Rick Santorum's views aside -- are perfectly legal in
Ohio. "There's crime, and then there's embarrassment," Madden says.

But this is politics. And Alex Arshinkoff would be the first to explain: In politics, embarrassment is often
enough.
THE PLAIN DEALER

Summit County's godfather of GOP
Alex Arshinkoff: adored, feared, effective

Wednesday, March 22, 2000
Michael O'Malley
Plain Dealer Reporter

President Bush called him the most effective county chairman in America, praise that a good number of Akron Republicans would merrily second with a hearty "Hear, hear!"

But behind the political scenes, whispers abound about Alex R. Arshinkoff, a mercurial firebrand who has maintained a tight grip on Republican money and patronage in Summit County for nearly 30 years.

To Democrats, the Summit County Republican Party chairman is the devil himself. To Republicans, he is a brilliant tactician, raising millions of dollars to battle Democrats in a Democratic-heavy county, though he is not without enemies in his own party as well.

Arshinkoff's critics liken him to Tammany Hall's Boss Tweed or television's Tony Soprano.

The Summit County godfather, they say, demands loyalty and cash or else you can't play in his game.

Pete Kostoff, a long-time loyal Republican and former mayor of suburban Fairlawn, got kicked out of the game a few years ago when he made a mistake of backing a Democrat in a Cuyahoga Falls mayoral race.

Kostoff said the revengeful Arshinkoff used his power to have three Kostoff family members fired from government jobs, including his sister-in-law, who was chief magistrate of Juvenile Court.

"They duct-taped the termination notice to the door of her house," he said. "Alex attempts to hurt you by remote control."

Some Republicans keep their distance from Arshinkoff, whispering that his old-style bullying is no longer effective and that the big man - he has weighed as much as 400 pounds and as little as 200 - is losing his clout and control.

Others are not bothered by Arshinkoff's heavy hand, saying a strong leader is necessary in a county where Democrats outnumber Republicans 2-1.

"I would hate to think what would happen to the Summit County Republican Party if he were gone," said Republican Mayor Don Robart of Cuyahoga Falls. "He keeps the party in line. There are always going to be malcontents."

One malcontent is Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Judge Kim Hoover. He said he was picked by Arshinkoff about 12 years ago for Summit County prosecutor, a vacant position that was to be filled by a GOP appointment.

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Hoover said that after a party meeting, Arshinkoff pulled him aside and said the job was his. A condition was that on Hoover's first day, he had to fire a couple of people.
"I told him, 'That's ugly. I won't do it,'" Hoover said.

Hoover lost the appointment.

Arshinkoff declined to be interviewed for this story. "I'm not looking for a pumped-up story or a hatchet job," he said in a phone message. "I would rather not participate."

One of his party lieutenants, Mike Kormushoff, said, "He's been in the news enough and wants to stay out of it."

Arshinkoff is in the news mostly in the Akron area, where the daily newspaper, the Beacon Journal, regularly beats him up in editorials, calling him names like "political daddy" and "serial political bully."

But in recent weeks, Arshinkoff caught the attention of newspapers across Ohio by battling state Attorney General Jim Petro, a fellow Republican who is running for governor.

The two have been foes for years, but recently, Arshinkoff's lawyer Jack Morrison accused Petro of shaking down lawyers for campaign contributions in exchange for state legal work.

Morrison claims that he and other Akron-area lawyers lost work assigned to them by the attorney general's office because they backed candidates running against Petro or did not contribute to Petro's campaign.

Petro, who denies the claim, wrote an opinion piece last month in The Plain Dealer saying he pulled the work because, "I believe that these lawyers were part of Arshinkoff's Tammany Hall-style operation... lawyers who... were directly aligned with the Arshinkoff money machine."

That machine is regarded as the most well-oiled, highly productive political organization in the state. It is unique in its ability to raise big money and keep control of power and patronage.

Candidates today tend to rely on their own fund-raising, which can weaken a party organization. But Arshinkoff has maintained a pipeline of donors, ranging from working-class people on the public payroll to corporate executives.

"He built the organization during the time when the rubber companies were still booming in this town," said politics writer Abe Zaidan, who spent most of his career writing for the Beacon Journal before retiring in 1998 from The Plain Dealer.

"He had the CEOs like John Ong at Goodrich and Eddie Thomas at Goodyear. He used that base of corporate power and went from there.

"Nothing happens unless money changes hands with Alex," Zaidan said. "You want to be judge? Fine. This is what it'll cost you."

Zaidan, 74, who once described Arshinkoff, 51, in print as a "quick-witted sumo wrestler with inexhaustible energy," remembers Arshinkoff just beginning in politics, in the early 1970s.

Arshinkoff was a college student who had a job cleaning toilets at the courthouse when he walked into the Beacon Journal newsroom and met Zaidan.

"This massive kid with bushy hair comes up to me and says, 'I'm running for council in Akron's fifth ward,'" Zaidan remembered.

Arshinkoff, of course, lost his bid in a ward that was 5-1 Democratic. But by age 23, the college dropout, who would later become chairman of the board of trustees at the University of Akron, was the head of the county's Republican Party.

Today, the job pays $80,000 a year, plus a car and expenses. Arshinkoff, who is also a lobbyist, gets an additional $18,000 a year as a member of the Summit County Board of Elections.
"He's a guy who lives and breathes politics 24 hours a day," Zaidan said. "And that's why he's so effective."

In the 2000 presidential election year, Arshinkoff raised more than $4.8 million for candidates, including $2.5 million for President Bush, said Morrison, a member of the county's GOP Executive Committee.

For comparison, Cleveland lawyer Mike Wise, who was chairman of Cuyahoga County's Republican Executive Committee between 2000 and 2005, said the Cuyahoga County GOP during that time never raised more than $500,000 a year for candidates.

State Rep. Jim Trakas, former chairman of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party, said Arshinkoff's model is "politics the old-fashioned way."

"Every county chairman would like to run a party like that," he said.

Trakas, who is running for Ohio secretary of state, said he has a deep respect for Arshinkoff, even though the Summit County boss is endorsing Trakas' opponent. "I'm not going to say a cross word about him," he said. "I'm not going to make the same mistake others have made."

Lawyer Tom Watkins, a former state representative, made the mistake of crossing Arshinkoff 14 years ago by questioning the party's primary endorsements.

Watkins, an opera singer who for 20 years sang the national anthem at the Republicans' annual Lincoln Day fund-raising dinner, said he was told he could no longer sing at the dinners and was dropped from the Summit County Republican executive board.

"If you cross him, you're excommunicated," said Watkins, who quit the party and became a Democrat.

Watkins, who is gay, said it was anti-gay positions of Chairman Arshinkoff and the Republican Party's right wing that drove him to the Democrats.

In the governor's race, Arshinkoff backs Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, a strong opponent of same-sex marriage, who once told the Columbus Dispatch: "Farmers know if you want eggs to eat you don't produce them with two roosters or two hens. You need a rooster and a hen."

Watkins said some people in the gay community are upset with Arshinkoff because he befriends gay men yet supports an anti-gay agenda, including the state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a union only between a man and a woman.

Arshinkoff, who is married, has never publicly discussed his sexuality, even after a Cleveland weekly newspaper, the Scene, published a story three years ago titled "The Godfather in the Closet," saying Arshinkoff frequented gay bars in Cleveland.

"It's well known in the gay community," Watkins said. "And it doesn't matter that he is or is not gay - obviously a lot of people believe he is. It's the hypocrisy."

Judge Hoover said: "I've heard and seen enough that I think it's true. It's laughable. Here's Blackwell comparing gays to barnyard animals and here's Alex running around with his band of gay caballeros. Politics makes strange bedfellows."

Morrison, Arshinkoff's lawyer, emphatically denied Arshinkoff is gay. He said the Scene story was a pack of lies aimed at destroying the county chairman.

"We understand, and we can't prove this, that his enemies went to the Scene and paid them to write the article," he said.

"If Alex was gay and hanging out at gay bars, we would have seen pictures in the newspaper. It was made up. And that's pretty low."

Asked why Arshinkoff did not sue the Scene for libel, Morrison said he and Arshinkoff discussed suing the
newspaper, but decided it wasn't worth the time or money.

Pete Kotz, editor of Scene, said he stands by the story and laughed at the allegation that the newspaper was paid to write it. "I only wish they paid us," he said. "I've got five kids and I need a college fund. Tell whoever was supposed to pay us to bring the money by."

Some insiders say the Scene story dealt a staggering blow to Arshinkoff, rendering him less effective in political circles, but Morrison said it only emboldened him to fight harder against his enemies.

"He is more effective now than he's ever been," Morrison said. "Big-money Republicans are coming forward saying, 'Alex, we're not going to let the Beacon Journal and the Democratic Party turn this town into a one-party town.'"

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:

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Alex Arshinkoff, Summit County's tough Republican Party boss, has spent three decades battling in the political trenches, taking on some tough opponents. Here are highlights of some recent battles:

He forced United Way to publicly apologize for a scavenger hunt fund-raiser that sent scavengers to a Democratic campaign office but not the Republicans'. Arshinkoff called it "a classic example of the liberal bias of social activists."

He used his influence to block the addition of judges to the Summit County Common Pleas Court, even after the Ohio Supreme Court approved adding two seats.

He battled Common Pleas judges to force open the financial books of Oriana House, a nonprofit agency that runs a county corrections facility. Two of the judges, including a Republican, signed affidavits stating that Arshinkoff attempted to interfere with their judicial duties during the spat.
Elections board probe requested

Reassigned worker wants investigation, but County Council chief declines

By Stephanie Wermuth
Akron Beacon Journal staff writer

A Summit County elections board employee who was reassigned because of his "personal, political crusade" involving county Republican chief Alex Arshinoff asked Monday that the County Council investigate the board.

But Nick Rostandares, president of the County Council, said he doesn't want the council to intercede in what he called an "administrative" matter.

"For me, to get council involved in this would not be in the best interest of council's business," Rostandares said.

Scott Sigel, a Republican elections board employee who had been responsible for campaign finance reports, was reassigned last week to ballot layout duties.

Last month, Sigel raised questions about the county Republican Party's finance reports and sent a letter to fellow members of the party's executive board comparing Arshinoff to Fidel Castro and calling for him to be replaced.

The letter coincided with an effort being led by State Sen. Kevin Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, to oust Arshinoff as chairman.

Sigel said he appealed to the council to intercede on his behalf because the council is in charge of the elections board's budget. He thinks his reassignment amounts to harassment.

"I don't think it's appropriate that a county employee should be submitted to retaliation," Sigel said.

Please see Elections, B2

Elections

Democratic chairman concerned with switch

Continued from Page B1

...el said, adding that he wanted the council to hold a congressional-style hearing on recent board actions.

Ryan Williams, the Republican director of the elections board, said he didn't think Sigel could objectively handle his finance job, given his "personal, political crusade."

"There was an appearance that he could use his role as auditor of finance reports as part of his crusade to get his boss (Arshinoff) fired," Williams said.

Arshinoff couldn't be reached for comment Monday.

Sigel has switched jobs with Gary Hagen, who previously was in ballot layout. The move doesn't involve a change in pay.

Williams said that as director, he often has made personnel moves.

Sigel sent a letter to Wayne Jones, the Democratic chairman of the four-member elections board, asking that the board review Williams' decision to transfer him.

Jones said he plans to discuss it today with Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner during a meeting in Columbus. He said the board wouldn't have the authority to act on Sigel's reassignment, but Brunner would.

Jones said he's concerned about such an employment switch being made so close to the March 4 primary.

"I hope she (Brunner) looks at the situation and makes a realistic assessment of why this was done and decides it can't be done," he said. "This is no time for on-the-job training."

Stephanie Wermuth can be reached at 330-585-3705 or swermuth@thebeaconjournal.com.
Elections officials clash

Dispute over GOP panel petitions ends in shouting match, vulgarity

By Stephanie Warren
Beacon Journal staff writer

The battle for control of the Summit County Republican Party turned into a shouting match Thursday near the end of an elections board meeting that lasted more than four hours.

Wayne Jones, the board's Democratic chairman, called county GOP chief Alex Arshinkoff an "asshole" and "crazy" and slammed his hand down on the table.

Arshinkoff, one of two Republican board members, accused Jones and his law firm of being behind the attempt to oust him as the Republican Party chairman.

"You've been behind this whole thing!" Arshinkoff shouted.

"I could care less!" said Jones, the county Democratic Party's finance chair.

The argument grew out of a dispute over petitions for candidates for the Republican Party's central committee that were filed by state Sen. Kevin Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, who is leading the charge to unseat Arshinkoff and appoint a new party chairman.

Jones and other Democratic board leaders accused Bryan Williams, the board's Republican director, of getting board employees to scrutinize the central committee petitions Coughlin filed more thoroughly than those submitted by the county Republican Party, in an effort to find errors that would disqualify the Coughlin candidates.

"You've got to treat them all equally," Arshinkoff shouted.

Please see Clash, A4
Kicked of the ballot

18 paid candidates

CASH
Republican petitions challenged in Summit

Coughlin, in bid to unseat Arshinkoff, alleges problems with central committee filings

By Stephanie Warrenth, Beacon Journal staff writer

State Sen. Kevin Coughlin, who is leading an attempt to unseat Summit County Republican Chairman Alex Arshinkoff, challenged the petitions Tuesday of 64 Republican central committee candidates.

Coughlin claims there are problems with the petitions, such as an insufficient number of signatures, that should result in the candidates being thrown off the March 4 primary ballot.

"The point is to get bad petitions off the ballot," said Coughlin, who filed his request just hours before the deadline at 4 p.m. Tuesday for challenging the petitions of candidates in the March election.

Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, is attempting to unseat Arshinkoff by getting enough candidates on the county party's central committee. This committee will meet 60 days after the March election to decide the party's leadership.

More than 600 people filed to run for the 475 Republican central committee seats. About 370 of these petitions were filed by Coughlin, while the rest were filed by the party or by the candidates themselves. Coughlin claims he has additional support among the candidates filed by the party, giving him about 35 candidates.

Coughlin lost a few of his supporters, with 12 candidates — most that were

Please see Petitions, A7
Petitions

Coughlin seeks copies of surveillance tapes

Continued from Page A1.

his — removed from the ballot last Thursday during a heated at an election board meeting. They ruled 2-1 on whether the two other committee candidates should be disqualifled. The secretary of state will cast the tie-breaking vote on those two.

The board will hold hearings on questions involving the petitions of another 11 central committees' candidates at 8 p.m. Jan. 22. Likewise, most of these candidates' petitions were filed by Coughlin.

Many problems alleged

After the election board meeting, Coughlin said he sulfur of his volunteers and three central committee candidates, an example of the central committee petitions. He said they found numerous problems — ones not in the Republican party that he was surprised weren't caught — in the election board employees. He said this is evidence that board employees gave more scrutiny to his petitions than to those filed by the party — a claim made by Democratic board leaders.

Coughlin said he thinks some of these challenges are "frivolous," while he's not as confident about others. He said he considered questions about 50 petition signatures that thought they were too "fishy" and would be discounted.

For 11 of the candidates Coughlin is challenging, he said the election board to hold hearings on alleged problems with their petitions.

Coughlin also is requesting a hearing on the petition for Bryan Williams, the Republican elections board director who is running for the party's state central committee in the 27th Senate District. He claims Williams got signatures for his petition from elections board employees during business hours.

Williams, who was in Columbus on Tuesday for an election board conference, couldn't be reached for comment.

Coughlin said seven of his candidates, who were disqualified last week plan to request that the board hold a hearing and consider reinstating them. They are expected to file that request this week.

Coughlin said the board is not required to grant hearings for these candidates. If the hearings are denied, he said this matter will be taken to court.

Board to investigate

Wayne Jones, the elections board's Democratic chairman, said the board will examine Coughlin's allegations.

"If we know there's irregularities, we have a duty to investigate it," he said.

Jones said the board could do an internal investigation of Coughlin's claim about Williams' petition. He said this wouldn't be grounds for disqualifying Williams from running but would involve a "misuse of tax dollars."

Arshinoff declined comment

Tuesday, saying Coughlin's challenges were a matter for the elections board — of which he is one of two Republican members — to decide.

Arshinoff said last week that the petitions filed by Coughlin and the Republican party were given equal scrutiny. "It's all the same," he said. "It's all the same.

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Summit political squabble heats up

Elections board argues after Coughlin declines to show up at meeting

By Stephanie Warenth

The Summit County Board of Elections deadlocked Tuesday on a move that could result in a contempt citation against state Sen. Kevin Coughlin.

Coughlin, who is leading an effort to oust Summit County Chairman Alex Arshinoff, had been subpoenaed to testify at the board meeting but didn't show.

His absence incensed Arshinoff and Jack Morrison Jr., the board's Republican members, who argued Coughlin should be called before them to explain himself.

"This has nothing to do with what side you're on," Morrison said. "If you choose not to appear, you are haunting this board's authority."

But the board's two Democratic members voted against the step, leading to a tense back-and-forth session - the second heated exchange during a board meeting dominated by the battle for control of the county Republican Party.

Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, is trying to unseat Arshinoff by gaining the majority on the county party's central committee in the March 4 election. That committee will meet 60 days after the primary to decide the party's leadership. The board planned to hold hearings Tuesday on questions on the petitions of 16 candidates Coughlin filed for the committee.

Board members argued about whether the hearings were necessary, considering that the deadline for disqualifying candidates from the ballot - which was last Monday - has passed.

Wayne Jones and Tim Gorbach, the Democratic members, said the hearings weren't needed because of the deadline, but Arshinoff and Morrison said the board still had a duty to look into alleged "irregularities" on the candidates' petitions.

'Breach of law'

Arshinoff and Morrison said it appears that someone other than the circulators for these candidates' petitions made changes to the circulator statements. Arshinoff called this a "serious breach of law" that would be referred to the county sheriff and prosecutor.

Morrison accused the board's Democratic members of "malfeasance" for trying to prevent the hearings and called this a "Hall Mary attempt to interfere."

Gorbach and Jones said they didn't think the questions on the candidates' petitions rose to the level of warrant hearings.

The board tied 2-2 - along party lines - about whether to allow the 16 candidates who were supposed to have hearings to appear on the ballot. (Jones and Gorbach were in favor of this.)

Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner will decide both issues that resulted in the votes, as prescribed under state law.

Though Coughlin and the others who were subpoenaed didn't appear, they did have attorneys at the meeting to represent them. Coughlin spoke by telephone after the meeting that having a lawyer there, rather than appearing personally, satisfied the requirements under state law.

"This is very clear in the code - either the person or their attorney can appear and present a defense," he said. "That is what we did. This issue is a nonissue."

David Langdon and Robert Heydorn, the attorneys, told board members that - had their clients been required to testify - this would have been a violation of their constitutional rights.

Two of the people who were subpoenaed to testify showed up at the board meeting. Carol Mash, a candidate for the central committee, and Cris Canute, who circulated the petition for Ronald Dale Lieving, another committee candidate, answered board members questions about the petitions.

Board members unanimously voted to allow Mash and Lieving to be on the ballot.

Neither of these candidates were filed by Coughlin.

The board voted to dismiss a challenge Coughlin filed involving the petition of Bryan Williams for the party's State Central Committee. Coughlin claimed Williams, the Republican director of the elections board, had board employees sign his petition while on the clock.

A hearing was scheduled this Tuesday but the board renewed having it because Coughlin wasn't present.

Coughlin said he was not told that this hearing had been scheduled.

Clash over decision

Board members clashed over Williams' recent decision to move Scott Sigel - a Republican board employee who was critical of the Republican Party's finances - to a different position. The board opted not to move Sigel to the central committee candidates.

Williams said Sigel was transferred to the central committee because of "any political shenanigans" and remove "any appearance of conflict."

Jones questioned this personal shift being made so close to the election. "I want to go on record: It's wrong," he said.

Sigel, seated in the audience, told board members that he hadn't been given the opportunity to defend himself. He said his political views didn't interfere with his ability to do his finance job. Sigel said Williams has made statements on behalf of Arshinoff. "Where are you going to move him?" he asked board members.

"We are the board. You are an employee," Morrison replied, adding that Williams has the authority to transfer employees.

Coughlin asked the Ohio Supreme Court on Friday to intervene in the ongoing fight over central committee candidates. He asked the court to prevent the hearings involving his 16 candidates from happening and to allow these candidates to appear on the ballot. He also requested that the court reinstate seven other candidates who the board disqualified because of alleged petition problems.

The court has not yet taken any action.

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Candidate petitions court over ballot

AURORA: An Aurora City Council candidate thrown off the November ballot because of a residency issue has asked the Ohio Supreme Court to intervene.

Richard Duncan has requested that the court grant a writ of mandamus requiring the Portage County Board of Elections to put his name back on the Nov. 6 ballot.

This is considered an expedited election matter, meaning the parties have short time periods to file briefs and responses.

Duncan, a candidate for an at-large council seat, contends he has homes in Aurora and Middlefield, but lives in Aurora. Elections board members didn't think he made a persuasive enough case.

His driver's license has the Middlefield address, and he has not been paying income tax in Aurora.

Council candidate stays on ballot

MACEDONIA: A Macedonia City Council candidate whose residency was challenged will remain on the November ballot.

By a lack of action, the Summit County Board of Elections this week permitted Nick Molnar to stay on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Elections board Chairman Alex Arshinkoff made a motion that Molnar be thrown off the ballot. But this step wasn't supported by other board members, so it failed.

Molnar, a candidate for an at-large council position, signed papers for a home in Macedonia in September 2005, but didn't move in until Nov. 21, 2005. The question was whether this met a requirement under Macedonia's charter of a two-year residency to run for council.

Molnar is in a three-way race against incumbents Michael Miller and Jan Tulley for two four-year posts. Miller filed a protest with the elections board, claiming Molnar did not meet the residency requirement.
Independents face election challenge

Some suggest they’re really GOP plants in Falls clerk race

By Stephanie Wasmith
Akron Beacon Journal staff writer

Six of the independent candidates in the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court clerk’s race have a lot in common.

Many of the same people circulated their petitions. The petitions contain identical signatures—signed in the same order on the same day. And the petitions even appear to have been typed on the same typewriter, with a faulty “m” key.

The candidates are all women and most go by three names—as does Lisa Zeno Carano, the Democratic candidate for clerk.

Some are questioning whether the candidates are independent. They think the six are plants by the Republican Party aimed at splitting the Democratic and female vote in the nonpartisan race—and giving State Rep. John Widowfield, the lone Republican and male among the candidates—an advantage.

“They are not independent—they are Republican,” said Mike Moran, who filed a complaint Monday with the Summit County Board of Elections asking it to investigate whether the candidates are independents. “What we really have on the ballot is seven Republicans—six of them hiding behind the cloak of an independent status. Likely, it’s an attempt to fool the voters.”

Moran is an at-large Hudson council member, who, though his post is a nonpartisan position, is a Democrat.

Carano, 44, who was appointed clerk in April, and Widowfield, 43, won primaries Sept. 11 for the seat. In the Nov.

Please see Clerk, A8
Clerk

One independent isn’t part of the challenge

Continued from Page A1

November election, party affiliations won’t appear on the ballot.

Carano and Widowfield will face seven independent candidates. One, Robin Michelle Hutchinson, doesn’t appear to have ties to the other six.

The six candidates whose independent status is at issue are Anne-Marie Bretzin, Amy Grace Goodrich, Carol A. Gostlin, Ruth Ann Mundy, Kimberly Steinwedel and Kristi Marie Sykora.

Independent advisory

In Moran’s complaint, he refers to a U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that said “an aspiring independent candidate must actually be independent, rather than merely claim it.”

Based on this court decision, Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Bruner sent an advisory to election boards in June detailing ways independent candidates can be disqualified, including voting in a party’s primary election or serving on a party’s central or executive committee after filing as an independent.

“Ohioans are freely entitled to change or revoke their party affiliation at any time,” Bruner wrote. “However, voting history, together with other facts tending to indicate party affiliation, may be sufficient grounds to disqualify an independent.”

Clerk race different

Alex Arshinkoff, Summit County’s Republican Party chairman, said the Falls clerk’s race is different from the appeals court case because it is nonpartisan. He said anyone is free to run for this post as an independent.

“We encouraged people to get involved,” he said. “There’s an advantage to the Republican Party for people to get ballot exposure and be candidates down the road.”

Arshinkoff said the Summit County Democratic Party got an independent candidate, Diane Guzzo, to run for Barberton Municipal Court judge to take away votes from Diana Stevenson, the Republican candidate in the nonpartisan race.

“I really learned a lesson from the Democrats,” he said. “When they ran Diane Guzzo against Diane Stevenson, I watched that and said, ‘I could emulate their brilliance.’”

Arshinkoff said the Democrats want to “divide up the ‘Diane’ vote.”

There are six candidates in the Barberton race seeking to replace Judge Michael Weigand, who is not seeking re-election. The other candidates are John Casalinuovo, David Fish, Todd McKenney and William Sremack.

Wayne Jones, Summit County’s Democratic Party finance chairman, said the party had no involvement in getting Guzzo to run, “unlike the Republican Party, which orchestrated” the independents running in the Falls clerk race.

“I think it’s a mockery of the system,” Jones said. “It’s clear to me that they’re all Republicans.”

Jones said eight of the people who circulated petitions for the six independent candidates in the clerk’s race are Republican employees of the elections board.

Guzzo, contacted at home Monday evening, said that, though she is a Democrat, she was not approached by the party about running.

“I looked at the field of candidates and thought that I was just as qualified to run for that seat,” said Guzzo, a former Akron and Stow assistant prosecutor who has been a lawyer since 1989.

Guzzo said she also didn’t take into account that someone with a similar name was running. She called this “a coincidence.”

The six independent candidates for the clerk’s race could not be reached for comment.

The elections board is expected to set a hearing on the clerk’s race at a meeting this morning.

Other hearings today

The board will hold two hearings today on other issues related to the clerk’s race. One concerns whether Goodrich, one of the candidates, asked for a Republican ballot for the September primary but then had an elections board employee change it to an issues-only ballot. Such a change must be made in person by the voter.

The second hearing is about whether Matthew Schaad, who circulated petitions for five of the six independent candidates, actually witnessed all of the signatures. (Even if the petitions he circulated are thrown out, the candidates still are expected to have the required 50 signatures.)

Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court has jurisdiction in 16 communities from Tallmadge to the north in Summit County.

The winner of the Nov. 6 election will fill the last two years of the term of former Clerk Eric Czfell, a Democrat who resigned to become deputy director of the Ohio Department of Transportation’s District 4.

Widowfield, who has been a state representative since 2001, said he had nothing to do with getting the independent candidates to run.

“All I do is concentrate on my race,” he said. “Whatever party politics wants to do, that’s up to the party.”

Carano, who worked in Summit County Juvenile Court for 12 years before being appointed clerk of the Falls court, called the recruitment of the independent candidates “a sign of desperation.” She is concerned voters will be confused when they see the long list of female candidates on the ballot but thinks they “won’t be fooled.”

“As hard as I’ve been working, they know who I am,” she said. “There’s no doubt in my mind that I’ll be the top vote getter.”

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Board deadlocks on independents

Ohio's secretary of state to decide if Barberton Falls candidates leg

By Stephanie Vosmeck Beacon Journal and wire

Ohio's Democratic secretary of state is to decide whether several independent candidates in Summit County are truly independent.

The Summit County Board of Elections deadlocked 2-2 Thursday on the question of the independent status of candidates Ed Crawford, Falls clerk and Barberton law director.

Wayne Jones and Tim Gerber, the board's Democratic members, argued that the candidates should be disqualified because of ties to the Republican Party. Alex Amshinf and Jack Monohan, the Republican board members, contend those are nonpartisan races in which any one can run.

"I think the secretary of state will rule with us," Amshinf said. "It would be a stretch if she didn't."

The votes by election board members are automatically decided by the secretary of state's office, which is expected to make a decision in the next week.

The deadlocked votes were part of a heated, four-hour election board meeting in which

Elec

Complaints challenge status of independents

Continued from Page B1

board members battled over several issues.

Complaints filed with the elections board challenge the independent status of six candidates for Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court Clerk, and of Ed Boyle, who is running for Barberton law director.

The independent candidates being contested in the clerk's race are Anne-Marie Brotzki, Amy Grace Goodrich, Carol A. Gorres, Robich, Michael Strickler and Robert Strickler. Another independent candidate for the post, Robich Michelle Hutchinson, doesn't appear to have ties to the other six.

Are candidates plants?

Some are questioning whether the six independent clerk candidates are plants by the Republican Party - aimed at splitting votes of Democrats and secure in the nonpartisan race to give an advantage to state Rep. John Widowsfield, the only Republican and man among the candidates.

The six clerk candidates' petitions were circulated by the same people - including eight Republican employees of the elections board.

Many of the petitions are signed by the same people on the same day. The six candidates also are all women, and most go by three names - as does Lisa Zeno Caruso, the Democratic candidate for clerk.

Boyle's candidacy

Boyle is running for Barberton law director against Lisa Chisholm, who won the Democratic primary. There were no Republican candidates for the post.

Jones said Boyle has ties to the Republican Party, including having been the Republican director of the elections board, having been appointed to a judicial seat by then-Gov. Rob Taft, a Republican, and having been a Republican candidate in nonpartisan judicial races.

Boyle said she decided to run because, after the petition filing deadline for the race last month, she looked at the Democratic candidates and thought she was more qualified.

"I don't think the Republican Party cares who the law director is in Barberton, he said. Boyle, a former Summit County assistant prosecutor as well as a magistrate in juvenile and probate courts, Boyle has served as a Akron Municipal Court judge.

"You don't do this because the Republican Party asked me to do this... I think I'm the best candidate for the job," she said.

Board members deadlocked on whether to hold hearings on Boyle and the clerk candidates. No hearings will be held, at least until after Brunson's decision.

Ballot application

The board referred to the county prosecutor an investigation into how an elections board member changed the absentee ballot application of Goodrich, one of the independent candidates for Falls clerk.

Goodrich was originally asked for a Republican ballot but had a board employee change the request to an issue-only ballot. Such changes are supposed to be made in person by the voter.

The board will have a hearing on the question involving whether Matthew Schaal, who circulated petitions for several of the independent Falls clerk candidates, actually witnessed the signatures. Even if the petitions he circulated are thrown out, the candidates are expected to have the required 70 valid signatures.

A hearing will also be held on whether Bruce Kiley, an Akron councilman, signed one woman's absentee-ballot application and paid it to cover another voter's ballot postage.

Kiley, who easily won his Sept. 11 primary for a second term representing Ward 2, denies any violations.

Jones wanted to refer Kiley's matter directly to the sheriff's office for an investigation. The Republican board members thought a hearing should first be held.

Stephanie Vosmeck can be reached at 230-
Are 6 independents or Republicans?

Terry Oblander
Plain Dealer Reporter

Akron — The Ohio secretary of state will decide whether six candidates for Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court clerk can appear on the November ballot.

Summit County Democrats say the six, running as independents, are really Republicans trying to siphon votes from Democratic incumbent Lisa Zeno Carano. The move is illegal and all should be kept off the November ballot, Democrats say.

Before the flurry of independent filings, the only two candidates were Carano and Republican John Widowfield.

Republican Party Chairman Alex Arshinkoff admits that GOP workers prepared the nominating petitions for the six candidates at the party headquarters. Like the Democratic incumbent, all of the disputed six are women. Most use a three-word name.

But, Arshinkoff says, the clerk candidates should have the same exemption that judges have from a 2006 federal court decision that prohibits partisan candidates from running as independents. Clerks are court officials, he argues.

Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, a Democrat, will cast the deciding vote after the elections board members Tuesday split 2-2 along party lines on a vote to certify the candidates to the ballot. Republicans favored putting the six on the ballot, while Democrats voted against.

Elections board Chairman Wayne Jones said Democrats want the secretary of state to scrutinize the candidacies of Anne-Marie Bretzin, Amy Grace Goodrich, Carol Gostlin, Ruth Ann Mundy, Kimberly Steinwedel and Kristi Marie Sykora.

Candidate Robin Michelle Hutchinson was unopposed by Democrats, but her name was sent to Brunner’s office at the Republicans’ insistence.

Board members also split 2-2 along party lines about certifying Edna Boyle, an independent candidate for Barberton law director.

Boyle, a Republican activist, ran in a 2006 Republican primary to retain a judicial seat on the 9th Ohio District Court of Appeals, to which she had been appointed by Gov. Bob Taft.
New wrinkle in Falls clerk dispute

Democrats say independent candidates they're challenging missed filing deadline

By Stephanie Warrington
Beacon Journal staff writer

Seven independent candidates for Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court clerk may be kicked off the ballot, but not because of questions about whether they are actually independent.

Instead, they could be disqualified from running in the Nov. 6 election because of a filing deadline issue.

It seems that everyone, including the Summit County Board of Elections, thought the candidates needed to file by Sept. 10, the deadline for other independent and nonpartisan candidates in Summit County.

Instead, they were supposed to file by June 28, the same deadline as partisan candidates for Falls clerk.

The Democratic members of the elections board included this filing deadline issue in a brief sent this week to Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, who is expected to decide soon whether the clerk candidates should be permitted to run.

“We think it's a home run,” said Wayne Jones, chairman of the elections board and a Democrat.

The elections board deadlocked 2 to 2 — along party lines — Sept. 25 about whether the seven candidates for Falls clerk should remain on the ballot. Tie votes by elections boards must be broken by the secretary of state.

The board's Democratic members claimed that six of the seven independent clerk candidates — all women and most using three names — are plants by the Republican Party to take votes from Lisa Zeno Caruso, the Democratic candidate. They said the party wanted to help state Rep. John Widowsfield, the Republican candidate and the only male.

The Republican board members argued that because no party affiliations will appear on the

Please see Falls, E2
Falls

Ohio secretary of state will rule on dispute

Continued from Page B:1

ballot in the clerk race in November, anyone can run for it. A state law enacted in 2000 and sponsored by Sen. Kevin Coughlin, R-Cuyahoga Falls, changed the Falls clerk race to require a partisan primary and nonpartisan general election. Before this, clerk candidates had no primaries and ran, like judges, without party affiliations in the general election.

The new law said all candidates for Falls clerk must file by 75 days before the primary election. (This year, that was June 28.)

Carano and Widowfield won the Sept. 11 primary. The seven independent candidates for the race filed their petitions on Sept. 6 and Sept. 10.

The earlier filing deadline came as a complete surprise for Robin Michelle Hutchinson, who once disputes a legitimate independent candidate for Falls clerk. (She has no ties to the other six contenders whose candidacy has been disputed.)

Hutchinson said she was told by elections board staff that she needed to file her petitions by Sept. 10, the day before the primary.

"I'm flabbergasted to say the least," she said. "I've worked very hard on this campaign. It's something I'm looking forward to. To take my chance away because someone was misinformed - I just don't think that's fair."

Marijane Donofrio, deputy director of the elections board, said the board was unaware of the filing deadline for independent candidates for Falls clerk was different from that for other independent candidates. She said this had never come up because there were no independent candidates in the last election for this seat in 2003.

Still, Donofrio said it is the responsibility of candidates to know when the deadlines are for their races.

"It's ultimately up to them," she said.

The filing deadline issue also surprised Alex Arshinkoff, a Republican board member who was arguing to keep the candidates on the ballot.

"It's unfair to the candidates," he said. "The board staff made a serious mistake."

"Nobody meant to do this," he added.

The other candidates for Falls

clerk are: Anne-Marie Bretzin, Amy Grace Goodrich, Carol A. Goetsl, Ruth Ann Mundy, Kimberly Steinwedel and Kristi Marie Sykora.

Brunner also will decide whether Edna Boyle, an independent candidate for Barberton law director, should be thrown off the ballot.

The Democratic members of the elections board claim Boyle, the former Republican director of the Summit County Board of Elections, should be disqualified because of ties to the Republican party. Boyle has said she is not running because of her affiliation to the party but because she's qualified for the post.

The elections board is waiting for Brunner's decisions on the independent candidates so absentee ballots can be printed. This was supposed to be done Tuesday, but has been held up because of the unanswered question about the candidates.

As soon as Brunner rules, the elections board will get the ballots printed and send them to the nearly 1,000 voters who so far have requested them, said Bryan Williams, elections board director.

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Brunner boots hopefuls for Falls clerk

Secretary of state also blocks independent Barberton candidate

By Stephanie Warracut
Akron Beacon Journal staff writer

The races for Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court clerk and Barberton law director just got smaller.

Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner sided with fellow Democrats on Friday, opting to kick independent candidates in those races off the Nov. 6 ballot.

Brunner disqualified seven independent candidates for Falls clerk because they didn't meet the correct filing deadline - a glitch caused by confusion over what date applied to them.

She threw Edna Boyle, an independent candidate for Barberton law director, off the ballot because of her affiliations to the Republican Party.

Brunner broke the tie after the Summit County Board of Elections deadlocked 2-2 along party lines on the issue.

In Brunner's decision on the clerk candidates, she didn't tackle whether they are legitimate independent candidates, which was the reason they were originally challenged.

Democratic elections board members contended that six of the seven independent candidates - all are women, and most use three names - were plants by the Republican Party to draw votes away from Lisa Zeno Carano, the Democratic candidate, and help state Rep. John Widowsfield, the Republican.

Instead, Brunner focused on how none of the seven candidates met the June 28 filing deadline for independent candidates.

The candidates - and the elections board - thought the deadline was Sept. 10, as it was for independent and nonpartisan candidates in other races.

It was only after the independent status of the candidates had been questioned that a section of state law was discovered requiring independent candidates for Falls clerk to file by the same deadline as partisan candidates - June 28.

"As such, none of the candidates here timely filed their nominating petitions for clerk," Brunner wrote. "Under existing Ohio law, I cannot vote to certify untimely petitions."

Boyle's GOP ties noted

In her decision on Boyle, Brunner accepted the Democratic board members' argument that Boyle's Republican ties prohibited her from running as an independent.

Brunner noted Boyle's voting history, her donations to both the state and county Republican parties, and how she has been the Republican director of the county elections board, a Republican candidate for judge, and an appointee to a judgeship by then-Gov. Bob Taft, a Republican.

Boyle said Friday she plans to meet with her attorney and will take legal action on Brunner's decision Tuesday.

"I'm attempting to run because I know I'm the best candidate for the job," she said. "... I look forward to litigating this in court."

Lisa Okolish won the Democratic primary for Barberton law director. There were no Republican candidates.

Robin Michelle Hutchinson, a candidate for Falls clerk whose independent status wasn't challenged, was moved to tears Friday when she learned of the decision. She said she has put a considerable amount of time and money into the race.

"I was given incorrect information from the board of elections," she said, referring to the filing deadline. "Were it not for the shenanigans of the other six candidates, my candidacy would have proceeded ... I'm extremely disappointed with the mockery they have made of the political system."

The other disqualified clerk candidates are: Anne-Marie Brench, Amy Grace Goodrich, Carol A. Gorril, Ruth Ann Mundy, Kimberly Steinwedel and Kristi Marie Sykora.

Ballots to be printed

Alex Arshinkoff, a Republican elections board member who voted to allow all the candidates to stay on the ballot, said Brunner was correct in her decision on the clerk candidates because of the deadline.

On the Boyle decision, he said it's ironic that Democratic or Republican officeholders can switch parties, "and yet a person can't run as an independent."

Wayne Jones, chairman of the elections board and a Democrat, hailed Brunner's decisions, saying "the scheme that Widowsfield and the Republican Party put together has been foiled."

Widowsfield has denied any involvement in getting the independent candidates to run.

In the case of Boyle, Jones said: "She's a Republican. You're not an independent just because you say you are."

With the issue of the independent candidates settled, the elections board will begin printing absentee ballots to send to about 1,000 voters who have requested them.

This step, which was supposed to have been taken Tuesday, was delayed because of eligibility disputes. Voters who want to fill out absentee forms at the elections board can begin doing so Tuesday.

Stephanie Warracut can be reached at 330-598-3786 or swarracut@thebeaconjournal.com.

Please see Falls, A12
January 31, 2008

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner
Attn: David Farrell
180 E Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Secretary Brunner:

It is my understanding that you are currently considering the appointment of Alex R. Arshinkoff to a seat on the Summit County Board of Elections. I write today to comment on his conduct as it relates to direct threats and intimidation against me and the City of Hudson, where I live and serve on city council.

You may be aware that in 2004, the City of Hudson cited Karen Arshinkoff, owner of the Arshinkoff residence, for displaying a political yard sign that exceeded the size allowed by our city ordinances. I received a phone call from Alex Arshinkoff to my home on the subject. The answering machine picked up the call and, unbeknownst to me, recorded most of the conversation that followed.

In his phone call, Mr. Arshinkoff insisted that the City of Hudson drop its charge against his wife and that failure to do so would have consequences. Mr. Arshinkoff threatened to fully engage in Hudson local politics to defeat incumbent council members and the mayor with large amounts of money. In addition, Mr. Arshinkoff threatened to halt the State of Ohio from moving forward on an additional interchange on State Route 8 that will benefit Hudson greatly. The Seasons Road interchange is vital to our economic development efforts in Hudson. Mr. Arshinkoff vowed to use his influence in Columbus and "control" of the regional ODOT director to squash the project.

WKYC in Cleveland reported twice on this intimidation and aired portions of the call. The stories they aired can be viewed here:
I am equally concerned about the poor judgment Mr. Arshinkoff has displayed lately as a member of the Summit County Board of Elections. Specifically, Mr. Arshinkoff appears to be ordering Republican employees at the Board to break the law.

Recently, the Beacon Journal reported that a public records request had uncovered a pattern of phone calls made by BOE staff from the Board office phones assigned to Alex Arshinkoff and Jack Morrison. These calls were made to prospective candidates for Republican Central Committee to recruit them to run and to poll their support of Arshinkoff as chairman of the county Republican Party.

One of our staff members at Hudson City Hall, Elizabeth Sheeter reported to me that she received a call from the Board of Elections from staff member Patrice Kormushoff on December 10, 2007. A voicemail was left and she called Ms. Kormushoff back at the Board of Elections. Ms. Sheeter was asked if she would run for central committee, told that the party would help get her on the ballot, and was asked if she supported the current chairman. She declined and that was the end of the conversation.

This is just one of the many troubling reports coming out of the Board of Elections involving Mr. Arshinkoff ordering staff to do questionable and possibly illegal things to achieve his ends. Other media reports detail his retaliation against a whistle blower who pointed out errors in the party's campaign finance reports. All this leaves the public with the impression that Mr. Arshinkoff cannot be trusted to run a fair election. If he is willing to bend or break the rules recruiting candidates, scrutinizing candidate petitions, and denying due process to employees and citizens, will he taint election results if given the chance?

Alex Arshinkoff's pattern of intimidation and arbitrary and capricious conduct in his role as a member of the Summit County Board of Elections should be reviewed. I respectfully urge you to not appoint him to the Board for a new term.

Kindest regards,

George Roth
Kevin Coughlin
2324 Iota Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

February 1, 2008

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner
Attn: David Farrell
180 E Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Secretary Brunner:

I am requesting that you investigate the arbitrary and capricious conduct of Summit County Board of Elections member Alex Arshinkoff and Director Bryan C. Williams.

As you are aware, I am part of an effort to change the leadership of the Summit County Republican Party. In that role, I have had a fair amount of interaction with the Board of Elections. My experiences in recent months have left me with the impression that neither Mr. Arshinkoff nor Mr. Williams can be trusted to administer a free and fair election on March 4th.

At best, Arshinkoff and Williams have harassed or delayed our efforts to obtain public records from the Board. At worst, they have violated the law and ordered Board staff to do the same. I have collected information from the Board of Elections for over a decade and have never had the kind of experience we are currently having.

- Brian Juliao, a candidate for Republican central committee, visited the Board in November to pick up a petition of candidacy to run. He was told that he could not have one and that he should call Republican Headquarters.

- Clara Gillen, an incumbent Republican central committee member, had her petition for candidacy circulated by the party. When they discovered she was not supportive of Mr. Arshinkoff's leadership the petition disappeared and was never filed. Another candidate was recruited and filed by the party.

- Several BOE employees reported to me that Director Bryan Williams circulated his petition for Republican state central committee among Board employees at work. The petition, signed by the employees on November 21, 2007 seems to back up the witnesses.

- I requested a BOE hearing into the matter of the Williams petition. The Ohio Revised Code requires that I be notified of the hearing if one is scheduled. I was not. The hearing was held and the complaint dismissed. Mr. Williams is quoted in the Beacon Journal and on WAKR radio saying the complaint was dismissed because I failed to attend the hearing. This is a violation of due process.

- Numerous media reports and the audio from the December 10, 2007 Board of Elections meeting detail how Republican BOE staff were ordered to scrutinize candidate petitions submitted by our group three times as much as petitions submitted by Mr. Arshinkoff's group.

- As a result, several of our petitions were red-flagged by staff for invalidation that had absolutely no problem. Numerous petitions submitted by Mr. Arshinkoff's group
were allowed to be certified, without red-flagging by the staff, despite serious deficiencies including not having enough valid signatures. (Board staff even noted in their check that the petitions had fewer than five valid names AND they initialed the notes).

- A public records request has uncovered a pattern of phone calls made by BOE staff from the Board office phones assigned to Alex Arshinkoff, Jack Morrison, Bryan Williams, Maria Kotsatos, Steve Kotsatos, and Patrice Kormushoff. These calls were made to prospective candidates for Republican Central Committee to recruit them to run and to poll their support of Arshinkoff as chairman of the county Republican Party. This is a clear violation of the law and your instructions. We are preparing a detailed brief for you on this matter and will forward it shortly. This will include the phone logs, statements from several people who were called, and statements from BOE employees who witnessed the calls being made.

- I am personally aware of intimidation of BOE employees by Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams regarding their allegiances in the party leadership contest. Employees have had their jobs explicitly threatened if they interact with me or my associates in any way.

  If Arshinkoff and Williams are willing break the rules recruiting candidates, scrutinizing candidate petitions, and denying due process to employees and citizens, will they taint election results if given the chance? Can I trust that they will comply with my request for absentee labels?

Alex Arshinkoff and Bryan Williams do not conduct themselves in their roles at the Board as objective elections officials. They conduct themselves as partisans desperate to save their political positions. I urge that you look further into these and other matters and to remove them from their positions at the Board so the general public can be confident of free and fair elections.

Kindest regards,

[Signature]
SUMMIT COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATION MEETING
June 14, 2006 6:30 P.M.

Crown Plaza Hotel
135 S. Broadway St. Akron, OH

Chairman, Joe Hutchinson asked the audience to stand for the invocation by Dr. Deborah Owens Fink and the Pledge of Allegiance by Clerk of Courts, James Laria.

Dr. Deborah Owens Fink gave the invocation.

Clerk of Courts, James Laria led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dinner was served.

Chairman Joseph P. Hutchinson, Jr. called the meeting to order.

Secretary Robert Linton read the meeting call.

Secretary Linton moved that the door check be accepted in lieu of a roll call.

The following members were present:

Akron 1-A       Akron 1-B       Akron 1-D       Akron 1-J       Akron 1-O       Akron 1-P
Jean Coleman    Carl W Butler  James S Simon  Loretta M Haugh  Jim Laria  Ralph Starmer

Akron 2-A       Akron 2-D       Akron 2-F       Akron 2-J       Akron 2-K       Akron 2-L
Mary Azar       Anthony Daniels  Gary Fagan    Janet Kay Fisher  Janet Fisher

Akron 3-F       Akron 3-I       Akron 3-L       Akron 4-A       Akron 4-B       Akron 4-E
Mallie McDonald  Vera Lonabury  Lamar Swails Jr  Teddy Marsha Marks  Michael R Sth

Akron 4-F       Akron 4-G       Akron 4-K       Akron 4-N       Akron 4-P       Akron 4-Q
Sheridan Shropshire Mary E. Stewart Madge Doerler Mike Hoover Arthur Coates Sr.

Maxine Blake
Akron 5-B
Akron 5-C
Akron 5-J
Akron 5-K
Akron 6-C
Akron 6-D
Akron 6-J
Akron 6-K
Akron 6-L
Akron 6-M
Akron 8-P
Akron 7-A
Akron 7-D
Akron 7-G
Akron 7-H
Akron 7-J
Akron 7-O
Akron 8-B
Akron 8-F
Akron 8-G
Akron 8-H
Akron 8-L
Akron 8-M
Akron 8-N
Akron 8-P
Akron 7-A
Akron 7-C
Akron 7-D
Akron 7-G
Akron 7-H
Akron 7-J
Akron 7-O
Akron 8-B
Akron 8-F
Akron 8-G
Akron 8-H
Akron 8-L
Akron 8-M
Akron 8-N
Akron 8-P
Akron 9-A
Akron 9-B
Akron 9-D
Akron 9-E
Akron 9-L
Akron 10-C
Akron 10-K
Akron 10-M
Barberton 2-B
Barberton 2-C
Barberton 6-B
Bath Twp A
Bath Twp B
Bath Twp D
Bath Twp M
Copley Twp A
Copley Twp B
Copley Twp C
Copley Twp F
Copley Twp M
Coventry A
Coventry E
Coventry F
Cuy Falls 2-B
Cuy Falls 2-D
Cuy Falls 2-E
Cuy Falls 3-B
Cuy Falls 3-D
Cuy Falls 3-E
Carol Brown
Ronald Leving
John Cooley
Patricia Ann Lance
Robert Smyth
Anne Nixon
Gus Chamas
Raymond Scott Milhoan
Don Longshore
Beatrice Lehr
Terri Lynn Barauskas
Cynthia H. Low
Joyce Stull
David Mark Casey
Jill Flegg
Jeanette D. Sullivan
Kim Arnold
John Stainhauer
Charles Ashcroft
Bob Haffern
Ann Marie Kormushoff
Irene Harry
Edward M Bollinger
Richard J Humphries
Robert Linton
Howard Calhoun
Jonathan T Pavloff
Jane T. Sanders
Donna Wolfe
Dawn M Sted
Patricia Nep
Joanne Marie Angelatti
Betty J Blackburn
Deborah Kay Osborne
Cathy Sue Struble
Beatrice Klein
Ken Masich
Scott Stevenson
Wayne Alton Ault
Ralph Rohner
Ray Weber
Sean Gaffney
Richard E. Sutherland
Albert Shelton
Judith Lee Obermeyer
Rachael Day
Michael Mardis
Raymond Alexoff
Pamela Wayland
Chris Molis
Matthew Schaad
Tamara Rottenova
Richard Klinger
Don Robert
Terry A Gehring
Karen Foley
Cuy Falls 8-A  Helen Struhsaker
Cuy Falls 6-B  Mary Louise Brannan
Cuy Falls 5-C  Jennifer Syx
Cuy Falls 6-F  Daniel T Conrad
Cuy Falls 6-D  Grace Ellen Jensen
Cuy Falls 7-A  Christy Lynn Opritza
Cuy Falls 8-A  Lynne Elizabeth Heas
Cuy Falls 8-B  Melissa Wilkinson
Fairlawn 6-A  Vivian Zock
Franklin Twp A  Sandra Dimascio
Franklin Twp K  Cheryl Miller
Green 2-B  Susan Linger
Green 3-A  John Allen Spinelli
Green 3-C  Carl Mickelson
Green 3-E  Peggy Steen
Green 4-A  Jennifer Troyer
Green 4-B  Ina Fairchild
Hudson 1-C  Alex R Arshinkoff
Hudson 3-D  James Purlela
Macedonia A  Thomas Burnoughs
Macedonia C  Paul Farley
Macedonia E  Gregory P Harris
Macedonia F  Kurt Laubinger
Macedonia H  Lom Ash
Mogadore 8-B  Charles Stave Marks
Munroe Falls C  James Iona
Munroe Falls D  Susan Howard
Munroe Falls F  William J Mattingly
New Franklin E  Eleanor Bigham
New Franklin I  Victoria Marie Murdocco
Norton 1-B  Mary Ann Isak
Norton 2-A  Karen Elizabeth Stavarz
Norton 2-B  Robert J Caffery
Norton 3-B  Judy Foster
Norton 4-C  Mary Rose Haight
Reminderville B  Patrick T. McCarthy
Segamore Hills B  Agnes Armstrong
Segamore Hills K  Joe Masiich
Silver Lake B  Jack Mottson
Springfield B  Judy Ann Howard
Springfield E  Tammy Erickson
Springfield J  Mary Lou Dodson
Springfield M  Ronald Koehler
Stow 1-A  Lynn Slaby, Sr.
Stow 1-E  Matt Riehl
Stow 2-C  Richard A. Willis
Stow 2-D  Mike Chadsey
Stow 3-B  Karen Spoemdie
Stow 3-D  Scott Bockbrader
Stow 4-D  Joyce Ann Amlung
Tallmadge 1-C  Leslie H Knight
Tallmadge 2-A  Howard Atwood
Tallmadge 2-C  JoAnn M Wood
Tallmadge 3-B  Traci Cinullo
Tallmadge 3-C  Lawrence Clarka
Tallmadge 4-B  John F Cochran
The motion was seconded.

Chairman Hutchinson placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hutchinson explained the effort by many volunteers in successfully filling the 474 precinct committee positions. He thanked all of the volunteers that made this filing a success and congratulated the newly elected precinct committeemen on their election.

Chairman Hutchinson explained that precinct committeemen who for reasons of death, illness, relocation, or disqualification, are unable to serve their terms, therefore creating vacancies on the committee. He noted that due to those vacancies, it becomes necessary to appoint precinct committeemen in those precincts, and that in the past, the Central Committee has customarily approved the new appointees to fill such vacancies by a motion. He indicated that some of the newly appointed members may be present and if so, they should be able to participate in the organizational meeting.

Chairman Hutchinson asked Bryan Williams, Director of the Summit County Board of Elections, to read the names along with the appropriate precinct designation of those who have agreed to serve as precinct committeemen by appointment, if they are formally approved by the Committee.

Bryan Williams reported that the following individuals have agreed to serve as precinct committeemen.

Juanita K. Labelle Akron 5-D
Sandra Vober Akron 7-N
Donna J. Mallory Akron 10-E
Carolyn Ann Simpson Akron 10-J
Patricia Ann Ley Cuyahoga Falls 4-E
Richard Sistek Stow 4-E
Wanda Steiner Copley Township I
Joni Murgatroyd Coventry I
Rita Dufala Northfield Center Township A
Pearl Salhany Springfield N

Bryan Williams moved that "the aforementioned persons be appointed to the Summit County Republican Central Committee, and that they be permitted to participate in this organizational meeting."

The motion was seconded.
Chairman Hutchinson placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hutchinson explained, for the benefit of the members, the general procedure in organizing the Central Committee. He announced that the Committee would be electing temporary officers pursuant to Ohio law and then permanent officers to serve the full term (2006-2008). He also announced that the Committee would be passing necessary resolutions for the operation of the committee. He stressed that he would be happy to answer any questions that members had relative to those motions.

Joe Masich moved that Jonathan T. Pavloff serve as temporary Chairman and Robert Linton, serve as temporary Secretary for the purpose of electing permanent officers.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Hutchinson placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made noting the Ohio Revised Code provides for the election of a permanent Chairman, a permanent Secretary, a Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer, and such other officers as the rules of the Committee may provide.

A motion was made that "in addition to the officers provided for by law, the Summit County Republican Central Committee name one Executive Vice-Chairman, three additional Vice-Chairmen, an Assistant Secretary, and an Assistant Treasurer."

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Alex Arshinkoff nominated Jonathan T. Pavloff for the office of permanent Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that the nominations be closed at that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Jonathan T. Pavloff for the office of Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Alex Arshinkoff stated that since the question dealt with the presiding officer and because he offered the motion, therefore, pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order, he would place the question to a vote.

Alex Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Jonathan T. Pavloff resumed the chair.
Mayor Don Robart nominated Robert Linton for the office of permanent Secretary.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that nominations be closed at that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Linton for the office of permanent Secretary.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Joseph Masich for the office of Executive Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Joseph Masich for the office of Executive Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Kurt Laubinger for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Kurt Laubinger for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Madge Doerler for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that nominations be closed at that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Madge Doerler for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Les Knight for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.
A motion was made that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Les Knight for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Joyce Stull for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff moved that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Joyce Stull for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Hutchinson placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated James Simon for the office of Treasurer.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for James Simon for the office of Treasurer.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that nominated Tammy Erickson for the office of Assistant Secretary.

The motion was seconded.

A motion was made that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Tammy Erickson for the office of Assistant Secretary.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pavloff explained that after the Primary Election results were certified for the Precinct Committeemen, Chairman Arshinkoff and he appointed six members of the Summit County Republican Central Committee – three men and three women. These individuals were:

Kim Arnold, Akron, 7-O
Peggy Steen, Green 3-E
James Laria, Akron, 1-O
Robert Linton, Akron, 8-N
Kristina Kremer, Cuyahoga Falls, 8-D
Bryan C. Williams, Fairlawn 1-A

These six individuals served as a nominating committee to present a report of their recommendation of persons to constitute the 2006-2008 Summit County Republican Executive Committee, with Bryan C. Williams serving as Chairman of the nominating committee.

Chairman Hutchinson asked Bryan Williams to give a report of the nominating committee.

Bryan Williams announced that the nominating committee met on June 14, 2006 and read the following names:

Drew Alexander
Van Alexander
Rennick Andreoli
Kim Arnold
Alex R Arshinkoff
Chris Arshinkoff
Howard Atwood
Gregory Bachman
Craig Bara
Rollie Bauer
Sara Benoit
Maxine Blake
Linda Lou Bowen
Pat Boyle
Denny Bradshaw
Steve Brubaker
Frances S. Buchholzer
Howard Calhoun
Michael Chadsey
William Chris
Arthur Coates Sr.
Frances Cochran
Jan Cook
Kevin Coughlin
Mike Curtin
Carol Curtis
Brian Deekon
Mark DeMarco
Gus Demaris
William Demas
Mary Lou Dodson
Madge Doerler
Andrew R Duff
Fred Eastman
Tammy Erickson
Otha Everage
Diane Fisher
Howard Flood
Wilma Griffa
Jonathan Groza
Gary Hagen
Elizabeth Hamlin
Deidre Hanlon
Bob Heffem
Julia
Hochschwender
Michael Hoover
Elisabeth Hurley
Joseph Hutchinson, Jr.
Clifford Isroff
Candace Campbell
Jackson
Mark D Jenkins
Yvonne Jesser
Frances Kalapodis
Leslie H Knight
Ronald Kochler
Maria Kotsatos
Steven Kotsatos
Kristina Kremer
Jim Larla
Kurt Laubinger
Earlene Laymon
Robert Linton
Lynn Loftus
Bonnie Lucien
Ted Mallo
Joe Masich
Ken Masich
Adam Meyerson
Barbara Miller
Chander Mohan
Jack Morrison
Kamel Muakkassa
W.F. Nemer
Denny Parks  (73)
Rosemary Passeos
Michael Pavick
Jonathon T Pavloff
Charles Pilliod, Jr.
Tim Powell
Bill Price
Michael Pryce
Roy Ray
Matt Riehl
Don Robart
Gloria Rodgers
Twyla Roman
Nancy Rosche
Bill Roth
George W Roth
Matthew Schaad
Julia Sigel
Scott Sigel
James S Simon
Marilyn Slaby
Peter Spitalieri
Peggy Steen
John Steinhauer
Scot Stevenson
Michael R Stith
Mary Stormer
Joyce Stull
Paul Swanson
Gary Taylor
Mary Taylor
Helen F Thigpen
Phil Thomas
Jennifer Troyer
Sue Truby
Jean Unger
Gene Waddell
Arlene Wagner
Thomas Waltermire
Ray Weber
Cathy Wegmiller
Kathryn
Wertzbaugh
John Widowfield
Bryan C Williams
Helen Williams
Louis Wray

(45)
Bryan Williams moved that "the aforementioned individuals constitute the Summit County Republican Executive Committee for the ensuing two year term, 2006-2008."

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pavloff explained that a series of organizational motions are necessary so that the Committee can conform to the applicable statues of the Ohio Revised Code and that he would recognize persons that would offer those motions. He stressed that after the motions were made and duly seconded he would be happy to answer any questions that the members may have relative to the motions.

A motion was made that "any member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee who votes in a partisan party primary other than a Republican primary, automatically ceases to be a member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee."

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that "the Summit County Republican Executive Committee be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur on either the Summit County Republican Central Committee or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee, and further, that the Summit County Republican Central Committee authorizes and delegates to the Summit County Republican Executive Committee the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur as to Republican candidates and/or officeholders as permitted by law."

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that "the Summit County Republican Executive Committee and its officers be authorized to conduct and manage all Republican campaign efforts and do all things necessary for the operation of said campaigns, including, but not limited to, operate a full-time headquarters and any other necessary auxiliary offices; conduct fundraising programs; expend monies for the conduct of campaign efforts and the operation of Republican Headquarters including any related activities thereto; and execute any and all necessary contracts and agreements. The Summit County Republican Executive Committee, by and through its duly authorized officers, shall further be and is
hereby authorized to engage in all necessary actions required to conduct Republican election campaigns, and to promote Republican Party success.”

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that “the 2008-2010 Summit County Republican Central Committee consist of one member from each precinct in the County who files their Declaration of Candidacy and petition with the Summit County Board of Elections and is duly elected for a two year-term.”

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that “the Summit County Republican Central Committee pledge its support to only those state and local candidates who were duly nominated at the March 2, 2006 Republican Primary election and any additional candidates who are endorsed by the Summit County Republican Central Committee or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee to fill vacancies on the ticket.”

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that “the officers of the Summit County Republican Central Committee in conjunction with the officers of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee continue to hold the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, if in their judgment it is desirable to hold such an affair, and to do such other acts as will promote Republican Party success.”

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A resolution was offered that “any member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee who permits his or her name to be used, or his or her campaign committee to be used in behalf of or solicits or gives support to or for any candidate other than a Republican candidate in any primary, or who permits his or her name to be used, or his or her campaign committee to be used in behalf of, or solicits or gives support to or for a candidate other than a regularly nominated, appointed, or endorsed Republican candidate in any special or general election shall automatically cease to be a member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.”
The motion was seconded.

Chairman Pavloff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Pavloff congratulated the following newly elected officers of the Summit County Republican Central Committee:

- Jonathan T. Pavloff, Chairman
- Joseph Masich, Executive Vice-Chairman
- Kurt Laubinger, Vice-Chairman
- Madge Doeler, Vice-Chairman
- Les Knight, Vice-Chairman
- Joyce Stull, Vice-Chairman
- Robert Linton, Secretary
- Tammy Erickson, Assistant Secretary
- James Simon, Treasurer

Chairman Pavloff thanked everyone for their continued support and introduced Alex Arshinkoff, Chairman of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

Chairman Arshinkoff made remarks about the upcoming election.

Chairman Pavloff announced that if there was further business to come before the Committee he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made to adjourn.

The motion was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Erickson, Assistant Secretary
Summit County Republican Central Committee
Summit County Executive Committee
Organizational Meeting

U.S. Senator Charles Dick Volunteer Center

Tuesday, June 27, 2006
6:30 PM

Robert Linton, Secretary of the Summit County Republican Party, asked the members to stand while Judge Brenda Burnham Unruh gave the invocation and to remain standing while Mayor Don L. Robart led the Pledge to the Flag.

Judge Brenda Burnham Unruh gave the invocation.

Mayor Don L. Robart led the Pledge to the Flag.

Secretary Robert Linton asked the members to be seated and to enjoy their dinner.

Dinner was served.

Secretary Linton calls the meeting to order and explained that Chairman Jonathan Pavloff is out of town on business and can not preside and that he would be serving as temporary Chairman for the purpose of electing permanent officers according to the Ohio revised code section 3517.04. While serving as temporary Chairman he explained the Assistant Secretary of the Summit County Republican Central Committee Tammy Erickson would be serving as Secretary.

Secretary Linton asked Tammy Erickson, Assistant Secretary of the Summit County Republican Central Committee, serving as the Secretary to read the meeting call.

Tammy Erickson read the meeting call.

Secretary Linton asked Tammy Erickson to read the roll call.

Tammy Erickson read the roll call and the following members were present:

Alex Arshinkoff
Chris Arshinkoff
Sara Benoit
Maxine Blake
Howard Calhoun
Margaret Brosnan
Arthur Coates
Jack Cochran
Tom Cousincau
Pat Boyle

120 Members

58 Present

Highest for January - 61
Carol Curtis
Brian Daley
Gus Demaris
Tammy Erickson
Otha Everage
Wilma Griffa
Gary Hagen
Dee Hanlon
Mike Hoover
Yvonne Jesser
Bud Kissel
Les Knight
Ron Koehler
Mike Kormushoff
Maria Kotsatos
Steve Kotsatos
Jim Laria
Frank Larson
Kurt Laubinger
Robert Linton
Don Longshore
Steve Marks
Joe Masich
Ken Masich
Barb Miller
Dr. Chander Mohan
Jack Morrison
Denny Parks
Rose Mary Posseos
Anthony Petraca
Matt Riehl
Don L. Robart
Matt Schaad
Dr. Michael Selder
Julia Sigel
Jim Simon
Peggy Steen
Scot Stevenson
Joyce Stull
Paul Swanson
Jenny Troyer
Sue Truby
Gene Waddell
Ray Weber
John Widowfield
Bryan Williams
Tammy Erickson reported the roll had been called and a quorum is present.

Secretary Linton announced that James Simon will serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Secretary Linton recognized Scott Sigel for the purpose of making a motion.

Scott Sigel moved that the following offices be created within the Summit County Republican Executive Committee to constitute the duly elected offices for 2006 and for a term of two years: Chairman, an Executive Vice Chairman, five Vice Chairmen, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary, and further, that the Chairman receive a salary of $6,000 a month.

Yvonne Jesser seconded the motion.

Secretary Linton placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Linton recognized Don L. Robart, Mayor of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the purpose of nominating a Chairman.

Don L. Robart nominated Alex Arshinkoff for the office of Chairman.

Bryan C. Williams seconded the nomination.

Yvonne Jesser moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot for Alex Arshinkoff for the office of Chairman.

Jack Cochran seconded the motion.

Secretary Linton placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Linton congratulated Chairman Alex Arshinkoff and turned the meeting over to him.

Chairman Arshinkoff thanked the membership for his re-election.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Les Knight for the purpose of making nominating an Executive Vice Chairman.

Les Knight nominated Bryan Williams for the office of Executive Vice Chairman.

Don Longshore seconded the nomination.

Pat Boyle moved the nominations be closed and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Bryan Williams for the office of Executive Vice Chairman.
Lou Wray
Ann Young

Tammy Erickson reported the roll had been called and a quorum is present.

Secretary Linton announced that James Simon will serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Secretary Linton recognized Scott Sigel for the purpose of making a motion.

Scott Sigel moved that the following offices be created within the Summit County Republican Executive Committee to constitute the duly elected offices for 2006 and for a term of two years: Chairman, an Executive Vice Chairman, five Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary, and further, that the Chairman receive a salary of $6,000 a month.

Yvonne Jesser seconded the motion.

Secretary Linton placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Linton recognized Don L. Robart, Mayor of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the purpose of nominating a Chairman.

Don L. Robart nominated Alex Arshinkoff for the office of Chairman.

Bryan C. Williams seconded the nomination.

Yvonne Jesser moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Alex Arshinkoff for the office of Chairman.

Jack Cochran seconded the motion.

Secretary Linton placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Linton congratulated Chairman Alex Arshinkoff and turned the meeting over to him.

Chairman Arshinkoff thanked the membership for his re-election.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Les Knight for the purpose of making nominating an Executive Vice Chairman.

Les Knight nominated Bryan Williams for the office of Executive Vice Chairman.

Don Longshore seconded the nomination.

Pat Boyle moved the nominations be closed and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Bryan Williams for the office of Executive Vice Chairman.
Steve Kotsatos seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Jack Cochran for the purpose of nominating a Vice Chairman.

Jack Cochran nominated Dr. Williams Demas for the office of Vice Chairman.

Gary Hagen seconded the motion.

Ron Koehler moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Dr. William Demas for the office of Vice Chairman.

Les Knight seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Kim Arnold for the purpose of nominating a Vice Chairman.

Kim Arnold nominated Barb Miller for the Office of Vice Chairman.

John Widowfield seconded the motion.

Peggy Steen moved that the nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Barb Miller for the Office of Vice Chairman.

Maria Kotsatos seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Gary Hagen for the purpose of nominating a Vice Chairman.

Gary Hagen nominated Carol Curtis for the Office of Vice Chairman.

John Widowfield seconded the nomination.

Don Longshore moved that nominations be closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Carol Curtis for the office of Vice Chairman.

Don L. Robart seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Maria Kotsatos for the purpose of nominating a Vice Chairman.
Maria Kotsatos nominated Deidra Hanlon for the office of Vice Chairman.

Dr. Chander Mohan seconded the motion.

James Simon moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Deidra Hanlon for the office of Vice Chairman.

Kim Arnold seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Lou Wray for the purpose of nominating a Vice Chairman.

Lou Wray nominated Paul Swanson for the office of Vice Chairman.

Anthony Petrascu seconded the motion.

Gus Demaris moved that the nominations be closed and that
Les Knight seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Bryan C. Williams for the purpose of nominating a Secretary.

Bryan C. Williams nominated Jack Morrison Jr. for the office of Secretary.

Steve Kotsatos seconded the motion.

Kim Arnold moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Jack Morrison Jr. for the office of Secretary.

James Simon seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Pat Boyle for the purpose of nominating an Assistant Secretary.

Pat Boyle nominated Steven Kotsatos for the office of Assistant Secretary.

Mike Chadsey seconded the nomination.

Peggy Steen moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Steven Kotsatos for the office of Assistant Secretary.

Scott Sigel seconded the motion.
Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Don Longshore for the purpose of nominating a Treasurer.

Don Longshore nominated Kim Arnold for the office of Treasurer.

Mike Chadsey seconded the nominated.

Scott Sigel moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Kim Arnold for the office of Treasurer.

Peggy Steen seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff congratulated the newly elected officers of the Republican Executive Committee.

Chairman Arshinkoff introduces the new members of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee:

Alex Arshinkoff
Bryan Williams
Dr. Williams Demas
Barbara Miller
Carol Curtis
Deidre Hanlon
Paul Swanson
Jack Morrison Jr.
Steven Kotsatos
Kim Arnold

Drew Alexander
Tom Cousineau
Christine Croce
Brian Daley
Dr. John Fink
Bud Kissel
Frank Larson
Don Longshore
Steve Marks
Steve Murphy
John Ong
Michael Oravecz
Anthony Petrarca Jr.
Dr. Michael Seider
Ann Young

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Mike Chadsey for the purpose of making a motion.

Mike Chadsey moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee affirm the action of the Summit County Republican Central Committee on June 14, 2006 in that any member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee who votes in a partisan party primary other than a Republican primary automatically ceases to be a member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Lou Wray for the purpose of making a motion.

Lou Wray moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee affirm the action of the Summit County Republican Central Committee on June 14, 2006 in that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur on either the Summit County Republican Central Committee or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee and further that the Summit County Republican Central Committee authorized and delegated to the Summit County Republican Executive Committee the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur as to Republican candidates and/or officeholders a permitted by law.

Les Knight seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Gary Hagen for the purpose of making a motion.

Gary Hagen moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee affirm the action of the Summit County Republican Central Committee on June 14, 2006 in that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee and its officers be authorized to conduct and manage all Republican campaign efforts and do all things necessary for the operation of said campaigns, including, but not limited to, operate a full-time headquarters and any other necessary auxiliary offices; conduct fundraising programs; expend monies for the conduct of campaign efforts and the operation of Republican Headquarters including any related activities thereto; and execute any and all necessary contracts and agreements. The Summit County Republican Executive Committee, by and through its duly authorized officers, shall further be and is hereby authorized to engage in all necessary actions required to conduct Republican election campaigns, and to promote Republican Party success.

Maria Kotsatos seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Jack Cochran for the purpose of making a motion.

Jack Cochran moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee pledge its support to only those state and local candidates who were duly nominated at the May 2, 2006 Republican Primary election, and any additional candidates who are endorsed by the Summit County Republican Central Committee or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee to fill vacancies on the ticket.

Kim Arnold seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Ron Koehler for the purpose of making a motion.

Ron Koehler moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee affirm the action of the Summit County Republican Central Committee on June 14, 2006 in that the officers of the Summit County Republican Central Committee in conjunction with the officers of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee continue to hold the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, if in their judgment it is desirable to hold such an affair, and to do such other acts as will promote Republican Party success.

Dr. Chandler Mohan seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Tammy Erickson for the purpose of making a motion.

Tammy Erickson moved that the Summit County Republican Executive Committee affirm the action of the Summit County Republican Central Committee June 14, 2006 in that any member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee who permits his or her name to be used, or his or her campaign committee to be used in behalf of or solicits or gives support to or for any candidate other than a Republican candidate in any primary, or who permits his or her name to be used, or his or her campaign committee to be used in behalf of, or solicits or gives support for a candidate other than a regularly nominated, appointed, or endorsed Republican candidate in any special or general election shall automatically cease to be a member of the Summit County Republican Central Committee and/or the Summit County Republican Executive Committee.

James Simon seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff refers to vacancies on the Summit County Republican Central Committee. Pursuant to the rules adopted by the Summit County Republican Central Committee at its organizational meeting on June 14, 2006 the Committee has the authority to fill those vacancies.
Chairman Arshinkoff recognized Bryan C. Williams, Executive Vice Chairman of the Summit County Republican Executive Committee and Director of the Summit County Board of Elections for a motion.

Vice Chairman Williams moved that:

John R. Hudak of Richfield Village D
Thomas Pinto of Akron 8-E

Be appointed to the Summit County Republican Central Committee

Don Longshore seconded the motion.

Chairman Arshinkoff placed the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arshinkoff gave his Chairman's report on the 2006 General Election and the 2006 Finance Dinner.

Chairman Arshinkoff asked for a motion to adjourn.

Scott Sigel moved to adjourn.

Tom Cousineau seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Morrison Jr., Secretary
Summit County Republican Executive Committee