

Whose Primary Is It?

Forrest Ward didn't even show up at the Republican Committee meeting in Poquoson. The Hampton Republican Committee voted to endorse Del. Tom Gear – first time to choose sides in a primary. The York Republican Committee will see if Ward appears at their June 5th meeting now that he has recruited the York Democrat Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue to support him. No elected Republican official and no Republican Party official endorse Forrest Ward. None, zip, zero, nada, null set, nary a single one. Maybe that's why Ward is putting out negative and personal attacks.

Elected Republicans and Party officials from the chief Virginia Republican - Attorney General Jerry Kilgore - to 91st HD precinct captains support Del. Tom Gear. There is a pattern here. Republicans for Tom Gear. Democrats for Forrest Ward. Forrest Ward is trying to hijack the Republican primary with Democrat votes.

This is an organized, well-funded effort from the same people who spent \$2.1m trying to sucker you to vote for the Sales Tax referendum. This is way different from getting individual cross over votes. As I've joked at political meetings, like at the kNOW Committee, if you know a 'communist serial-killer' who will vote based on one of your issues, or your candidate, take their vote. Never compromise your principles and take every vote to win. When Jerry Kilgore got 80% of the vote in Poquoson against super-Liberal McEachin, he won a lot of non-Republican individuals over. On the contrary, Forrest Ward is working with the activist Democrats who attended the fund raiser at his house for Mr. "Partial-Birth Abortion/Homosexual Marriage" McEachin to take over the Republican primary. It's up to you to stop Ward now, just as you stopped Ward and his Yes! tax increase.

Forrest Ward invoked the moral authority of the Daily Press (formerly known as Pravda) in an attack mailer calling Tom Gear a political chameleon. If only we had more such amphibians in the Republican Party! Tom's voting record (www.VirginiaVotes.net) is consistent, courageous conservative Republican. Del. Gear is as much a Democrat as President Ronald Reagan, Gov. Godwin, the late Cong. Herb Bateman and State Sen. Tommy Norment.

Consider who was doing what in 2001. Forrest Ward – raising money for liberal Democrats Warner and McEachin. Tom Gear – raising money and working in the hot sun for conservative Republicans Earley and Kilgore. In '02 Forrest Ward was a spokesman for the Yes! campaign to raise your taxes for what Ward himself said was, "the worst possible plan." Del. Tom Gear voted 'No' in the General Assembly and lead the 'No' fight to victory (72% of the 91st HD) against the biggest political scam in Virginia history.

But, the money behind Forrest Ward knows no bounds. It holds no regard for taxes working people pay, because taxes are only a problem for people without real wealth. It doesn't brook the populist defiance Del. Tom Gear showed to not raise taxes and hand off the billions to their buddies in un-elected, unaccountable regional government. Ask Ward when and why he decided to run for delegate – when the guy they planned to take on Gear quit in the last week of February. Only then did Ward buy a house in the 91st HD on March 21, 03. He doesn't actually live there in the district – ask him. Funny how he circulated his petition for candidacy early in March, but all the signatures are dated after March 21st to make them legal. Hmmm. Legal but illegitimate – just like his run in this Republican primary.

Forrest Ward says he is a fiscal conservative like liberal Democrat Mark Warner kept saying it to get elected, but won't sign a No Tax Pledge. Forrest Ward says he is NOT a social conservative, but won't tell you on what social issues he is liberal. That is all part of the stealth campaign to take over our Republican primary. The liberals know they can't stand toe to toe to Republican Tom Gear in the conservative 91st HD with a "D" by their candidate's name.

York Chairman Dick Hixson sat next to me, face to face with Forrest Ward, when we were told that Molly Ward would organize the Democrats in Hampton to win the Republican Primary on June 10th. Forrest is doing all he can with elected Democrats in Poquoson and York to steal the primary. It will take every Republican, libertarian, independent, and conservative – even the 'communist serial-killer' - vote to nominate a Republican, conservative, and populist – man of the people – Del. Tom Gear as our R-E-P-U-B-L-I-C-A-N candidate for 91st HD.

James Atticus Bowden