

October 30, 2007

Representative Gene Pelowski
Chair, Government Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
491 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chairman Pelowski:

Please accept this as our formal request for a legislative hearing into the serious and troubling allegations involving the Secretary of State's office.

We have attached a copy of a citizen complaint that was filed yesterday with the Legislative Auditor. The complaint alleges the Secretary of State's office has misused contact information he obtained from private citizens for purposes of distributing information specific to the citizens' interest. Instead of using the citizen contact information for the purpose represented/intended, the Secretary of State and/or someone under his supervision, added the citizens to the Secretary of State's fundraising list.

If the allegations set forth in the Complaint are true, the immediate result would jeopardize the integrity and public trust in the Office of the Secretary of State. In fact, if the allegations are borne out by the facts, the Secretary of State may have committed serious violations of campaign finance laws by possibly using his elective office for campaign purposes.

We ask that you request Secretary of State Mark Ritchie to provide specific information to the following questions in advance of a hearing. If this request is not made by you, we will file a formal data request:

1. Copies of the signup sheets from the Civic Education meeting.
2. Copies of all communication distributed to participants in the Civic Education meeting.
3. Copies of the data information request for these signup sheets.
4. Copies of authorization/approval for these signup sheets to be released.

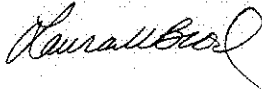


5. Who entered the data into the Mark Ritchie campaign database?
6. Was the information entered using a state computer?
7. Was the information entered on state time?
8. Who developed the campaign email distributed to the Jack Tomczak and Mark Giga on October 22, 2007?
9. Copies of invoices, receipts for any printing/mailing/design expenses to participants in the Civic Education meeting.
10. Copies of the email addresses that received the October 22, 2007 email in question.
11. Copies of all campaign finance board filings by the Mark Ritchie for Secretary Campaign including all expenses related to the development and distribution of the email distributed to Jack Tomczak and Mark Giga on October 22, 2007.

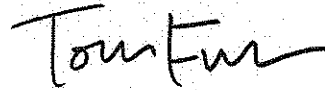
In conclusion, we respectfully request that as Chairman of the Government Operations Committee in the Minnesota House of Representatives you call an interim hearing for the purpose of inquiring and collecting information from the Secretary of State to determine whether and, if so, to what extent his office has committed ethical and/or legal violations. We respectfully ask for a written response to this request by Tuesday, November 6.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Brod
State Representative



Tom Emmer
State Representative