

***Email from Adam DeAngeli (afternoon of county convention)***

I've been actively recruiting and training precinct delegates this past year (past several years, actually), and many of you have written me seeking guidance and training for tonight's county Republican conventions in Michigan.

So, this is going to come as a shock to some of you.

And I suspect at least several of you to accuse me of "selling out," etc. based upon what I'm about to say.

I'm not only not endorsing anyone in the upcoming Republican convention, I'm not even bothering to attend my county convention tonight.

Why?

First, let's make sure we understand what exactly we are talking about. The county conventions tonight will elect delegates to the state convention next weekend, where those delegates will nominate Republican candidates for certain statewide offices.

The only other business of tonight's county conventions, and which could be worthwhile, is the filling of precinct delegate vacancies where they exist with local conservatives. But after a year of recruiting candidates to file and then write-ins who had until only 9 days ago to file and win on the ballot, I'm skeptical there are any fill-ins ready to show up in a public setting tomorrow night to fill any vacancies.

So tonight is really about the state convention next week.

Of the offices being nominated, only two races are contested: Lieutenant Governor, and University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Two races. LG, and UM Regent.

The lieutenant governor race is the one drawing all the interest, and rightly so. I have a preference in the UM Regent race, but I'm not interested in spending three days of my life supporting my candidate pick in that race. I doubt many hard-working movement conservatives are.

So the LG race is what tonight's county convention and next week's state convention are all about: Whether sitting LG Brian Calley will ousted by "tea party" insurgent, Wes Nakagiri.

And I'm unafraid and unashamed to say I'm staying out of that battle.

I'll share my reasoning in detail, but it boils down to this: This is a battle conservatives will lose regardless of the outcome. Strategically, this was a fight conservatives should never have allowed themselves to be dragged into.

Essentially, the argument for Nakagiri is that Governor Snyder pushed for Common Core, for state ObamaCare exchanges, and for Medicaid expansion; Calley stood with Snyder, and they both need to be punished by knocking out Calley.

I look at it this way:

By making the fight, are we growing the conservative cause? Not at all--to the public this is all "inside baseball"; an internal Republican affair that they're not interested in. Nobody cares who the lieutenant governor is.

By making the fight, are we helping our friends and allies? No, we're hurting them--every conservative candidate now must make the impossible choice of either inflaming the establishment by supporting Nakagiri, inflaming their base by supporting Calley, or upsetting both sides by taking neither position.

By making the fight, are we hurting our enemies and their allies? No, we're helping them. Every business leader in Michigan knows that a threat to Snyder is a threat to Right to Work, which is a threat to them. The establishment is raising serious money for the purpose of quashing the tea party over this battle.

And what's the value of either outcome?

Policy-wise, very little, since the only direct power the LG has is as a tie-breaking vote in the Senate.

And politically, either outcome will escalate the war between the establishment and the grassroots conservatives that already promises years of enmity to come.

The likely outcome is the establishment--which has spent the past year preparing for tomorrow's county conventions--will win easily. A few counties might elect a Nakagiri slate, but the large counties are too well controlled.

But suppose Nakagiri actually prevails. What do you expect would happen?

It would be a devastating, possibly deadly blow to the governor that his own lieutenant lost the confidence of his party. The public perception of his own party rejecting him would be a turning point in the governor race.

And if Snyder loses, no matter whether you think Common Core or state Obamacare exchanges were what brought Snyder down, outside observers will conclude it was his support for Right to Work in an historically pro-union state that did him in.

Right to Work would become a radioactive issue for Republicans nationwide. The Left would love that.

And in the almost impossible scenario that Snyder is reelected with Nakagiri as his running mate, what then?

I have no reason to distrust Nakagiri. But he's never held public office before. The LG might not have much power, but it's tremendous prestige.

I've seen untested "tea party" candidates get elected only to sell out once in office. Pat Toomey, for one, comes to mind.

Remember the state convention four years ago? After winning the voice vote, Calley's challenger was taken behind the dais, emerging only to withdraw from the race.

And right from the get-go, anything nominee Nakagiri might do to check the governor between now and November would harm his own prospects for becoming LG. So he'll be immediately compelled to support the governor for his own sake.

In sum, this fight is a disaster in the making.

We have nothing to gain from either outcome but an empty victory or a humiliating defeat, and years of hostility within the party in the bargain.

That's why I'm sitting this one out.

I won't be forced to join a battle that should never have been started.

All of this is not intended to disparage the importance of being involved as precinct delegates. There will be other conventions these next two years that will be worthwhile.

I would only counsel conservative delegates attend their conventions for the purpose of getting to know the process and the players.

Keep your powder dry. There will be worthwhile fights to come. The LG race is, in my view, not one of them.

For liberty,

Adam

P.S. This email was not paid for, nor asked for, by any candidate, committee, organization, or individual.

I expect I'll be criticized for having put this out, but I feel this needed to be said.