

Politics Notebook: Dustup Over Kasich Campaign Involvement In State Of The State; IO Fundraises On Bennett; Gay Marriage Rally Set

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern complained to the [Speaker Bill Batchelder](#) Wednesday that [Gov. John Kasich](#)'s campaign was inappropriately offering tickets to next week's State of the State Address in Lima.

Rep. Redfern distributed to reporters a screen shot from the Kasich Campaign website that offered the chance to win tickets to the event by entering a lottery.

"As you know, the State of the State Address, while provided by the governor, is completely a function of the legislature. It is not an event organized by the executive branch," Mr. Redfern said in the letter to Speaker Batchelder (R-Medina).

"Ticket disbursement should not be conducted through a lottery by the governor's campaign committee, nor should Ohioans wishing to participate be required to give their home address, phone number, or be solicited for campaign contributions on the governor's campaign website," he said.

Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols said the ODP chairman was mischaracterizing the situation because the campaign website merely included a link to the governor's official [state website](#) that offers tickets through a lottery.

"He's not being honest with you," Mr. Nichols said. "We sent out an email saying, 'If you're interested in going to the State of the State, go to the official site and get in the lottery.'"

Innovation Ohio: The Columbus-based group is trying to turn tough talk from the Ohio Republican Party chairman into money.

In a fundraising email to supporters, Innovation Ohio noted ORP Chairman Bob Bennett specifically criticized the group during a news conference last week. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 7, 2013](#))

"Was he there to talk about the governor's new school funding plan? Did he endorse Kasich's budget? No and no - he attacked Innovation Ohio!" spokesman Dale Butland said in the letter.

"The far right bullies are trying to intimidate progressives - and shut IO up or shut us down. We've got their attention - we don't want to lose it. We need your help to stay effective," he said, asking for a donation.

Gay Marriage: Supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize gay marriage in Ohio announced plans for a Valentine's Day rally Thursday outside the Franklin County Courthouse, where heterosexual couples currently obtain marriage licenses.

"More and more Ohioans are opening their hearts on this Valentine's Day to support marriage equality. If two people love and dedicate their lives to one another, then they should have the right to lawfully marry," FreedomOhio co-founder Ian James said in a statement. "At the same time, religious institutions should have the freedom to recognize or not recognize these marriages."

FreedomOhio and GetEqual Ohio members plan to collect signatures to place the Freedom to Marry and Religious Freedom Amendment on the ballot.

Read More (subscription required):

http://www.gongwer-oh.com/programming/news.cfm?article_id=820300212