EXCLUSIVE: Northern Wisconsin Congressional Candidate Flip Flops On Union Reform After Getting Endorsement From Prominent Union Lobbyist

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Jason Church, one of two Republicans running in a special election primary to succeed Sean Duffy as congressman in the sprawling northern Wisconsin district, changed his position on banning federal prevailing wage laws at the same time he was endorsed by a lobbyist for a powerful labor union.

The lobbyist, former state Assembly Speaker John Gard, represents the Operating Engineers Union, the organization that often backs Democrats and bankrolled the infamous "Scott-holes" advertising campaign that may have cost Scott Walker his governorship. The Operating Engineers and the powerful road construction industry in Wisconsin hate the union reforms that have been passed in Wisconsin that end compulsory union membership and dues payment and end the practice of requiring union scale to be paid on government construction projects.

Church, in filling out a questionnaire for a trade organization, initially stated he supported repealing federal prevailing wage laws. But he later contacted the group and changed his response. And, guess what, Gard, the union lobbyist is now co-hosting a DePere fundraiser for Church. Neither Church nor any of his campaign aides have responded to emails or phone calls I have made seeking an explanation for the flip-flop and why he is already selling out to a special interest group that is linked with Democrats.

Church is running against State Senator Tom Tiffany in the GOP primary early next year to succeed Duffy, the popular GOP congressman who has resigned following the birth of a baby with significant health issues. Based on his alliance with Gard and the labor unions, it seems apparent Church is seeking to become a card-carrying member of the Washington swamp and not a reform-minded conservative. He will, thanks to his decision, receive a lot of campaign funds from his new swamp buddies.

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