

October 5, 2017

Via email

To: Republican State Party Chair Terry Lathan
Harold Sachs, Chief of Staff

Along with the rest of the world, I received a press release (see attached) from Perry Hooper, Jr., this afternoon regarding his announcement of (and of course, taking credit for) the flipping/switching of two Crenshaw County Democratic County Commissioners to the Republican Party in Crenshaw County, Alabama. This press release from Perry completely changes the entire agenda of a local event that the local party has worked on and planned for weeks-----a change completely unauthorized by any local party member and with no advance notice. Naturally, the press release also advised that Perry Hooper would be the emcee of this local party event, which never was the local plan. As local party chair planning this event, I early on called Harold Sachs for advice, and Harold advised that local decisions and local events were up to the local party to handle and decide.

Since Perry has pulled this same publicity seeking stunt before in other areas, there has been much discussion regarding the issue of Perry being showcased in this event. As party chair, I held a meeting where it was agreed upon by both party switchers, Commissioners Michelle Stephens and Merrill Sport, respectively, and myself, that this event would be only a local party event. Additionally, we did not feel it was appropriate to showcase Perry for a State Senate Seat (since he has stated many times, all over our Senate District, that he is running for State Senate), while alienating other Senate candidates, Will Barfoot and Ronda Walker. Our County Party will not engage in this exclusive alienating behavior in a party primary. As a result of Perry's actions, the local party will not now participate, condone, and/or sanction this event. Perry is on his own.

I wish to emphasize that this was always planned to be a local party event. The purpose was to also highlight the changing face of Crenshaw County's political landscape. Additionally, we were proud to announce the first female Republican candidate in our county's history.

Unfortunately, Perry Hooper has turned this occasion into a cheap promotional stunt to further his personal agenda. Our county party is being subjected to Hooper's wholesale, narcissistic, self-promotion, with no regard to Crenshaw County or the interests of its residents.

The attempts to hijack this event are frankly, insulting to the hard working members of our community and to the Local Republican County Party. Perry is bullying his way into the spotlight when he has been asked not to do so. It is worth noting, that Perry is attempting to speak for a county where he is neither a resident, nor an elected official. As a resident of Crenshaw County, it is asked that Mr. Hooper let us define our own values and not try to hijack us by his self-promotion.

As a result of Perry's high handed usurpation, the Crenshaw County Republican Committee will not be attending this event. We disavow and decline any participation, particularly, as Perry's press release is 180 degrees from what was planned by the local committee.

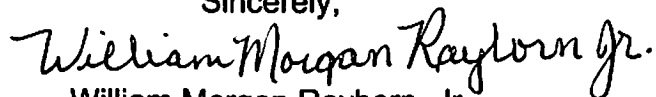
The other damage caused: We have a very popular Probate Judge, whose Mother (now retired) was a hugely popular, long time serving public official. Our Probate Judge was appointed to the unexpired term of former Probate Judge Jim Perdue. We need our new Probate Judge for his first election out to run as a Republican and we had him participating in our local event, as well as seriously considering to run Republican. However, as a result of what Perry has now done, the Judge has withdrawn from the local event and may yet now run as a Democrat. This is just another reason Hopper's brand of self-serving politics has to stop.

The local Republican Committee apologizes to Will Barfoot, Ronda Walker, and others, for any confusion these unfortunate, self-promotion tactics have caused. If we learned anything from our recent U.S. Senate election, it is that someone like Perry cannot take over and dictate to Crenshaw County, any more so than Mitch McConnell, and the Washington D.C. crowd tried to do recently in Alabama. The Crenshaw County Republican Committee will continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment to all Republican Candidates on an equal footing, but will not unfairly showcase one individual over others.

Like the State of Alabama, as we always have, Crenshaw County will continue to define our own values, as well as drain our own swamp.

God Bless Crenshaw County and its residents.

Sincerely,



William Morgan Rayborn, Jr.

Crenshaw County Republican Party Chairman

P.S. Further, the Crenshaw County Republican Committee respectfully requests that the Alabama Republican Party State leadership and the State Steering Committee address and stop blatant self-promotion by anyone in the name of the Republican Party.

WRM/rs

attachment

cc: The Republican State Party Steering Committee
Via Email



Perry O. Hooper Jr.
Trump Alabama Victory Chair
Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

10/4/2017

Two Crenshaw County Commissioners to Announce Switch to Republican Party

Two Crenshaw County Commissioners will become the latest in a long list of Alabama elected officials to switch from the Democrat Party to the Republican Party. Crenshaw County Commissioners Michelle Stephens and Merrill Sport will make the switch official on the steps of the Crenshaw County Courthouse on Friday October 6, 2017 at 10:15 a.m.

Country rock artist Donica Knight will open with the National Anthem. Alabama Republican Party Chairman Terry Latham will welcome commissioners Stephens and Sport to the party. Trump Victory Chair and Trump Campaign Co-Chair Perry O. Hooper Jr. who will emcee the event stated when asked about the switch: "Michelle and Merrill are longtime friends of mine. I have been recruiting them to make the switch. They have realized the values and policies they espouse are no longer welcome in the very liberal Alabama Democratic Party. They have decided to leave the party and join the long list of party switchers. The days of the Alabama Democratic Party had any conservative values are over. It now espouses the values of Bernie Sanders, not Donald Trump as Birmingham's Mayor's election just pointed out. These two outstanding County Commissioners are all about God, Family and Country just like Crenshaw County."