

A message to Alex

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Desperation and dirty tricks. That pretty much sums up the status of Summit County Republican Party Chairman Alex Arshinkoff.

He's desperate because there's a revolt brewing among county Republicans. They don't like him anymore and want to oust him. So what he needs more than anything, to quell this rebellion and show these ingrates that he's still "the man," is a political victory. That's why Arshinkoff is so interested in the Cuyahoga Falls clerk of courts race so interested that he tried to rig the game.

He wants John Widowfield to win the same Widowfield who has proved himself so reliable while serving as a state representative.

When Arshinkoff opposed the addition of two judges to the Summit County Common Pleas Court even though the judges serving on that court were begging for more help his man in Columbus, Widowfield, dutifully backed his boss in Hudson by refusing to support the additions.

Now Widowfield wants to be the Cuyahoga Falls clerk of courts, serving several Summit County municipalities. And Arshinkoff really, really wants him to get the job so badly that he went out and recruited six good Republican women to file as independent candidates in order to confuse voters about Widowfield's opponent, Lisa Zeno Carano. Most of these women even filed using three names, as Carano normally does.

Unfortunately for the Arshnkoff/Widowfield camp, the filings were late and therefore invalid. You'd think that Arshinkoff, a member of the county Board of Elections, would've known that. Maybe that's why Republicans want to give him the boot: because he doesn't know what he's doing.

As for Widowfield, he claims to have had no knowledge of his chairman's underhanded tactics. Maybe not, but based on their past relationship, it's a denial only a mother could love.

Voters in this election have an opportunity to do two things: They can elect the only qualified candidate, Lisa Zeno Carano, and simultaneously send a message to Boss Arshinkoff that they're tired of dirty tricks, even those that are so egregiously inept.

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