



WRITE IN
 **DEBRA BONOGOFSKY**
for Montana House District 57

Dear Voter,

I am writing you today to announce my write-in candidacy for Montana House District 57. I tried to meet each and every one of you before the Primary election on June 8, 2010. Unfortunately, I lost the Republican Primary by 249 votes. However, 1218 people voted for me and I am grateful for your support.

I wish I could congratulate my opponent Dan Kennedy on a clean and ethical race that was won fair and square. Unfortunately, this is not the case. I am running a write in campaign because my opponent and his supporters' campaign strategy was to **deceive you and distort and lie about my positions**. A write in campaign is a long shot but I truly believe that you deserve a choice on November 2.

Why did I run? I ran to be your Representative in the Montana Legislature because I believed my experience as a small business owner, sportswoman, mother and lifelong Montanan would be an asset to the State of Montana as we tackle extremely tough economic issues in the coming years.

How did I run my Primary campaign? During the race, I focused my campaign on who I was, my views and positions and what I thought I could bring to the table in Helena. I tried to meet or call every voter to introduce myself and discuss your concerns and what my positions are.

How did Dan Kennedy run his Primary campaign? Unfortunately, my opponent's strategy was to attack me, misrepresent my positions and work with extremist groups to scare voters, while saying very little about himself.

Who are these extremist groups that supported Kennedy and what do they believe? Western Tradition Partnership, Montana Conservative Alliance, Montana Citizens for Right to Work and Assembly Action Fund are the groups that used illegal and unethical campaign tactics to try to intimidate me and scare voters. They all supported Dan Kennedy and he accepted their contributions to his campaign, never repudiating their illegal activities. They will do anything and everything, even if it is **illegal**, to get their candidates elected. If a candidate does not believe 100% of their extremist views they will be attacked with fear tactics, lies, distortions, innuendoes, illegal mailings, radio ads and rumors. They use extortion tactics to try to get candidates to fill out their special interest surveys and if a candidate does not fill them out, the groups send out their attack mailings.

They know that these actions are against Montana's campaign laws and yet they continue their activities because they know that these tactics work and there are no consequences. My opponent bowed to these "special interests" and was endorsed by all of these extremist groups and now he is beholden to them instead of you, the voter. My "special interest" is Montana and the people of House District 57.

Let's dig a bit deeper, shall we? I have found some interesting connections between these groups, Dan Kennedy and shadowy characters from out of state.

Dan Kennedy paid Direct Mail and Communications, a business registered in the state, to do direct mail for his campaign. This same company was also used by Western Tradition Partnership and Assembly Action Fund to send attack mailings against me. Direct Mail and Communication's business address is a PO Box in Bozeman but does not have a business license or a physical address or phone number in the phone book. The address listed for this business with the Secretary of State's office is in Aurora, Colorado, specifically 2237 E Amherst Cir, 80014. This address is the home of Scott Shires.

Who is Scott Shires? Scott Shires is a Colorado extremist operative who is a convicted criminal. He has a sordid and shady past and has had numerous run-ins with the law. He has been found guilty of the same illegal activities in Colorado that the above groups are charged with now.

1. He was indicted for aiding a known mob-connected restaurant owner in a money laundering scheme to hide an illegal gambling operation.
2. He is currently under probation for tax fraud after failing to file federal taxes for an organization whose leader was found guilty of running an elaborate Ponzi scheme that defrauded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 56 private investors of more than \$4 million. Shires was sentenced in June 2008.
3. In July 2008, Colorado Ethics Watch filed a complaint that the Senate Majority Fund, a political committee linked to Shires, violated state and federal law by failing to disclose political advertisements that supported a Senate candidate.
4. In August 2008, Shires had to answer to a state administrative law judge on a private citizen's complaint that one of his groups failed to file an electioneering report for an opposition mailer it sent out in a 2008 Weld County commissioners GOP primary race.
5. In 2006, Shires was embroiled in a money shifting scandal where contributions were passed to and from extremist political groups with the money trail varying significantly between the received and expended amounts reported – a difference in several cases of tens of thousands of dollars that appeared to simply evaporate on the balance sheets.

Scott Shires wants Dan Kennedy to be elected to the Montana Legislature. This concerns me, as a constituent of HD57, that Dan Kennedy would be willing to accept help on his campaign from someone like him.

Direct Mail and Communications (DMC): A principal of DMC is Jeremy Hofer. Dan Kennedy and other candidates these groups endorsed paid DMC for mailings, yet Jeremy Hofer is also the person who signed the checks for Assembly Action Fund, a shadowy extremist group that is not registered with the State but sends out attack mail against Republicans who stand up to them. Jeremy Hofer refuses to step out into the light and take responsibility for his actions. He would prefer to stay in the shadows.

Kennedy's endorsement by Montana Conservative Alliance (MCA) & Roger Koopman: Roger Koopman, who runs MCA, sent out a questionnaire to all the candidates. You can see a copy of this questionnaire on my website: www.debrabonogofsky.com. Dan Kennedy responded to this survey and his initial score was 15%. Koopman stated that it was the lowest score out of all the ones ever returned. Yet miraculously, two months later, Kennedy's score changed to a 96%, one of the highest scores. You should ask Dan Kennedy what happened to change his score. Did Dan retake the survey, did they give him the correct answers, or did he flip flop on numerous issues? Did he answer the questions like Koopman told him to?

Fair Campaign? Dan Kennedy did not sign Form C-3, the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. I did sign it, ran an ethical campaign and will continue to do so. The Code states "There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate for public office in the United States has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues before the country." The full text can be read at www.politicalpractices.mt.gov.

Conclusion: I ran an ethical, honest campaign on issues that are important to me and most Montanans. I know that we will not agree on everything, but I can promise that I will listen and will look at both sides of issues and will always tell you the truth. I do not have a personal agenda to push. I will not pander to special interest groups. I know that this is a long shot but I feel it is extremely important! I will not be bullied by these groups to shut up and go away. I am not going to give Dan Kennedy a free pass. I ran for the Legislature because I believe too much of this goes on in our country and I am tired of it.

Let's send them a message together that what they do is wrong and that we are going to be in control-not them! We can be the first to make a write-in campaign on this scale work. Wouldn't they be surprised! Wouldn't that be a great message to send these groups!

I hope you will stand up with me by making this write-in campaign a success. If you voted for me in the Primary, I hope you will vote again for me in the General Election by writing my name "Debra Bonogofsky" in and filling in the circle with your pencil.

If you did not vote for me because of the attack mailings, I hope you will take the time to talk to me, read my mailings and check out my website and discover the truth. If you voted for Dan Kennedy, I hope you will reconsider and decide if this is the kind of man you want representing you in Helena. If you did not vote in the primary but will vote in the General, I hope to meet you in person and tell you why you should write my name in.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES TO CHECK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

"Colorado political group Western Tradition linked to nasty Montana race."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/57656/colorado-political-group-western-tradition-linked-to-nasty-montana-race>

"GOP candidate cries foul against critics"

http://www.billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-and-politics/article_31a859de-8bdb-11df-98fc-001cc4c03286.html

"GOP operative Shires tied to money laundering gambling ring."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/23986/gop-operative-shires-tied-to-money-laundering-gambling-ring>

"Shires' Taxpayers League fined \$7,150 for GarCo race electioneering."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/27998/shires-taxpayers-league-fined-7150-for-garco-race-electioneering>

"Shires gets probation, fine in fraud case."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/4060/republican-activist-shires-gets-probation-fine-in-fraud-case>

"Shires-backed tax group admits to campaign-law violation in Garfield County."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/26790/shires-backed-tax-group-admits-to-campaign-law-violation-in-garfield-county>

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