

Endorsements and political polls

ENDORSEMENTS are part and parcel of political campaigns. In Cheyenne, the daily newspaper makes endorsements. They have no value. The real estate people do likewise, accompanied usually by cash. Neither endorsement influences an election.

In the race for the U.S. House of Representatives, Mark Gordon proudly "boasts" of an endorsement from the Republican Leadership Council (RLC). Having an impressive name not matched by political importance, some voters may be fooled about the importance this PAC plays in national elections. Which is none.

RLC has no state chapter nor any active participants in the organization in the State of Wyoming.

This e-mail exchange occurred between the Cheyenne Herald and RLC in the last few days:

Q. Has the Republican Leadership Council endorsed any candidate(s) in the races for U.S. House (one seat) and/or U.S. Senate (two seats to be elected due to the death of Craig Thomas).

If RLC has, can you provide me their names and what amount of money the PAC has contributed to their respective campaigns.

A. We have endorsed Mark Gordon, and are open to additional endorsements but have not made any others at this time.

Let me know if you need anything else.

The 17 question endorsement "Survey" asks about things such as: "Are you a registered Republican? If yes, for how long?" It would be interesting to see how Mark Gordon answered that question.

Also, about issues such as "government spending and balancing the budget," government's role "in protecting the environment," and "big tent" language in the Republican National Platform, foreign policy and national defense.

Questions pivotal to receiving this pro-choice PAC's endorsement seem to be: "Do you believe in limited government interference in the lives of individuals?" and, "Do you believe that there is room in the Republican Party for different opinions on social issues?"

A conservative is not going to be endorsed by RLC, in my opinion. Mark Gordon's work with the Sierra Club benefitted him with this PAC. An anti-industry, pro-environment stance is what RLC is looking for. Along with a pro-choice position on abortion. A candidate who expresses a pro-life position will not be endorsed by RLC. See **Strategic Partners** at right.

"The Republican Leadership Council PAC or RLC-PAC is a political action committee dedicated to supporting fiscally conservative, socially inclusive Republican candidates at all levels of government."

- * Low taxes with balanced budgets;
- * Engaged foreign policy;
- * Less government interference in individual lives.
- * Strong national defense;
- * Protection of the environment; and

Source: Various websites

Christine Todd Whitman. Head of the EPA early in the first George W. Bush administration. She created much trouble with a proclamation that air was safe to breath around the 9/11 site when it was not.

On June 27, 2003, after having had several public conflicts with the Bush administration, Whitman resigned from her position to "spend more time with her family." Later criticized V.P. Dick Cheney.

Whitman's daughter Kate has followed her mother into politics. Among her former positions are executive director of the Republican Leadership Council, her mother's organization for moderate Republicans.

Whitman may have formed RLC to create a paying position for her daughter.

John Danforth. He is an opponent of the death penalty and has publicly railed against the "Christian conservatives." Expected to be chosen running mate by George W. Bush, he was passed over for Dick Cheney. His grandfather founded Ralston Purina.

Michael Steele. Former Lt. Governor of Maryland. Recently quit RLC to head GOPAC. Steele opposes the death penalty. He is increasingly being mentioned as a possible running mate for John McCain. (Note: The Cheyenne Herald predicted a ticket with Michael Steele as V.P. several months ago.)

Readers can decide for themselves whether RLC-PAC is conservative, moderate or liberal. Review the list of RLC **"Strategic Partners"** that follows:

The RLC is proud to partner with the following organizations:

- Alliance of Black Republicans
- GreenGOP.org
- Log Cabin Republicans
- Main Street Coalition
- National Republican Senatorial Committee
- New America Foundation
- The Piscataway Republican Organization
- Planned Parenthood Republicans for Choice
- Republicans for Choice
- Republican Governors Association
- Republicans for Environmental Protection
- Republican Majority for Choice
- The Whitman Series
- The WISH List

www.republican-leadership.com/partners

POLLS are seldom conducted in Wyoming. The cost is too prohibitive to be worthwhile. Almost all polling done here is conducted by inferior polling organizations and the results are either intentionally skewed or worthless (WT-E, Gordon). The Mark Gordon campaign had a marketing firm from San Francisco, a firm that had just before the "poll" sent out multiple direct mail mailings and been paid \$250,000, "poll" for him. To shadow a mailing with a "survey," asking which candidate is "most recognizable" to recipients borders on dishonesty. For media or readers to believe results of such a "poll" is unfortunate. Buyer beware! No legitimate polling for the U.S. House race has been done or released to the public.

We report. They repeat.

As the Cheyenne and Casper daily newspapers look more and more alike, the Cheyenne Herald continues to publish original material. We research the issues and write about them. As the declining mainstream newspapers rely more and more on wire service stories and filler material, the Cheyenne Herald generates more and more unique stories concerning issues of local importance and reader interest. And, as the local television station, the only one in this market, concentrates on increasing coverage in markets of little to no interest to Cheyenne viewers - both from Colorado and Nebraska - the Cheyenne Herald focuses on what is going on here - in Cheyenne and Laramie County. We write occasionally about national politics, sports and international affairs, but the emphasis is, and has always been, local.

Is it important to have an alternate source for in-depth, detailed coverage of stories which cannot be, or will not be, covered by other Wyoming media? That is for readers of the Cheyenne Herald to decide. Imagine if you had only the Tribune-Eagle and Star-Tribune - and Channel 5. Again.



Yes, Cheyenne and Laramie County should have an alternate news source from those controlled by absentee and indifferent owners or advertisers.

I (we) want to support the Cheyenne Herald.

- \$75.00 Annual Subscription
- \$75.00 Annual Gift Subscription
- \$ ____ Non-deductible Contribution
- Advertising. Call _____

Financial support from:

Name _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____