



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Margaret O'Brien Defends Freedom of Speech

Portage, MI: Portage City Councilwoman and 61st State Representative Candidate Margaret O'Brien is defending a local business' right to exercise the 1st amendment of Freedom of Speech.

Earlier this week, the Kalamazoo County Democrat Party announced a boycott on Best Way, a Kalamazoo waste hauling company. The Kalamazoo Democrat Party claimed Best Way should "keep its nose out of politics" and makes other allegations about the company. Yet, Chairman "Pawloski said he could offer no proof of the allegation, however." (Kalamazoo Gazette 2/4/10) It is very disturbing that the Kalamazoo Democrat Party sends out press releases claiming allegations yet has no proof of those allegations.

Margaret O'Brien, who is also Vice Chair of the Kalamazoo Republican Party, states, "The Kalamazoo Democrat Party claims on their website they care about the issues like jobs, not 'wedge politics'. Yet, they call names, spread lies about me, the Republican Party and Best Way and do everything but talk about the issues. I care about the real issues—the economy, helping unemployed families find jobs, reforming government and lowering taxes. Trying to stifle free speech for a local business who creates numerous jobs is reprehensible. Don't they care about their jobs and livelihoods of the employees of Best Way and their families?"

O'Brien continues, "The citizens in our area want real solutions, not hollow rhetoric. They have lost jobs and are struggling to make ends meet. Attacking a local company for their charitable giving and values does not create a single job. And turning this into a fundraiser for the Kalamazoo Democrat Party is insulting. We all share the same rights to Free Speech, and all of us should be concerned when a political organization wants to take away those rights from people they disagree with."

Mr. Pawloski originally sent out a press release announcing the boycott. He later backpedaled admitting the Board had not voted on this issue and stated, "I guess maybe I was premature in calling for a boycott now." (Kalamazoo Gazette 2/4/10)

O'Brien concluded, "I hope this is not the Democrat Party tone for the 2010 election year. I will talk about real solutions, creating jobs and lowering taxes. I pledge to work with Michigan taxpayers, whether they are individuals, families or business owners. I support Best Way and their right to the 1st Amendment."

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Margaret O'Brien has a distinguished record of public service to Kalamazoo County and will work hard to represent the 61st District with an emphasis on tax reform, common sense spending, and creating a new climate for Michigan business growth and job creation. She currently serves on the Portage City Council and is a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Advantage.

For more information, please contact Margaret O'Brien at margaret@margaretobrien.com or by phone at 269-377-4294. You may also visit her website www.margaretobrien.com. Please contact Margaret O'Brien for video clips from the event.