

Vote Green

Editor:

Charlevoix Republicans opened a campaign office as reported in the *Charlevoix Courier* Oct. 16 (page 11). Officiating was Chuck Yob of East Jordan, the Republican National Committeeman from Michigan. Republican candidates Ken Bradstreet, Shirley Roloff, Jason Allen and Vic Patrick were on hand, as were reporters.

Yob had just returned from a campaign swing in the U.P. for his party's candidate for secretary of state. Courier editor Jeremy McBain quoted him: "She (Terri Lynn Land, the Republican candidate) is running against a man (Gary Peters, the Democratic candidate) who is a black attorney from Detroit. As you all know, people in the U.P. don't like attorneys and they really don't like Detroiters."

The Courier story mis-named the Democratic candidate. A correction the following week noted the Democrat is Melvin Butch Hollowell. Other than that the reporter got it right.

Yob represents the Michigan Republicans. He has held his elected post since 1989. When he speaks, the party speaks. Indeed, in Charlevoix that day, none of the Republican candidates objected or tried to distance themselves.

Contacted by the Green Party by phone for comment, Yob denied referring to the Democratic candidate as "black," and claimed he didn't even know his race.

We leave it to readers to decide whether to believe Yob, or to determine Hollowell's race. Hollowell's picture is at www.friendsofhollowell.com.

If the Republicans are asking voters to vote on the basis of race no further comment is needed.

But even if not, it concerns us that the party would ask voters to decide an election on the basis of a candidate's home, occupation and cultural preferences. Yob went on to explain, as he repeated in the phone call, that what he meant was U.P. people "support the Green Bay Packers. They are not Lions fans." Further, they associate more with Wisconsin than Detroit.

By contrast the Green Party campaigns on issues. Ray Ziarno, our candidate for secretary of state, says:

- Give redistricting responsibility to an independent committee, as is done in 14 other states.

- Adopt alternative voting systems that guarantee majority winners, and offer representation to many more citizens, such as "instant runoff voting."

- Ensure accurate vote counting, expand absentee ballot rules and eliminate partisan funding of judicial races. And make Election Day a holiday.

An election campaign is a chance to stimulate public discussion. Let's hear what Republicans think about Green proposals. Or let them put forward their own. That way, issues, not trivialities, will decide the election.

Ellis Boal, Virginia Heick

Co-chairs,

Up North Green Party

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Political party opens office in Charlevoix

By JEREMY MCBAIN
Editor

Republican candidates for local and state offices were in Charlevoix Oct. 10 for the opening of a party office located on Antrim Street in the Oleson's Market plaza.

The office will serve as a communication center for voters looking for information on the various candidates. It is also the headquarters for the Charlevoix County Republican Party.

Jason Allen, republican candidate for State Senate District 37, said this office gives the party a physical presence in the area and allows them to "get out the vote."

He added he invites all citizens to stop by the office and pick up information on all of the Republican candidates and share their concerns with party volunteers and officials.

Allen greeted a crowd at the opening with fellow Republican

Ken Bradstreet, who is also running for a state senate seat, and Chuck Yob, the republican national committee man for Michigan.

Yob is currently campaigning in northern Michigan for Terry Lynn Land, a Republican candidate for secretary of state and has just returned from a tour of the Upper Peninsula (UP).

Of Land's opponent, democrat Gary Peters, Yob said, "She (Land) is running against a man (Peters) who is a black attorney from Detroit. As you all know, people in the UP don't like attorneys and they really don't like Detroiters."

In explaining his comment, Yob said what he meant was people who live in the Upper Peninsula "support the Green Bay Packers. They are not Lions fans." He added Upper Peninsula people associate themselves more with Wisconsin than Detroit.

The office will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Local candidates for office were at the grand opening of the Republican Party headquarters in Charlevoix. They are (from left): Senate candidate Ken Bradstreet, county commission candidate Shirley Roloff, Senate candidate Jason Allen, and county commission candidate Vic Patrick. (Photo by Jeremy McBain)