

Dear Donna Branch-Gilby
Chair, Pima County Democratic Party

Democrats should not be allowed to lie their way into office.

I ask the Pima County Executive Committee to withdraw all Party support for LD28 State Senate Candidate Paula Aboud (this includes the right to post signs, literature, use equipment for the rest of the 2006 election cycle). Candidate Aboud knowingly mailed a hit-piece that lies and grossly distorts my voting record. It was designed to mislead voters to vote against me in this winner-takes-all Primary. The hit piece contains no information about her merits, accomplishments, or vision. It eludes to support for her accusations from a key elected Democratic officials and endorsing organizations.

The mailer is sophisticated and has been tactically used to maximize the Aboud vote. It is being sent to VBM voters in a low turnout race (approximately 3700 the first day, and very few afterwards). I must anticipate further hit-pieces in the last three weeks. My campaign pieces make no reference to my opponent and focused upon my positive message. Such unethical behavior should not be rewarded with a possible election to office.

The totality of the circumstances require this committee to impose the strongest sanction possible. Current and future primary candidates are watching how the Party acts on this blatant violation - the first primary hit-piece in LD28 (old LD13) over decades.

I ask that all EC members who have used their elected title for office to publicly endorsed either candidate to recuse themselves from this process because of a) conflict of interest (Supervisor Richard Elias - who Chairs her campaign, legislative district chairs who

publicly endorsed Paula Aboud using their District Chair titles on her website (Diana Rhoades and Ward Wallingford) and other.

My good name and reputation in this community are on the line. I have not had time to check, but I do not believe that the endorsees on the piece approved of its information. I showed the piece to Congressman Raul Grijalva on Wednesday 16 August. He expressed surprise and said something has to be done. Please verify before the committee meets, by sending this email to them, whether the endorsers authorized the use of their names on this message to the voters.

Ted Downing

State Representative

Candidate for LD28 State Senate

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Specifics

My campaign has focused on my merits, experience, and accomplishments, with no references to my opponent. My opponent misused her Clean Election's money to try to deceive the voters (see attached mailer).

A vote represents a bond of trust between the candidate and the voter. Senator Aboud's mailer breaks the bond.

ABOUD HIT PIECE: “SPONSORED & PASSED RIO NUEVO FUNDING, KEEPING OUR TAX DOLLARS IN TUCSON NOT PHOENIX (HB2702) SENATOR ABOUD YES, Mr. Downing NO.”

A lie . My floor speeches and writings on Rio Nuevo begin with my declaration that I am pro-downtown redevelopment. I voted NO on a preliminary version of the bill where I tried to add accountability measures and give Tucsonans the right to vote on their 12 billion dollar match to the retained state sales taxes. Pro-development means you want as much money to hit the ground in projects as possible. My attempts failed. And I voted YES on Rio Nuevo on the FINAL READ – see the news clippings and explanation below). As a sitting Senator she knows the difference between a preliminary vote (committee, COW or Third Read) and the final read.

ABOUD HIT PIECE: “FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN TUCSON’S LOCAL CONTROL TO LEVY IMPACT FEES ON DEVELOPERS” HB2381. SENATOR ABOUD YES, Mr. Downing .”

Another lie. This bill had next to nothing to do with Tucson. This was a vote about accounting for the use of impact fees – and my opponent got it upside down. It was a vote to require cities collecting impact fees to have a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and prohibit them from purchasing aircraft with the impact fees (Peoria and PHX were thinking they could). The city of Tucson has a CIP and isn’t considering purchasing an aircraft with their fees. The Tucson City Council voted to oppose this bill, but did not lobby against it. To the contrary, they succeeded in modifying the bill by adding a two year audit of developers, which I supported. I joined other members of the Southern Arizona legislative team and voted for it.

ABOUD HIT PIECE: “VOTED FOR \$597 MILLION FOR CRUCIAL DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PRIORITIES (I.E. ALL AY KINDERGARTEN, ELDERLY SERVICES, VETERANS....DOMESTIC VIOLENCE). HB2363. SENATOR ABOUD YES. Mr. Downing NO/ABSENT”

Several lies here. There are over a dozen budget bills that go through many votes. My opponent claims that I missed the vote on HB2863. True, I missed the final read on HB2863 by one minute (I had taken my wife back to our apartment at midnight – the vote was at 12:20AM and I was logged into my seat at 12:21AM).

Go to the web, www.azleg.gov, and look at the vote itself. The bill passed by 47 ayes, with all on the floor knowing this was the “compromised” worked out with the Governor. It was not a critical budget vote – and Senator Aboud knows that. She was there. The House Democrats split with 8 voting yes and 8 voting no – including the Southern Arizona Democratic delegation (Yes Bradley, Cajero–Bedford, Linda–Lopez and NO Lopes, Prezelski)? By the Aboud standard, Representatives Lopes (Minority Leader) and Rep. Prezelski (both NO on HB2863) have the crucial Democratic budget priorities wrong. Ugh?

I resent the implication that I was against DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES most of all. I voted WITH the Democratic caucus amendments to this bill on the floor over and over again (about 10 votes during COW). To imply that I have abandoned DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES on such critical issues as All Day Kindergarten, domestic violence, elder services, veterans services, and the like (her list is long) by missing a largely ceremonial vote that occurred after negotiations is dishonest!

Furthermore, the good appointed Senator has been in office for 164+ days and knows there is NO SUCH VOTE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE as a "NO/ABSENT" place on her mailer. That is a Carl Rove spin right over home plate.

ABOUD HIT PIECE: “REAL SOLUTIONS, NOT GIMMICKS, FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS HB2583). SENATOR ABOUD YES, Mr. Downing, NO.”

Another lie. The charge that I voted NO on real solutions, not gimmicks, on public schools is another outrage. I am not opposed to public schools! The bill referenced is my successful amendment to place the Constitution and Bill of Rights in middle and high school classrooms, along side the flag (the original Republican bill). My amendment was proposed and supported by local progressive constituents who were concerned, like me, that merely displaying the flag missed the point. We felt it important to place substance ahead of symbol. All our institutions - our very culture - springs from these two great documents - and the tensions between them. Like me, my opponent swore an oath of office . We swore it to defend what she considers a "gimmicks." Look at her picture on the hit-piece that she has mailed out to voters. Would she consider that flag over her right shoulder also a gimmick? FYI, I am working with civic organizations to defray the costs of placing the documents in our schools

"SENATOR ABOUD vs Mr. Downing"

A more subtle deception shows disrespect for the legislative protocol and the offices that we hold. She addresses herself as Senator and refers to me as "Mr." The proper protocol is when she is calling herself "Senator" then she would use my corresponding title, State Representative Downing.