

Anti-Schultz robo-calls stopped

Message alleged porn connection.

By [Rudi Keller](#)

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Republican Party leaders yesterday ended a campaign push that accused Democratic legislative candidate Kelly Schultz of taking money linked to producers of gay pornography.



John Cauthorn



Kelly Schultz

The accusations were made in automated telephone calls that begin with a female voice announcing an “urgent alert for all Christian families.” They were produced by a company named Survey St. Louis on behalf of the House Republican Campaign Committee.

The calls, known as robo-calls, accused Schultz of taking “hundreds in campaign donations from a representative of the hard-core pornography industry, including gay pornography. By allowing her Democratic campaign to be funded by those who are involved with and support hard-core pornography, Kelly Schultz clearly does not share our Christian family values.”

The calls generated a backlash, Schultz said. Some called her to say they were offended, and others called to assure her they, as Christians, would support her, she said.

“I was offended for two reasons,” Schultz said. “I was offended because it begins as an alert to Christian voters, and they called into question my faith and my values. And I was offended as a voter because I cannot imagine coming home and finding that statement on my message machine. I am disappointed that my opponent and my opponent’s supporters cannot stick to the issues.”

Schultz is running against former state Sen. John Cauthorn to replace Rep. Steve Hobbs, R-Mexico, in the 21st House District, which includes parts of Boone, Audrain, Callaway and Monroe counties.

Cauthorn said he had not been told the basis for the calls. The House Republican Campaign Committee spent \$4,055 on the calls as an independent expenditure, bringing total GOP spending to defeat Schultz to more than \$93,000.

Asked whether he considered the calls appropriate, Cauthorn said: “If somebody took that money, it would be. If they didn’t, it’s not. It is that simple.”

The calls are a reference to \$675 Schultz received in September from the campaign committee of state Rep. Mike Colona, D-St. Louis. Colona, an attorney, worked to make sure pornography producers complied with laws designed to keep minors from being used in performances.

Similar calls targeted Democrats in several other House districts.

It is common practice in both parties for incumbent lawmakers to help candidates in tough races by passing on unneeded campaign funds. Contributors to Colona in the weeks before he gave to Schultz included AmerenUE and the Missouri School Administrators PAC.

House Republican Leader Steve Tilley of Perryville said in an interview today he had not personally reviewed any ads made by the House Republican Campaign Committee, which he leads.

In a statement, Tilley said: “Though the facts about the campaign donations are accurate, I decided to instruct our vendors to stop running these calls because I want the campaigns in the closing days to focus on jobs, fiscal responsibility and fighting the Obama-Pelosi agenda. For those individuals offended by these calls, we apologize because I want to hold House Republicans to a higher standard than our House Democrat counterparts.”

Rep. Mike Talboy, D-Kansas City and leader of the House Democratic Campaign Committee, said in a statement that “Republicans should feel ashamed of themselves for attacking the reputation of a colleague they work with every day. Representative Colona’s work with these companies focused on making sure that no children were exploited. If the Republican Party thinks that is wrong, their problems are much bigger than this reprehensible robo-call.”

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.

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