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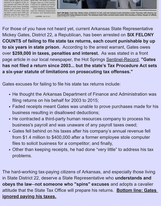
WEEKLY UPDATE

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GARLAND COUNTY

NEWS–REPUBLICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICKEY GATES ARRESTED

ALLEGEDLY HAS NOT FILED STATE TAXES FOR 15 YEARS!


Gates arrested for allegedly not filing returns
Special court officer arrests state rep. Mickey Gates
The Sentinel-Record
Friday, Nov 17, 2017 1:00 AM
The Sentinel-Record
Friday, November 17, 2017

For those of you have not heard yet, current Arkansas State Representative Mickey Gates, District 22, a Republican, has been arrested on **50 FELONY COUNTS of failing to file state tax returns, each count punishable by up to six years in state prison.** According to the arrest warrant, Gates owes over $100,000 in state income taxes, dating back to 2002. According to the page article in our local newspaper, the Hot Springs Sentinel Record, **"Gates has not filed a return since 2003... but the state's Tax Procedure Act sets a six-year statute of limitations on prosecuting tax offenses."**

Gates excuses for failing to file his state tax returns include:

- He thought the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration was filing returns on his behalf for 2003 to 2015;
- Faded receipts meant Gates was unable to prove purchases made for his business resulting in disallowed deductions;
- He contracted a third-party human resources company to process his business's payroll and was unaware of any payroll taxes owed;
- Gates fell behind on his taxes after his company's annual revenue fell from "$1.5 million to $400,000 after the Democrat-dominated state complicated his ability to function as a contractor; and
- Other than keeping receipts, he had done "very little" to address his tax problems.

The hard-working tax paying citizens of Arkansas, and especially those living in State District 22, deserve a State Representative who **understands and obeys the law—not someone who "spins" excuses** and adopts a cavalier attitude that the State Tax Office will prepare his returns. **Bottom line: Gates ignored state tax laws.**

Gates has said that he will not resign and intends to run for re-election. One can only hope that the voters in District 22 have more common sense than Gates (together with his **ignored tax laws obviously) for three years** and failed to pay more than **$200,000 in state taxes, penalties and interest.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DPGC MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 5:30 pm
DPGC Headquarters, 608 West Grand Avenue, Hot Springs

SPECIAL NOTE: The Membership Recruitment Drive Contest has been extended to AUGUST 31st! This will give more people an opportunity to get their friends and family involved with the DPGC. Prizes will be announced in September. Meeting agenda includes: Planning for an "Olde Fashioned Cakewalk Rally/Membership Drive" event, Membership Drive Contest, Ways to increase attendance and participation at our volunteer Committees. For more information please email Renee Sutherland at laurnsuth.renee@gmail.com.

DPGC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DPGC Headquarters, 608 West Grand Avenue, Hot Springs
Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Agenda includes: budget review and sub-committee reports. For more information contact DPGC Vice Chair Gene Reagan at DaveOReagan4a1@gmail.com.

HAYDEN CAMPAIGN CANVASSING TRAINING
Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 10:00 am
Hayden for Arkansas HQ, 320 Ouachita Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 313
Hot Springs, Arkansas

The Hayden Campaign will host a "Canvass Training 101" event. This training will have something to offer both the seasoned veteran and the election newbie. One hour of training will be followed by work in the field. Canvassing voters face-to-face is one of the most effective tools we have to motivate, persuade and educate voters to support our candidates and our party. Please bring a friend or family member with you to this training you will know how to effectively engage with voters in your daily life. Bring a cellphone or tablet to learn the new technology at our disposal. Questions can be directed to Melinda@haydenforcongress.com.

PHONE BANK FOR THE HAYDEN FOR ARKANSAS CAMPAIGN
Hayden for Arkansas HQ, 320 Ouachita Ave., 3rd Floor, Suite 313
Hot Springs, Arkansas
Monday, July 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm

The Hayden for Arkansas campaign will host a phone bank outreach event. The elevator to the suite is next to Colonels Grill. Parking is available in back. No experience necessary. Please bring a phone and a laptop or tablet. Training will be provided. Questions can be directed to Melinda@haydenforcongress.com.

The DPA's 2ND ANNUAL CLINTON DINNER
Saturday, August 4, 2018
Little Rock, Arkansas

This annual gathering allows Arkansas Democrats to join together and celebrate our progressive roots and our energy for change. Montana Governor Steve Bullock will be the Keynote Speaker. The DPGC has reserved a table and there are two seats left. Tickets are $100.00. If interested in attending, please contact DPGC Treasurer Mark Toth at marktoth@yahoo.com.

OPINIONS

In the July 3rd edition of the Hot Springs Sentinel Record, there were two excellent letters to the editor addressing issues of taxes.

In her letter, Denise Marion, Garland County Justice of the Peace District 5, and a faithful Democrat, discussed taxes and patriotism. Her letter reads as follows:

Letters to the editor

Taxes and patriotism

Dear editor:

I have something I want to express about taxes and patriotism.

Ideally, we would accept paying tax. We would realize that the republic to which we pledge allegiance, is all of us combined and not just one person or a group of people. We would understand that we need to pay tax to fund government operations and services, even when we don't entirely agree with how taxes are raised or spent, because that is our day.

I hear a lot of grief about taxes, particularly the income tax. Personally, I think we should do away with the income tax entirely and fund our government on waste. I don't mean government waste. I mean trash we throw out and natural resources we waste. There is certainly enough of that to make the switch.

But that change isn't going to happen any time soon.

In the meantime, I pay my taxes understanding that there are many competing interests and opinions in republic USA. Personally, I don't think it is fair to have a higher tax rate on wages from work than on income from money, particularly if it is a huge pile of money that was inherited. But that's just my opinion and it doesn't exempt me from taxation. I have pledged allegiance and I understand the importance of paying our dues, so I do.

The problem now is that we have experienced several decades since we were first told that our government is bad and that we should starve it down to size by cutting taxes. Our current president says if you don't pay your taxes, you're smart, and I am always surprised at the number of people who nod in agreement.

Here's the real deal: people who don't pay their taxes, whether they are smart or just selfish, shift all the costs of government onto rest of us. They essentially take something they haven't paid for, which in any other case would be called stealing.

There will be a lot of flag-waving this Fourth of July. People will "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands." We will display our flag in our front yards, in our public spaces and in our churches as a show of patriotism.

I just want to say this: Anyone who doesn't pay their taxes is no patriot, no matter how big their flag is.

Denise Marion
Justice of the Peace
Garland County District 3

Bud Kenny wrote a pithy missive castigating current Republican State Representative, District 22, Mickey Gates, for failing to file state income tax returns for more than a decade. Mr. Kenny wrote:

Letters to the editor

Rep. Gates and taxes

Dear editor:

District 22 State Rep. Mickey Gates has not filed state tax returns for the past 15 years and, according to the state DFA, he owes Arkansas over a quarter of a million dollars in back taxes. He actually owes more than that, but because of the statute of limitations, that's all they can pursue him for. Those of us who live in District 22 have a simple question: "How many of us earned more than a quarter of a million dollars over the past five years, much less had a state tax bill for that amount of money?"

According to the press, he plans to plead not guilty. And from what I've heard so far, his defense is going to be that he didn't know he owed that money. If Mickey Gates is so inept — or dishonest — handling his own business, why would you trust him with the business of the state?

Bud Kenny
Hot Springs

Kenny makes a very good point. And just by comparison, Gates' opponent, **Democrat Kevin Rogers**, is a well respected downtown business leader who has paid his taxes—**as we all have to do.**

SPECIAL APPEAL

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
We now have 121 days until the November election and Democrats in Garland County we have lots of wonderful candidates who will be on the ballot. This year, we absolutely cannot afford to look back after the election and say we wish we had done more to help. If you are interested in volunteering with a campaign for a local candidate, please contact Denise Marion at dpmonder@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF THE HAYDEN FOR ARKANSAS CAMPAIGN HQ
The Hayden Campaign is looking for volunteers to staff their Hot Springs Headquarters during the summer and fall. For more information please contact Melinda Smith at Melinda@haydenforcongress.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

KAREN GARCIA CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF FOR CITY DIRECTOR DISTRICT 5
Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 5:00 pm
The Centre at Forest Lakes, 305 Forest Lakes Blvd., Hot Springs

This will be the formal kick-off event for Karen's election campaign. Music will be provided by Shirley Chauvin with catering by Special Touch. Everyone is invited.

SOUTHERN MADE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS "COOKOUT 4 THE KIDS"
Saturday, July 22, 2018 at 4:00 pm
Wade Street Park, 360 Wade Street, Hot Springs

Hosted by Ms. Triggi with In The Mix DJ. Fun, Food & Drinks!

PROJECT HOPE MONTHLY MEETING
125 Wellness Way, Hot Springs
Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness - Mental Health Services
Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcomed to attend. Attendees will discuss ways to identify and address mental health issues in our community. Participants will also discuss opportunities for a coordinated and collaborative effort to produce measurable outcomes and improvements in community health. For more information call 501-624-7111 or for general information visit ccbhw.org.

"1ST ANNUAL DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH HOT SPRINGS" EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE
Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness
125 Wellness Way, Hot Springs, 71913

Inviting all girls ages 12 –18 for this free, fun event. The keynote speaker will be Tara Shepherd, author and founder of the Girls Mentoring Program. Includes: T-Shirt, Breakfast, Lunch, Journal, and More! Registration Required To Attend. For more details contact DWYN Founder Esther Dixon at diamondsintherough@yahoo.com.

GARLAND COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE
Monday July 30, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness, Mental Health Service
125 Wellness Way, Hot Springs

This meeting is open to any individuals interested in helping to alleviate domestic violence in Garland County. Community members meet monthly to determine the best ways to educate the public on domestic violence, raise public awareness, enhance services and create safer families and communities. For more information call 501-624-7111 or for general information visit ccbhw.org.

DOBBY DAY SOCK AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE
Tuesday, July 31, 2018 from 9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.
335 Charlesman Street, Hot Springs

This event is a sock and underwear drive for teenagers at Ouachita Children's Center (OCC). The OCC is a non-profit organization providing temporary shelter for children in our community. For information call (501) 623-5091 or email info@occnet.org.

DEMOCRATIC SUMMER GATHERING
Thursday, August 2, 2018 to August 4th, 2018
Little Rock, Arkansas

Save the date! The annual Summer Gathering of Democrats will be held from August 2nd through August 4th in Little Rock. Democrats from across the state will gather for the weekend of inspiration and celebration. "Democrats Night Out" is the kick off to the weekend on Thursday, August 2, the DPAs Friday Block Party will be on Friday, August 3 and the weekend will wrap up with the Clinton Dinner on Saturday night, August 4. We will send out more information about the August 2nd and August 3rd events details are finalized but go ahead and mark your calendars for a weekend of fellowship with Arkansas Democrats.

3RD ANNUAL DAMES, DEMS AND DRINKS
Albert Pike Masonic Center
Thursday, August 23, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
712 Scott Street, Little Rock, Arkansas

The Progressive Arkansas Women's PAC is celebrating the 99th anniversary of the women's right to vote in Arkansas with their "3rd Annual Dames, DEMS and Drinks Party" supporting our women running for office in Arkansas. Visit arkpacwomen.com for more information.

2ND ANNUAL SUFFRAGE SPRINT AND STROLL
Saturday, August, 25, 2018 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am
Arkansas State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Little Rock, Arkansas

Exercise your right to run or take a stroll in your finest suffragette attire at the Second Annual Suffrage Sprint & Stroll. In addition to supporting the Arkansas Women's History Institute, you'll get a race shirt that has a "Votes for Women" document printed on it. The 1.5 mile fun run/walk starts and ends at the Capitol Rotunda. All proceeds benefit the Arkansas Women's History Institute. For more information visit www.runsignup.com/Race/AR/LittleRock/SuffrageSprintStroll.

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