

Candidate asked to step down

By Dan Hammes

Published: Tuesday, April 6, 2010 3:52 PM PDT

James Stivers, a candidate for state senate, has been asked to withdraw from the race by the Republican party.

Phil Sergent, chairman of the Benewah County Republican Party, cited Mr. Stivers' views on race and polygamy as reasons for the central committee's action.

"Somebody did some checking on him and downloaded material from the two books he wrote and that is where we got the information," Mr. Sergent said. "We find the views he expressed abhorrent and do not represent the Republican Party."

Mr. Stivers said the accusations are false and refuses to step down.

"It is all part of an effort by one of my opponents so he can be in the race alone against the incumbent," he said.

Mr. Stivers and Dennis Engelhardt are challenging Sen. Joyce Broadsword in the Republican primary.

"I had nothing to do with that," Mr. Engelhardt said. "I knew there was an issue and I knew there were some people in Benewah County looking into it but I had nothing to do with it. That was orchestrated by people he has known for more than two years."

Mr. Stivers said the charges against him are based on information taken from something he wrote more than 20 years ago for a doctoral dissertation. He said the information was changed after it had been reproduced and put on the Internet. It has "taken a life of its own," he said. The accusations against him are based on false information, he said.

"I can verify the document is edited and changed from organization to organization."

Mr. Stivers said he has been targeted by members of the central committee because of his support for a state bank. He said conservatives within the local party organization view his support of a state bank as being too liberal.

"There has been a long-standing argument in this campaign between me and my opponents over the state bank issue. It has become quite heated. There have been some accusations that I am a Socialist and even stronger rhetoric than that," he said. "I don't think the Republicans wants somebody painted with that reputation."

Mr. Sergent said the decision by the central committee was based solely on information the committee reviewed about Mr. Stivers' views on race and polygamy.

"We want to be completely fair and honest but his views do not represent the Republican Party," Mr. Sergent said.

Mr. Stivers said he is not a polygamist nor is he a racist. He said he did write an appendix to the abstract about polygamy.

"It is not a racist piece. It states a case how polygamy would be beneficial to the white race in preference to Europeans and how it would be beneficial to the black race. It is not a racial document," he said.

Mr. Stivers said he would provide the original documents he wrote to clarify issues raised by

material retrieved from the Internet. He said he will not withdraw from the race.

“I have to exonerate myself. If I resign now, that will validate their accusations. I have to continue in the race.”

Letter sent to Jame Stivers

Due to recent information being presented to the Republican Party of Benewah County about your book on the virtues of polygamy and your writings on the white race. The central committee has unanimously voted to disassociate the party from you and request your resignation of your committee seat, plus withdrawing your candidacy for Idaho State senate.

Philip M. Sergent

Benewah County Republican Party Chairman