

The Top Five "Non-Issues" in the Congressional Race

by KCRR President Jeff Ward



Undoubtedly the biggest race in this May 25th Primary is the Republican Nomination for Congress in the First District of Idaho. I am not telling you who I am supporting. By the KCRR Bylaws, as President, I am not allowed to endorse anyone. As result I have taken it upon myself to try to be an "honest broker" in the race and attempt to steer the campaigns to a civil, strenuous, and intelligent contest based on issues and qualifications. Unfortunately, the media and the campaigns have tended to focus on certain contrasts that are really lousy reasons to vote for or against the candidates. These "non-issues" are distractions that not only frustrate the voters but may come back to bite the eventual Republican nominee. Here is what I think are the "Top Non-Issues" in the campaign and thus things that should be ignored.

Labrador is an Immigration Attorney: Yes, as an attorney, Labrador represented illegal aliens. As attorneys Abraham Lincoln represented price-fixing railroads and John Adams represented British soldiers who killed Americans. In all these cases, they, as officers of the court, defended the rule of law. They did not promote the actions of the defendants. Defense attorneys, on the whole, do not support murder and Labrador does not support illegal immigration.

Ward's Wife works for Fannie Mae: The fact that Ward's wife works at a mid-level job for a quasi-government agency that failed is one of the silliest attacks I have ever heard. Ward, as well as all his opponents are falling over themselves to get a job at a government agency that has failed and continues to fail - The U.S. Congress.

Labrador did not attend the F-35 hearing: Ward's attack on Labrador for campaigning in North Idaho (at our KCRR meeting) rather than attend a State House hearing on the basing of the F-35 fighter in Idaho is so disingenuous it is laughable. First, Labrador was not on that committee, second, for an unemployed guy to complain about a guy with a job missing a day of work is completely hypocritical and third, government projects that are given and taken away at the whim of Congress are really a poor basis for economic growth. Real jobs are created by private enterprise in Idaho not by the federal government.

Ward Campaign spreading text message rumors: Come on, you guys are not running for sophomore class president. To whine about rumors spreading in such an important campaign is beneath your dignity. We live in a time which anything can be transmitted any time anonymously by anyone. Give the text receivers credit for being able to discern between facts and crap.

Labrador supporter Sali called Ward a Boy Scout: To blame anyone for what Bill Sali says other than Bill Sali is ridiculous. Besides, Sali did not, as Ward supporters contend, equate Ward's military service with being a Boy Scout. He was commenting on his perception that Ward was as unprepared for Congress as a Boy Scout would be if sent to fight in Iraq. I, on the other hand think we need more Boy Scouts both defending our Country and sitting in Congress.

Let's demand that this campaign get back on the real issues we face in Idaho. That is just my two cents.