



# HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**tburke@manleyburke.com**

July 18, 2008

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Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones  
Chair  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Official Standards of Conduct  
HT-2  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tubbs-Jones:

I am writing to request that the Committee on Official Standards of Conduct examine the activities of Congresswoman Jean Schmidt's Chief of Staff. It appears from comments in several news stories that Congresswoman Schmidt's Chief of Staff is repeatedly speaking on behalf of Congresswoman Schmidt's Campaign for Re-Election. It is my understanding that taxpayer-funded congressional staffers are prohibited from engaging in campaign activity from congressional offices, or while using congressional resources. Based on the newspaper stories attached, there is probable cause to believe that the rules of the House have been violated.

On behalf of the Hamilton County Democratic Party, I ask the House Committee on Official Standards of Conduct to consider two important questions:

- 1) Do the comments by Barry Bennett, the Chief of Staff, about the campaign made on behalf of Congresswoman Schmidt, constitute campaign activity as defined by the House Ethics Rules? If so, did Mr. Bennett research, prepare or disseminate these statements from any congressional office or taxpayer-funded location, including the Congresswoman's district office, or did he otherwise utilize any resources provided by Congress and the taxpayers?

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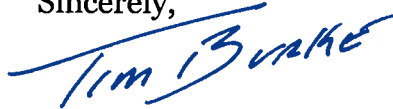


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- 2) Do Mr. Bennett's comments regarding a June 15<sup>th</sup> fundraising letter sent out on behalf of Congresswoman Schmidt's campaign, in which he suggests intimate knowledge of the researching, preparation and dissemination of that fundraising letter, constitute the solicitation of campaign contributions? If so, did Mr. Bennett engage in the solicitation of campaign contributions from or in any congressional office? If Mr. Bennett was actively engaged in the solicitation of campaign contributions, was he soliciting the same individuals who were seeking the Congresswoman's assistance or support on issues of concern?

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I'd be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the start of the name.

Tim Burke  
Chair