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LARRY GONZALES UNLEASHES ATTACKS ON HD 52 RUNOFF OPPONENT

Gonzales said that opponent John Gordon was the first to launch attacks in the high stakes House race.

Saying that he's fed up with the attacks on him, GOP HD 52 candidate Larry Gonzales went on the offensive today in that district's increasingly nasty primary runoff race. Gonzales released a radio ad today, attacking his opponent John Gordon's temperament and calling him "a ticking time bomb ready to explode." Among other things, it brings up a 1994 arrest for attacking a parking boot as well as his contesting of several parking tickets.

The ad tracks language posted to an attack Web site, The True John Gordon of Round Rock, Texas (www.thetruejohngordon.com), which Gonzales said was created by a political action committee called Texas 1836 PAC.

Other attacks leveled today against Gordon include his lawsuit contesting the residency status of Alyssa Eacono, a candidate for the HD 52 seat in this year's primary, and a 1994 threat when he was Williamson County GOP secretary to beat a would-be candidate for HD 52 "to pieces" if he filed to run for the office.

Gonzales defended the attacks on his opponent, saying that Gordon had gone first on going negative. "We didn't throw the first, second, third, fourth or fifth punch here," he said. "We've been absorbing this for the past seven weeks." He said that negative campaigning goes against his affable demeanor, but he said that he wanted the public to know his reasons for doing so.

He was coy when asked by QR about his affiliation with the PAC behind the Web site attacking Gordon. He answered, "Well, we'll see where that takes us," when asked if the PAC was in any way affiliated with him or his campaign. A search at the Ethics Commission found a Texas 1836 PAC, the treasurer for which is Houston resident Larry Massey. The PAC doesn't report any activity since filing its January semi-annual report.

Gonzales said he took umbrage at some of Gordon's recent attacks that questioned Gonzales for asking that his social security number be exempted from public records and for taking leaves of absence from his work in the Capitol where he was a staffer. Gonzales said that he was simply trying to comply with the law that prohibits campaign work while on state time and that preventing personal information from becoming public record was a reasonable action.

Gonzales said the most hurtful attack was Gordon's allegation that he was keeping a shell real estate company while receiving \$90,000 from one of the state's biggest real estate players, prominent GOP donor Bob Perry.

Gonzales said today that he and his father created a limited liability company to handle his grandfather's real estate holdings after his grandfather passed away. "We created the LLC to keep the business and personal sides separate," he said. Those properties were subsequently sold but the company remains on the books. Gonzales said he's dutifully filed that the company has earned zero income for the past few years.

Gordon told QR today that he found Gonzales' explanation a "nice excuse, very convenient." He said that the public needed to know about Gonzales' real estate company while Gonzales was developing a relationship with Perry.

He also defended himself against Gonzales' charge that he has engaged in frivolous legal action. In particular, he expressed outrage that a candidate for the Legislature would attack him for invoking his constitutional right to trial by jury. "That's a bad position," he said.

Gordon said that his suit contesting Eacono's residency in the district was far from frivolous and that the public needed to know that questions existed as to whether the candidate lived in the district. He said that Eacono's poor showing in the primary – she received 7.6 percent of the vote – indicated that the public listened and appreciated Gordon's actions.

The Gordon attack Web site also features video footage of a 2009 traffic stop where Gordon is confrontational with the officer who stopped his wife (Gordon was the passenger as were the Gordons' grandchildren). The Gonzales radio ad mentions the traffic stop, too.

Gordon said that the attacks on him omit the fact that the case (a ticket for not using a left turn signal) was thrown out by the prosecutor. Also, he said that far from being confrontational, he thought it was reasonable "that I would defend my wife and my grandchildren, and that the police was creating a dangerous situation" by stopping his wife on a busy highway for a minor traffic violation.

By John Reynolds

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