



Complaint of fraud in State Senate campaign

'False' ad prompts Dist. 19 candidate to file against group

ARVADA, Colo. (Oct. 19, 2016) – Recent mail pieces from a Republican-backed campaign committee have prompted State Senate Candidate Rachel Zenzinger to file with the Jefferson County District Attorney’s office a complaint of Colorado campaign violations. In her complaint, she says the new mailer contains falsehoods designed to affect the outcome of her race against incumbent Laura Woods.

Zenzinger also asks that Woods publicly and adamantly disavow the mailer.

Sen. Woods (R) has received huge support from faceless entities such as the Colorado Citizens for Accountable Government, the group responsible for the mail piece in question. The official complaint in the DA’s office identifies CCAG as the party responsible for the offending mailer, known to Dist. 19 voters and political journalists as “the China Girl ad.”

The mailer is a revival of a two-year-old, thoroughly debunked fabrication in which the CCAG claims that Zenzinger used her position on the Arvada City Council to vote to use tax money to pay for “her trip to China.”

Zenzinger did not vote to use tax money to pay for any trip to China, and she has never been to China. The story was expertly [dissected by Politifact](#) and aired on Denver’s Channel 7 in July. Politifact rated it as a “Pants on Fire” falsehood.

“Despite our public communications via newsletter, social media and website, and despite all the media exposure on the truth of this matter, Laura Woods’ supporters continue to distribute this lie, and we have had enough,” Zenzinger said. “It’s a distraction to the campaign, and that’s probably what my opponents hope to achieve, but we have to initiate steps to help the authorities respond appropriately to this garbage.”

She added, “I respectfully call upon Woods to renounce the false mailer and all the additional lies that CCAG has foisted upon the public in this campaign.”

The latest mailer includes an out-of-context quote from Arvada Mayor Marc Williams in which he mistakenly says that Zenzinger supported a motion that would have allowed her to take a trip to China. There was no such motion. Indeed, Politifact points out Zenzinger initiated “a successful motion explicitly prohibiting use of taxpayer funds” if any such trip were to occur.

For complete information about the terms of the campaign law cited in this case, see CRS 1-13-109. The violation is considered a first-degree misdemeanor.

For more information about this issue and about the Rachel Zenzinger campaign, please go to www.RachelforColorado.com.

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