

20-year Polk County School Board Incumbent's Criminal Campaign Consultant



County Citizens Defending Freedom's mission is to equip and empower American citizens to stand for and preserve freedom for themselves and future generations. CCDF-USA is committed to resolving breaches of freedom and liberty through local awareness, local light, and local action. One of CCDF-USA's main areas of focus is our Research & Analysis Division. One of the tasks of this division is to review campaign contributions and expenditures. Over the course of our current local school board race, CCDF-Polk has monitored candidates' financial records and contacted multiple candidates with concerns and issues. All have been resolved in private without the need to escalate. The last issue that we brought to a candidate privately did not end with resolution.

When reviewing the campaign financial reports of a 20-year incumbent, we saw expenditures to a Greg King. The purpose of these expenditures was noted as "campaign consultant". Over \$3,000 has been paid to King so far for the incumbent's 2022 campaign and nearly \$15,000 was paid to King during the incumbent's 2018 campaign. We began to research Mr. King and did not find record of him being a campaign consultant beyond being listed as such on a Polk County School Board Member's and a Miami-Dade County School Board Member's campaign financial reports for the past two elections. We found that King owns a cleaning company, Buckingham Cleaning. When visiting the company's website, there are listed services available, however clicking on the services redirects you to other cleaning company websites. Our team called several of the redirected companies to verify King's connection. No one that we spoke to on these calls knew him.

After briefly looking into King and finding reasonable concerns, CCDF-Polk contacted the school board member who has paid him and asked for clarification on Greg King's services and the relationship they have. CCDF-USA always follows our Matthew 18 Model, where we first bring a concern directly to an individual to be addressed privately. If the issue cannot, or will not, be resolved in private, the next step is to bring awareness to the public. We wanted to know if King was a campaign consultant or operated a cleaning service. If King is a campaign consultant, what services has he provided? If King operates a cleaning service, what is he cleaning for the candidate's campaign at a cost of thousands in campaign dollars? We have yet to receive a response to our email from the sitting school board member.



Instead, hours after we sent an email to the 20-year incumbent on our Polk County School Board raising legitimate concerns and requesting a response, Greg King went public on Facebook attacking CCDF. While it is our goal to handle issues professionally and privately, in this situation a school board candidate's campaign consultant has brought this information to the public, so we will respond publicly.

Our school board member has paid Greg King nearly \$20,000 during the last two campaigns (2018 and 2022). The Miami-Dade School Board Member has paid King nearly \$50,000 over the last two campaigns. Greg King has 19 criminal records. He was arrested as recently as November 2019 right here in Polk County. This sheds light on another serious issue. Truth and fairness should be the standard of any serious journalist or media company. There has been an abundance of media coverage for this school board race, but it has not been entirely fair or honest or complete.

The incumbent's lack of response to our email and Greg King's furious response is cause for concern. If their relationship and exchange of fees and services is upstanding, a clear direct account from the incumbent would have brought clarity and closure to our inquiry. King unleashed his dissatisfaction on social media in response to our desire to gain understanding of who he is and the nature of his relationship with a 20-year incumbent on our Polk County School Board. We found his social media posts full of racism, defunding the police, and calls to riot and tear down Abraham Lincoln's statues. Why is the media silent about Greg King?

CCDF-Polk attempted to gain clarity from an elected official regarding her use of campaign contributions. The response we received from this incumbent's campaign to our request does not diminish doubt but rather increases concern. The public deserves answers. 20 years of this elected official's voters, contributors, and supporters deserve answers. The students, faculty, staff, and citizens of Polk County deserve answers.

There was an enormous amount of focus from the media and special interest groups on another campaign consultant in this very same school board race. Dr. James Dunn has been hired by other candidates running for Polk County School Board. When CCDF researched Dunn, we found his criminal record from nearly 20 years ago. We first brought our findings to Dunn privately, following our Matthew 18 model. He spoke directly to his past and addressed all questions clearly and completely. After this mistake made, Dunn went on to be an educator, principal, and dean. After a successful career in education, Dunn went on to found two respected groups in Texas, Black Republicans of Brazoria County and Black Republicans of Fort Bend. He has been appointed to statewide boards by Texas Governor Abbott and in the last couple of years has worked as a political consultant to more than 25 candidates resulting in wins.

We did not find the same path for Greg King.



Greg King and Dr. James Dunn have lived different lives. Dunn has been villainized by our local media. Will the media report with the same fervent outrage on this campaign consultant? Will the media relentlessly pursue with as much time and energy to make the public aware of a 20-year incumbent's choice of a criminal campaign consultant for not just one, but multiple campaigns? Will Greg King make the front page of The Ledger?