

PAC Backing Tim Michels Launches Negative Ad Attack Against Rebecca Kleefisch

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

At the same time that Republican governor candidate Tim Michels' campaign has blasted opponent Rebecca Kleefisch for her negative ads aimed at Michels, a political action committee that is backing Michels is now running attack ads aimed at Kleefisch. The group is calling itself "Sunrise In America."

Political action committees can take as much money as they want from donors but, by law, cannot coordinate their activities with political campaigns. It is unclear who is bankrolling the anti-Kleefisch pack but the paperwork for the PAC lists a Florida Republican operative as its treasurer. The PAC has a bank account in Green Bay.

Former state assembly Speaker John Gard, a Republican consultant who has run many independent expenditure campaigns, has generally based the finances of these operations in Green Bay. All indications are the PAC is funded by supporters of Michels.

Kleefisch has been hammering Michels for several weeks alleging he supports a gas tax hike and oppose "right to work" legislation. The assumption has been that Kleefisch has gone negative because her campaign handlers think they are losing. But now a pro-Michels PAC is going negative as well, indicating the Kleefisch attacks may be working.

So far, the back and forth has been mild. The primary election is August 9.

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