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Public Deserves Explanation From Candidate Nehring On Underhanded Campaign

Posted by [Chris Ihler](#) 90.20sc on June 27, 2017 · [Add your reaction](#)

Voters deserve an official explanation from 22-year-old Snohomish County Councilman Nate Nehring (son of Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring) for multiple and repeated unethical attempts to sabotage the Ihler for county council campaign to insulate himself in power.

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The Ihler campaign was recently contacted by a third-party vendor who informed Mr. Ihler of the blackballing efforts by Nehring campaign officials.

It was explained that an official officer of the Nehring campaign had demanded that Chris Ihler's campaign be immediately blacklisted from working with a private vendor. This vendor in question provides voter data, annotation, and cloud services to the Ihler campaign. If the vendor had acquiesced to the requests of the Nehring campaign the Ihler campaign's data would have effectively been erased and he would have had to start all over with a different vendor not knowing which voters had been spoken to, nor what specific issues they wanted to be addressed.

When the first attempt was unsuccessful, the Nehring campaign enlisted the Chair of the Snohomish County Republican Party and the Chair of the King County Republican Party to coerce the vendor to blacklist the Ihler campaign. If these attempts had been successful, it would have severely limited the Ihler campaign from reaching voters.

These tactics are an abuse of political influence and highlight 22-year-old Nate Nehring's youth and immaturity. Nehring's campaign calls him a qualified leader. If so, he must issue an apology and explanation for these unethical actions in addition to dismissing and disassociating himself from those who were willing to act out this abuse on his behalf.

On behalf of the citizens of Snohomish County, the Elect Chris Ihler Campaign demands an apology and explanation from Councilman Nehring for the multiple attempts to sabotage the campaign and silence voters in his district.

Finance and Budgetary Irresponsibility

In addition to a public explanation and apology, Nehring should return all campaign contributions he has received from these individuals. This must include the \$2,000 Councilman Nehring received from the "Snohomish County GOP Leaders Fund" which is a political action committee operated by Nehring's legislative aide in addition to the Nehring campaign official who also tried to sabotage Mr. Ihler's campaign. This is the same \$2,000 that is **currently under investigation** by the Public Disclosure Commission for violating campaign finance law.

In the official response, Nate Nehring's 22-year-old legislative aide (the person along with another Nehring campaign official that funneled this money to his bosses' campaign) admitted that they did not list the PAC's expenditures as required by law and they filed incomplete reports in violation of state law. In addition, the aide that works for Councilman Nehring was defiant and attempted to **blame the PDC (the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission)** for their own inability or unwillingness to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures under the law. These can be considered serious violations and can carry a penalty up to and including a class C felony.

The Nehring campaign's actions show that County Councilman Nate Nehring is too young and inexperienced to handle taxpayer money and manage a budget over \$800 million

A clearly irresponsible lack of transparent financial accountability becomes exponentially more troubling when we are reminded that Councilman Nehring is the Chair of the Performance Audit Committee. This means we have two inexperienced millennials who appear irresponsible of managing money in charge of the county budget that exceeds \$800 million.

This is a recipe for bad government and highlights the need for Chris Ihler's finance and budgetary experience on the county counsel.

Snohomish County Needs Mature, Responsible, Experienced Leadership

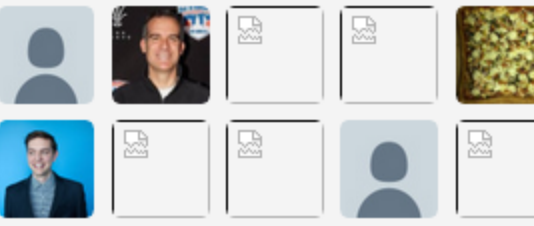
On June 15 Chris Ihler confronted Nehring about the issues relating to the Nehring campaign attempting to get the Ihler campaign blacklisted from access to its own campaign vendor information—but instead of coming clean and taking responsibility, Nate Nehring publicly denied all knowledge of such an attempt.

Voters are tired of politicians that smile in public and abuse their power behind closed doors. Trying to silence the voices and concerns of the very citizens you have sworn to represent is no way to win an election.

In today's world, how a politician operates his campaign is often the only public insight as to how they will operate behind closed doors. With unethical actions like this, 22-year-old Nate Nehring has proved he is too young and immature to handle the power that comes with holding public office—and that the people of Snohomish County deserve a mature and qualified County Councilman to replace him.

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