



NEWS RELEASE – MN GOP Gov. candidate bobagain’s “Trump Thought Crimes” roil GOP in Duluth, legal issues emerge; rare “openly sane GOP candidate” files for 5th CD GOP primary, vows to continue educational “Trump-must-resign-or-be-impeached” campaign

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Minneapolis, June 6, 2018 – Minnesota GOP candidate for Governor, Bob “Again” Carney Jr. has suspended his campaign for Governor, joining a mad “musical chairs” filing mob at the Secretary of State’s Capitol office Tuesday afternoon. His decision to file for the 5th CD Republican primary was prompted partly by what bobagain regards as a wrongful and possibly illegal effort by the Minnesota Republican party to obstruct his candidacy – in an apparent panic-attack response to his “Trump Thought Crimes.” At the Duluth Convention Center June 2nd, 2018, bobagain was told by a person with apparent Sergeant-at-Arms agent authority that he must leave the building – but his decision to switch races was also influenced by the fact that the 5th CD seat



suddenly and unexpectedly came open when current Rep. Keith Ellison withdrew and switched to run for Attorney General.

“The main issue I’ve been raising is my claim that President Trump must either resign or be impeached,” bobagain said, and added: “Although I would have liked to give all Minnesotans an opportunity to vote in the primary for a GOP candidate openly committing this kind of a ‘Trump Thought Crime,’ the unique circumstances that emerged in the 5th CD, combined with the fact that the entire district has better public forum spaces and is transit-accessible, prompted me to switch.”

The campaign website will remain www.votebobagain.com – it is currently being updated. Further news announcements, including a campaign kickoff video, will follow shortly.

Obstruction, legal issues emerge in Duluth as bobagain’s “Trump Thought Crimes” roil GOP

The equally acceptable alternatives of President Trump’s resignation or a Congressional impeachment-and-removal action had been a centerpiece of bobagain’s campaign since he began it at the Minnesota State Fair GOP booth in August of 2017.

Although he met significant resistance and obstruction from the state party during and after the 2017 State Fair, that situation had been improving recently, but appeared to take another abrupt turn towards obstruction shortly after bobagain’s May 5th candidate speech at the 8th CD GOP Convention. In that speech, bobagain began the “Trump Topic” referring elliptically to a poll showing 70% of Democrats want President Trump impeached. Since a President Pence would likely be a Constitutionally required consequence of Trump’s conviction by the Senate (note, for other than “high Crimes and Misdemeanors” removal is not a minimum required consequence of conviction,) bobagain began by saying: “a lot of you I’m sure have heard about a recent news report that said that 70% of Democrats want Mike Pence for President... how many of you have heard about that?” Gesturing for a show of hands with no response, he continued: “OK... you may have heard a little different headline... what might that headline be?” When someone piped up: “They want to impeach Trump,” bobagain continued

“70% of Democrats want President Trump impeached. OK... now, you also hear a lot of talk about the idea that we can’t overthrow, or overturn, or undo the election in 2016. That’s not going to happen. Our choice... our Constitutional choice today... is not between President Trump and a President Hillary Clinton. Our choice is between President Trump and a President Pence. And I just want you all to think about that.”

Since that May 5th 8th CD GOP convention, the Minnesota GOP “regime” has become sharply more hostile to bobagain’s campaign – he was escorted from the Convention hall and the building at the May 19th 7th CD Convention, after being told he could not speak. At the Duluth Convention, bobagain was intercepted by the same person, Wally Cole, who had been the Sergeant-at-Arms functionary escorting him from the 7th CD Convention hall. Acting on apparent agent authority for the State party, Cole escorted bobagain from the Duluth Convention Center, threatened to call security, and told him he could not re-enter the building. Since then bobagain has determined on a preliminary basis that the Duluth Convention Center is a public building, and the hallways of the building are open to the public. Potential legal issues abound – this will be investigated.

“I’ve concluded that the current GOP ‘establishment’ in Minnesota is either directly controlled by, or heavily influenced by, the Trump ‘regime’ – and they are terrified that I’ve identified a huge structural weakness in the sand high-rise ‘edifice’ of support President Trump has piled up: that Vice President Mike Pence... who of course can’t be fired by Trump... automatically becomes President if Trump resigns or is impeached. Ultimately, I’m very encouraged by what the Minnesota GOP ‘establishment’ is doing in one sense: their over-the-top panic attack indicates they are scared to death because they realize that as Republicans start to seriously consider Pence as a viable, Constitutional alternative, GOP support for President Trump may erode, crumble, and ultimately disintegrate like a sandcastle in a tsunami,” bobagain said. [A recent video from bobagain](#) makes clear what is going on... and includes what amounts to an endorsement of what bobagain is saying from California hedge fund billionaire and Trump impeachment advocate Tom Steyer – who responded directly from a question posed by bobagain at a May 30th, 2018 NeedToImpeach.com Minneapolis Town Hall.

Background: the Minnesota GOP and bobagain since 2006 -

(Note: for readers of the last Governor’s campaign News Release this is repetition)

The most recent decade of bobagain’s experience with the Minnesota Republican party - going back to 2006 - has been that the Minnesota Republican Party is generally open to candidates with both controversial views, and little or no cash – as long as they have reasonable and constructive ideas. However, the new Trump Administration has obviously stressed this tradition beyond its outer limits of endurance.

In 2006, bobagain first contemplated challenging Governor Pawlenty in the GOP primary -- rolling out a seven-point “Minnesota Republican Governor’s Contract with Voters.” Governor Pawlenty read the contract, and his campaign responded to bobagain in writing – agreeing with one of the points with an announcement that -- unlike 2002 -- he would not be bound by any “special interest pledge” in the 2006 campaign; specifically, the “no new taxes” pledge. While Gov. Pawlenty did not later agree to any tax increases per se in his second term, that was an on-going policy judgment, rather than the fulfillment of a 2006 campaign commitment. Gov. Pawlenty also agreed to sign a major bonding bill in 2006 – something bobagain was advocating for. Then-House Speaker Steve Sviggum sat down for a 45-minute videotaped discussion with bobagain, going point by point through his “Minnesota Republican State Legislator’s Contract with Voters,” and agreeing to seven of the eight points -- with one agreed-to point modified during the discussion. “Based on these responses, I felt I had accomplished a lot in the 2016 campaign cycle, and concluded it was not necessary to run in the GOP primary – I supported Gov. Pawlenty and voted for him,” bobagain said.

In 2009, bobagain ran (ineffectively) for Mayor of Minneapolis, and was also the first person to sue the Pawlenty administration on the issue of unallotments – eliminating a deficit by not spending money that had been appropriated. The lawsuit challenged the unallotment of

the Political Contribution Refund program, on a class-action basis. Prominent class action attorney Karl Cambronne – who was on the winning side in a \$900 million stock option backdating case involving UnitedHealth, then-CEO Bill McGuire, and other executives, agreed to take bobagain’s case on a contingency fee basis. Although his lawsuit had no Constitutional claim and its statutory claim was dismissed by the District Court, a second lawsuit went to the Minnesota Supreme Court on a Constitutional claim. The Supreme Court decided that case based on a statutory argument essentially identical to the one bobagain had advanced in the district court. “Ultimately, I believe my action in bringing suit was vindicated by the Minnesota Supreme Court’s opinion,” bobagain commented. However, because the decision came only about ten days before the end of the 2010 Legislative session, the Legislature, facing a sudden \$3 billion deficit, simply ratified all of Governor Pawlenty’s suddenly-illegal unallotment decisions. As a practical issue, through the unallotments Governor Pawlenty accomplished his budget goals for his last biennial budget.

In 2010, with the Tea Party movement in full swing, bobagain did run for Governor, challenging then-State Rep. Tom Emmer on what he saw as Emmer’s de facto support for nullification and succession – theories that led directly to the Civil War. Although a virtual unknown, and with only about a \$5,000 campaign budget, bobagain finished second in the GOP primary, with about 10,000 votes and about 8% statewide. “At that time I was campaigning in a suit jacket and bow tie – trying for some contrast with the Tea Party by dressing like someone who didn’t appear likely to start physically attacking people,” bobagain commented.

Since that first campaign for Governor, at both the 2010 GOP Convention and in the GOP primary, bobagain has sometimes, but not always, challenged GOP standard bearers when he believed they had “crossed a line” in support of something “beyond the pale” for GOP candidates. When 2012 U.S. Senate candidate State Rep. Kurt Bills called for making gold coins legal tender in Minnesota and appeared in his legislation to exempt transactions using gold coins from taxation, bobagain called that out, and opposed Bills at both the Convention and in the GOP Primary. However, he told the 2012 Convention he would support the primary nominee: when Bills won, bobagain supported and voted for Bills in the General Election.

In that 2012 U.S. Senate campaign, bobagain spoke at five Congressional District Conventions, and was allowed to speak to the State Convention for five minutes. He was not allowed the 20 minutes given to other candidates due primarily to the fact that he ran against the party's endorsed candidate for Governor two years earlier. "The 2012 GOP State Convention was controlled by Ron Paul supporters, who had themselves experienced being shut out of the process in 2008. I really appreciate the support they gave me for my efforts then to campaign at the Convention," bobagain added. In the August 2012 primary, bobagain finished third with about 17,000 votes, or about 14% statewide, although he spent less than \$1,000 on the campaign.

In 2014, bobagain was the GOP Convention-endorsed candidate in a special election for the Hennepin County Board seat vacated by Gail Dorfman. For Governor bobagain supported Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson in 2016 -- the Convention endorsed and primary-nominated GOP standard bearer -- throughout Johnson's campaign. "While I don't agree with Jeff on everything, I think he has always been reasonable and constructive in his approach to politics, and I'm especially strong in supporting his views on transit," bobagain said. [Johnson did a brief video interview](#) with bobagain on the Southwest Light Rail issue in August of 2014. In 2016, bobagain supported Ohio Gov. John Kasich for President at the precinct caucuses, and wrote a [Star Tribune op-ed](#) attempting to organize an "electoral college awakening" after the Conventions. That plan could have led to a Pence Acting Presidency after a potential Electoral College deadlock. After that article, bobagain did not publicly support anyone for president in 2016, and has not disclosed who he voted for, if anyone, for President. As a GOP State Senate nominee in 2016, bobagain campaigned at only one neighborhood festival event -- with a paper bag over his head in recognition of Trump's candidacy -- but was the highest GOP vote getter among Minneapolis legislative candidates, receiving about 10,000 votes.

On Saturday, April 14th 2018, bobagain was forced due to weather to forego campaigning at the 6th CD Convention in Lino Lakes -- it should be noted that many Republicans braved the weather and travelled far greater distances. For the Third District Convention, "Better Transit" advocate and transit user bobagain slogged by foot, in the beginnings of the blizzard, most of the three miles from the nearest bus stop to Bethany Church in Bloomington --

the convention site – catching a ride for the last half mile when someone saw him walking in the middle of Hampshire Avenue, turned around, and picked him up. For the return trip, another candidate, running for the U.S. Senate, offered to drop bobagain off at the 50th and France Minneapolis bus stop – but after finding he was “the candidate we were all booing” for calling on President Trump to resign or be impeached... that candidate loudly told bobagain “get out of the car!” – before adding: “I’m kidding.” An interesting conversation ensued on the trip to France and 50th.

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