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MIRS Capitol Capsule, Friday, September 20, 2013

Tea Party Looking For Its Gubernatorial Candidate

(MACKINAC ISLAND) – The countdown clock to RightMichigan.com's "gubernatorial surprise" went off at 9 a.m. today without a name, but Tea Party activists say a challenger is coming and its one of three options.

"Trucker" Randy BISHOP of Patriot Voices Radio said this morning activists are talking with three options, a plan "a," "b," and "c." MIRS has learned former Michigan Republican Party chair candidate Todd COURSER is option "C," although he's apparently told others he's not interested.

Due to Gov. Rick SNYDER's support of Medicaid expansion, common core, the second span to Canada from Detroit, and higher gas taxes, RightMichigan.com's Jason GILLMAN said "a growing number of conservative Republican activists are willing to leave Rick Snyder's voting box blank while fighting to preserve the majorities in the state House and Senate.

"The governor is not a Republican in any way," said Bishop's radio partner Brian SOMMERFIELD. "Not fiscally, not on social issues, or constitutionally. I honestly do not find much difference between him and our current president. I will not support him."

The issue is finding a primary challenger who can either self fund or raise the more than \$1 million necessary to raise name ID and spread a message. Tea Party activists believe they have someone who fits that bill, but he was not comfortable coming out this weekend, said Kevin HEINE of iCaucus.

If this candidate falls through, Bishop said, there is a pair of other options with Courser being one of them.

The former candidate for MRP chair, Board of Education, state House, and state Senate claims to have "tens of thousands" of people on his e-mail list and a grassroots following that he never expected.

"God has done that. I'm very thankful," he said on Patriot Voices Radio. "There aren't that many people who are willing to speak both about their love for Christ on the evangelical side and who are fiscally conservative.

"My humble little rise in politics isn't my doing. Really, it's God's grace and the great people who love this country."

Courser said he understands the belief that if the Republicans nominate a governor who is too conservative, it could hurt that candidate with moderates. However, he said a gubernatorial candidate who is too moderate "demoralizes the base" and stops the grassroots from wanting to work for down-ballot candidates.

On today's Patriot Voices Radio program, broadcasted live from the Grand Hotel this morning, it was suggested Snyder didn't announce his re-election campaign out of concern for the surprise Tea Party candidate.

To that, Snyder told the media today, "That is an absolutely erroneous thought they came up with."

Told that the Tea Party had an "a," "b," and "c" candidate waiting in wings to challenge Snyder, political consultant Stu SANDLER of Decider Strategies responded with skepticism.

"The ABCs of running a campaign is that you have to have a candidate and they don't seem to have one," he said. "I think it's all fiction and bunk. They've been talking about this announcement for months. They had a countdown and the countdown was to a press release that they have no candidate . . . It's silliness."

Other people quoted in today's RightMichigan press release included described Michigan Republicans activists Thomas LADUKE, Priscilla MILLER, Stephanie JACOBSON, Tanya Lamb HILL, Sherry LOAR, and Doug SEDENQUIST.

Sedenquist is currently facing a felony gun charge in Wisconsin.