

My questions:

We have a few questions for a future article we will publish this evening:

1. Do you approve or condone such negative campaigning by anyone, including those who may vote for you?
2. Were you sued in Will County in 1997 for monetary damages, which was later settled?
3. During your employment with the Illinois State Treasurer:
 - a. how many complaints of sexual harassment were lodged against you,
 - b. how many other complaints were lodged against you,
 - c. were you ever disciplined,
 - d. and were you fired or did you resign from that employment, and why,
 - e. do you know a Lawrence Zielonka from your work at the Treasurer's office

From: gtmarschke@ [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 7:19 PM

To: John Kraft <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Request for Comment for publication

!) I have been consistent in my opinion. I condemn anyone who uses personal or degrading language on facebook. I don't care if they support me or Alyssia or ECWG. I feel facebook is a coward's tool . People say things to people that they would never say face to face.

2) Yes, It was during the Village consolidated Election and was done by a candidate for Village trustee. He is a lawyer so the cost was nothing. It was a frivolous libel suit and I was on it because I was present when a comment was made. As you know political speech by and against public elected officials is almost impossible to be libel. As soon as the election was over, it was dropped. You say settled but I can assure you I did not pay out any money.

3) a. None. If there was a complaint, they would have had to inform me. I never was informed of any such complaint.

b. None.

c.No, I was never disciplined.

d. I was let go for political reasons. Whoever gave you this story did not go back far enough. This was my second stint with the State Treasurer's office. I was in the office with Jerry Cosentino, a Democrat from 1988 to 1992. In 1992 he ran for Sec. of State

against George Ryan and lost. It was a very heated race. I was deputy campaign mgr. and head of field operations.

Marty Kovarick was Topinka's chief of staff when she was a state senator. He was her Campaign manager and became her Deputy Treasurer. Also on the Republican ticket was George Ryan for Governor.

Larry Zielonka did Op research for the campaign and raised quite a bit of money. Early in the campaign, he indicated he wanted to be Inspector General which was a position that Topinka during the campaign, promised to put in place if she were elected. Marty promised him the position. This was after he discussed it with Topinka several times. Since he was raising quite a bit of money, it was an easy decision.

After taking office, Topinka put a bill in to create the office of Inspector General. Then a problem came up. Governor Ryan would sign the bill only if his friend former state senator Jack Lanigan were appointed the Inspector General for the first 2 years. Seems he was having financial problems and 2 years as Insp Gen with the high salary would double his pension. Topinka had also worked with Lanigan in the Senate. To appease Zielonka they created the position of deputy inspector general. He was livid and let everyone know. It did not appease him.

Marty Kovaric was disliked by Gov. Ryan and was instrumental in his leaving office. Shortly after Kovaric leaving, I found out that Ryan had been pushing Topinka to get rid of me because I was a Democrat and worked against him in his Sec of St race. I also found out that Marty Kovaric was responsible for me staying. Once he was gone I was fair game. Topinka told me she could no longer keep me and asked me to resign. To smooth things over, she gave me a severance package of two months salary and kept me on insurance for two months. She then put me on her campaign staff for 6 months.

Several months after leaving, (I'm not clear exactly when) I received a call from an attorney who said he represented Zielonka. They wanted me to testify on his behalf about being promised the insp gen position. I was on good terms with Topinka and told them I wanted nothing to do with testifying against her.

Subsequently I was totally unaware of his lawsuit. I knew nothing about it til you showed it to me. If I had known what he put in, I would have had the Treasurer's office correct it immediately. I know Judy would have done it.

As I said to you on the phone when you called, You should contact the Treasurer's office to get the facts and timetable straight.

By the way, the former trustee who filed the suit in 1997 is still around and if you looked up the archived stories, you could get the gist of the lawsuit. As you are aware you can sue anybody and any thing.

Gary Marschke