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Write-In Loophole

Published: Friday, October 31, 2008 at 2:29 a.m. Last Modified: Friday, October 31, 2008 at 2:29 a.m.

Kelli Stargel, who is running against me and Alton C. Smith in House Dist.64, is honorable. However, recent actions raise big questions:

A loophole in elections law allows Stargel to campaign for this seat against two write-in candidates, whose names won't even appear on the ballot. If we hadn't signed up to run, her campaign would've ended when the primary ended - thus stopping her fundraising.

This loophole allows her to spend campaign contributions rather than having to return them or donate them to charity. Stargel isn't doing anything illegal, but in hard economic times \$16,575 in contributions since the primary and \$10,000 expenditure to "Political Insights" this month alone are questionable and need explaining to voters. Absent a populist uprising, her opponents have a slim chance of winning. Remember: We can only get votes if you write our names in and fill in the oval.

What is accomplished by spending this much, shadow-boxing against less-visible opponents? With so many needs and debts facing our community, I'm sure voters would like clarification on these huge expenditures - and assurances the contributions don't seek political favors in return.

So, instead of voting for Stargel, you might want to vote for some true conservatives: Smith (Democrat)or me (Republican). For further information onthese and other candidates, please visit: www.GordonWayneWatts.com/Campaign.html.

[The writer is a write-in candidate for state House District 64.]

GORDON WAYNE WATTS

Lakeland

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