

June 5, 2014

Dear Republican County Committee Members,

Wherever you currently stand on the upcoming Chairman's election, we can all agree that the ultimate responsibility of any partisan political organization is to win elections. Also indisputable is that under John Bennett's experienced leadership we have done just that. The Monmouth County GOP enjoyed enormous success in terms of fundraising, volunteer productivity and overwhelming primary and general election victories by our candidates.

Just as important as what John has done, is what he has not done – and that's gift wrap a campaign issue for Vin Gopal and the County Democrats to beat us all over the head with. Unfortunately, I am concerned that is exactly what electing Shaun Golden to the dual offices of County Sheriff and County Republican Chairman will do.

Shaun is a good guy, I like him but I believe it's best for him to hold one office – Sheriff – not two. As a dual office holder, Shaun would immediately create conflicts for our Freeholders and vulnerabilities for our candidates that put everyone at risk and erode the progress of the last two years. This is because the Sheriff's office is part of the county government and subject to the Board of Freeholder's review for funding.

If anyone thinks the Democrats won't take advantage of this, you are kidding yourself.

Democrats will be able to charge our Freeholders with a politically damaging conflict of interest on nearly every vote they take providing funds for the Sheriff's Department. This will NOT be fair to Republicans serving on the Board.

And let me be perfectly clear, I have no doubt that every decision made by this Board would be just and appropriate, but that will not prevent the attacks from the Democrats and the press if their Sheriff is also their campaign manager, in charge of their political funding and the ballot "line". This dual role would open up an appearance of impropriety where none need exist.

We cannot put our heads in the sand and pretend this issue will go away. To the contrary, it will be magnified by our opponents and the media. Please consider this before casting your vote on Tuesday, June 10th.

Sincerely,

John Kaye

President, Monmouth County Affiliated Republican Club