

Did a candidate in the 3rd Congressional District race in Washington state (David Hedrick) produce, or at least knowingly use, fabricated poll data and a bogus website to mislead voters and promote himself as the race's front-runner while making his opponents look desperate and weak? You decide.

The purpose of this document is to bring to light a seemingly unethical situation in the congressional race in the 3rd congressional district in Washington state. At this time, ballots are out and people are voting as you read this, and it is for that reason that I wanted to share this as widely and as quickly as I could as I believe that this information is important for voters to know about.

This began when I was researching candidates that I may want to vote for in the Washington state primaries. Being a conservative, I had narrowed my focus to the three top Republicans in the race for the congressional seat from my district. Being a poll junkie, I looked for poll data but didn't find much of anything until I read a comment on an article in the Columbian newspaper. In the comment was a link to what is purported to be the latest legitimate poll data for that race.

Once I checked out the website the data was on, several flags were raised in my mind and I continued on to see what I could find out about that poll. What I discovered was shocking. It appears to me that not only is the poll data inaccurate or a total fabrication, but it sure seems like the Hedrick campaign has its fingers in its production in some way. I will stop short of directly saying that Hedrick has personally and knowingly produced a fraudulent website with fraudulent data. Instead, I will walk you through a list of incredible coincidences and let you determine what you think happened.

Please feel free to have this information verified by your local web geek as it does get technical in some places. And, if you have any questions or need clarification, please email me at theguywhofoundit@gmail.com. Please send your phone number if you would rather talk via phone. I would also appreciate a quick note if you decide to run the story.

Here is the list of 12 "coincidences" concerning the washingtonstatepolls.com website and the David Hedrick campaign:

1. The data doesn't jive with what the average person would expect.

When you look at the Republican field of candidates, there are three that stand out. There is Herrera who is already an elected politician who has name recognition and a track record in government, Castillo who has served in the Navy and has held several positions in high level government positions (though not elected positions), and Hedrick who made his name by spouting off to a seated congressman at a town hall event. To me, it would be common sense that at best they would all be tied in the polls, with the possibility that the new guy Hedrick would be trailing. This especially true when you consider that 4 major newspapers in the 3rd congressional district have endorsed Castillo and 1 has endorsed Herrera, while Hedrick remains endorsed by no newspapers. The poll results just do not jive with what one would expect given the scenario.

2. The timeframe doesn't make sense.

The first mention of the poll website that I could find was on July 7, 2010. It appeared as a comment on an article written by Kathie Durbin of the Columbian newspaper (the article was released on July 7th and entitled, "High stakes surround 3rd District debate"). The comment read:

<http://www.washingtonstatepolls.com/CD-3-SURVEY-01.htm>

This is going to change the race. Hedrick and Herrera are neck and neck. It looks like taking a position on issues is paying off for Hedrick. Just read the candidate statements then look at the vote totals. While I do not disagree with anything Herrera or Castillo say (you can't because they don't say anything), Hedrick is the only one who takes positions on critical issues.

prog - July 7, 2010 at 5:21 p.m. ([permalink](#) | [suggest removal](#))

As it turns out, the domain name for the website was registered on July 6, 2010. That would mean that they had only 24 hours or less to put up the website and post all results. (It is unlikely that this new website would even have been findable on search engines that quickly.) While this could potentially be possible, you can see that it is not possible given the survey information given on their website. The poll website says:

About 10,000 participants are selected in each district to complete the survey however we experience about a 10 - 15 percent return on those that are selected.

Our surveys are sent via email, and each survey can be responded to only via our website. Each participant is given the website link and a log in code for the survey they were selected to take.

I guess that would mean that they invited 10,000 people via email, had at least 10% of them respond immediately, and then created a report and web page for the report all within a 24 hour period. That is extremely unlikely. It is even more unlikely when you consider that there is no SSL certificate (the thing that keeps data safe and confidential online) issued for that website, and the fact that nothing on the website would indicate that they are using databases or custom coding that would allow for an interactive polling system.

3. The polling organization is questionable at best.

The poll website claims that the people behind it have been in the polling business for 20 years or more. Here is the quote from the website:

Washington State Political Polls is part of a National survey company for manufactures of household and other consumer products. We have been in the consumer survey industry for over 20 years. In 2007, we launched (7) State political survey sites with great results. This year we added (2) states and one of them was Washington State.

If a company has worked hard for 20 years to create a good reputation as a quality polling organization, why in the world would they not promote themselves on the website? The website does not list the people behind it, does not give anything except an email address for contacting them (and they do not respond to requests for information), nor do they link to any other state polling websites or any other websites of any kind. I have a hard time trusting any organization that does not offer legitimate contact information.

In addition, the website itself represents a very amateur attempt at best to present the data professionally. Neither the design nor the code behind the web pages demonstrate the work of professionals. A big polling company would undoubtedly have web development resources that would have been tapped to lend credibility to their results.

4. The polling methodology is dysfunctional.

I am not a polling expert, but I did notice several flaws in their stated methodology. Here is what they say:

Survey participants are selected from our database of Washington State residents.

They do not mention where they got this database or what sort of names it includes.

Some survey questions may not be included in the results of the survey, those that are not political in nature and/or are questions relating to products if they were made part of the survey.

This is clearly not the method of a professional polling company. I would hope that they would have available the actual questionnaire they used so that people could decide for themselves if the wording was fair and non-biased.

While we try to survey only registered voters, some people are able to take the survey that are not registered voters due to change of address, moving or other related reasons.

Not to mention that anyone can forward their email invitation to anyone else to answer. A web poll is nearly useless for this reason unless specific measures are used to verify identity which is not mentioned anywhere as something they do.

5. Domain records are marked at "private" by a privacy service out of Canada.

A "whois" lookup on the domain name washingtonstatepolls.com shows that it was registered and the contact information for the domain was made private. A flag should be raised simply due to the fact that a reputable company would have nothing to hide, and therefore no reason to use a service to make their record private. In addition, the privacy service used is the same privacy service used by David Hedrick on at least two of his other websites.

6. The poll website address was registered with the same registrar that Hedrick has used for many other domains.

Each domain name on the internet is registered with a domain name registrar. There are hundreds or maybe even thousands of these registrars to choose from. As it turns out, washingtonstatepolls.com was registered from a company called Tucows -- the same registrar that David Hedrick has used on nearly all of his other websites. For example, freedomsanswer.com was registered there as was stayawayfrommykids.com, theliberalcause.com, davidwhedrick.com and several others.

7. The poll website is hosted at the same facility as several other Hedrick websites.

washingtonstatepolls.com is hosted on servers operated by a company called Start Logic. They are one of thousands or tens of thousands of website hosting companies around the world. From what I can tell, they host somewhere around 120,000 websites out of the more than 250 million that exist. They are not found on any list of the top 50 hosting providers so the likelihood of any company randomly choosing them is low. GoDaddy and Google are much more popular and each host over 10 million websites compared to the few hosted by Start Logic. Many Hedrick websites are also hosted on Start Logic which makes me wonder how a random company with a 20 year operating history would choose Start Logic as a provider - the same provider used by Hedrick.

8. The poll website is hosted on the same IP address block as several other Hedrick websites.

Not only does the poll website utilize the same domain registrar, hosting service, and privacy service as others that Hedrick uses - it is also hosted on an IP address in the same IP block as Hedrick's other websites mentioned above. An IP address is like the physical address of a website, whereas the domain name is like a nickname for that address. It is possible for several websites to use a single IP address as long as they do not need an SSL certificate to keep data secure. The relative odds of a website having an IP address in the same IP range as another is somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 in 5.9 million unless they are related in some way. Of course, if the domains are on the same server the odds increase dramatically. And, if they are owned or operated by the same organization, it is even more likely. Could it be that washingtonstatepolls.com is owned or operated by the same person that owns and operates freedomsanswer.com, stayawayfrommykids.com, and theliberalclause.com – all of which are owned by David Hedrick?

9. The poll website HTML code includes a rare line in the header that is also found on several other Hedrick websites.

In the world of web development, it is widely known that different programmers code things according to their own unique style - at least to the degree possible while still adhering to corporate coding standards. You might say that the code produced by a programmer has a certain "fingerprint" to it. In this case, there are several markers that indicate that a very similar coding style was used to produce the washingtonstatepolls.com website and the other Hedrick websites. One example is a line of code that appears in the header area of the webpages created. It is:

```
<html xmlns:v="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:vml" xmlns:o="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40" />
```

This line indicated that the page was created using a Microsoft tool of some kind. In the case of washingtonstatepolls.com, the tool used to produce the website was Microsoft Frontpage. In the case of the other Hedrick websites, Frontpage might or might not have been used, but this exact line of code was used in them as well.

You might be thinking that is no big deal - maybe tons of other websites also use that. A Google search reports that only 66,300 other web pages have that signature - not websites – web pages. When you consider that there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.5 billion web pages out

there, the likelihood that two non-related websites would both have that signature line is next to none (approximately a .00000022 percent chance).

10. The poll website HTML code incorporates filename structures that are the same in several other Hedrick websites.

Further investigation into the "fingerprint" of the website developer for the washingtonstatepolls.com website shows that the developer tends to name files (such as images, media files, etc.) according to a certain pattern. Here is a short listing of files used on the website:

```

```

```
<td width="855" height="33" background="Pictures/BGND-2c.jpg" bordercolor="#120BF6">
```

```
<td width="855" height="683" background="Pictures/BGND-2c.jpg" bordercolor="#120BF6"
align="center" valign="top">
```

The thing to note here is that the images are named with mixed case, all have a dash, and all have a number.

Header-1.PNG

Pictures/BGND-2c.jpg

Pictures/BGND-2c.jpg

The reason this is important is that first of all, this is a very non-standard way to name files, and it is very noticeable in other Hedrick websites. For example, here is a listing of some found in the code of the freedomsanswer.com website:

```

```

```
<a href="Final%20Single-BW-1.pdf">
```

```

```

```

```

So, the filenames are:

Single-Web-1A.JPG

Final%20Single-BW-1.pdf

10-PATRIOT-BUTTON-1.png

EMAIL-2.png

Notice anything similar? Go to any website you want... Right click on the page and choose "View Source"... Look through the HTML code and look for filenames and you will see that this sort of

naming convention is rare and non-standard. The fact that both the washingtonstatepolls.com website and other Hedrick websites use these is a telling fact.

11. Coding styles between the poll website and several other Hedrick websites are strikingly similar.

Looking at the general quality of the website code and looking for other distinguishing factors reveals that there are several other similarities found between washingtonstatepolls.com and other Hedrick websites while not being common at all in most other modern websites. Some of those factors are:

- the use of the bgcolor attribute in the HTML body tags (background colors have not been done that way for some time)
- the use of mixed types of CSS (the styling method used to determine the way web pages look)
- heavy use of tables as a design tool instead of the much more widely used CSS
- the lack of ALT attributes in img tags

I realize that this is a little bit technical to most people, but ask your local neighborhood geek and you will see that these things are true and worthy of consideration. In fact, these things alone are a strong argument for an affiliation between washingtonstatepolls.com and several other Hedrick websites.

12. Hedrick has experience putting up websites.

One of two things is true - either Hedrick builds his own websites in which case it shows that he is familiar with the process and can put a website up anytime he wants or needs one, or it is the case that he has someone that he calls upon when he needs one and has done so many times in the past for various projects. Either way, it shows that he has experience in using the internet to further his causes whether they are to sell a book, solicit signatures, chastise poor government, or promote his own campaign.

Conclusion

Any one of these things by itself may not draw a large amount of scrutiny, but taken together they represent a statistical improbability (probably at least a 1 in a million chance conservatively speaking) that there is a reasonable explanation for all of this other than a direct relationship - suggesting that there has been at least some sort of association between the Hedrick campaign and the washingtonstatepolls.com website organization and associated data even though both parties have denied it.

At the very least it would seem that someone has constructed the website and fabricated the data to influence voters in various races. At worst, the Hedrick campaign has fabricated the entire poll to promote its candidate or in an even worse scenario, Hedrick has done this on his own. Hedrick denies any involvement with this and has done so on-the-air when presented with this information

on the Victoria Taft radio program this past Wednesday. I will let the data speak for itself and let the reader decide for themselves what they think is going on here.

As a side note, there are other polls on the washingtonstatepolls.com website that show a few other candidates ahead of others that also don't make sense. Does the deception translate to other races in the state of Washington as well? It would seem to be benefiting Clint Didier (running for US Senate) and Jesse Young (running for the 6th district congress seat)... More research should be done to see if these numbers are also being intentionally fabricated to benefit those or other campaigns.

Q.E.D.