



March 9, 2010 4:36 PM

## HARRIS COUNTY DA CLOSES INVESTIGATION OF HUBERTY CITING NO WRONGDOING

### Curling Campaign says Huberty story keeps changing

The hits keep on coming in the HD 127 battle between anesthesiologist **Susan Curling** and *Humble ISD* board president **Dan Huberty**. In the weeks leading up to the March 2 primary, Curling hammered Huberty for what she alleged to be a conflict of interest in the awarding of a school bus advertising contract to a company for which Huberty's wife subsequently worked.

Huberty's campaign said that his wife was never paid for work on that specific project. But with both candidates qualifying for a runoff to fill the House seat being vacated by **Joe Crabb (R-Atascocita)**, the running battle between the two camps over the issue continues.

The latest development came yesterday when Harris County District Attorney **Pat Lykos** said no criminal wrongdoing occurred and closed the investigation Curling. She looked into the matter after a constituent in HD 127 filed a complaint alleging that Huberty broke the law.

Huberty today in a statement said that Lykos' determination vindicated him and called for his opponent to apologize.

"Political campaigns will always involve a certain amount of back and forth, charge and counter charge – it is a reality of modern campaigns," Huberty said. "However, in taking her attacks outside the political arena, filing criminal charges and involving local law enforcement, it seriously calls into question Ms. Curling's judgment.

“In light of the pronouncement from the District Attorney, Ms. Curling owes the people of this district an apology. I believe she owes the Huberty family an apology as well.”

Curling’s campaign responded today that a constituent activist filed the complaint, not Curling or her campaign. Her campaign manager, meanwhile, repeated the accusation that Huberty hasn’t proved that his wife wasn’t paid for her work on the school advertising project.

“Mr. Huberty’s story keeps changing: first he said his wife was never paid a dime and then was forced to produce a W-2 showing her earned income,” said Curling campaign manager **John McCord**. “Mr. Huberty’s repeated shady ethical conduct shows a willful pattern of ignoring taxpayers. The insider deals and pay for play politics is all too familiar to the voters of this district. Dan Huberty led the charge to raise taxes in 2008 twice – this runoff is about taxes and ethics. Dan Huberty has failed on both counts.”

Huberty campaign consultant **Allen Blakemore** said that while the complaint filed with the DA’s office might not have come from Curling or her campaign, there was little doubt that Curling was vocal in alleging wrongdoing on the part of Huberty.

Blakemore said that the DA’s ruling on the matter is the most authoritative voice on the subject. “Only one person has had the opportunity and subpoena power to review all the documents,” he said. “And they gave this a clean bill of health and closed the books.”

**By John Reynolds**