

Louise Stutes, Gabrielle LeDoux, and Paul Seaton will not be Republican Party candidates in 2018

These three Representatives ran for office seeking the nomination of the Alaska Republican Party for State Representative. In 2016 Alaskans elected 21 Republicans to the State House, a majority. But once elected, LeDoux, Stutes, and Seaton ditched their teammates. None of them campaigned honestly about their plan to switch sides and put the Democrats in power.

For whatever public or private reasons, they joined the minority Democrats to create a Democrat majority in the State House. We respect their right to do that. They should respect the right of the volunteers of the Republican Party to get different candidates!

The statewide volunteers of the Alaska Republican Party responded by unanimously deciding Stutes, LeDoux and Seaton are not qualified to run as Republicans. Of course those three have every right to join whatever party or coalition they wish. The Republican Party is also free to look for other candidates who are actually Republicans. The recent Pallenberg decision recognized the right of freedom of association of people to organize a political party. The court further recognized this constitutional right gives people freedom to decide who can seek to represent them in the elections.

No one is preventing Stutes, Seaton, or LeDoux from running for reelection. They can run as candidates of some other party -- if they can find one that will have them. They can collect a few signatures and run as so-called "Independents". But they need to be honest about what they stand for, and who they "share beliefs" with, and it has nothing to do with being any part of the Republican team.

Louise Stutes claims she abandoned her fellow Republicans because of her "shared beliefs" she shares with the 17 Democrats. We believe her! Goodbye Louise!

Why do Seaton, Stutes and LeDoux cling desperately to be on the ballot as "Republican" when their "shared beliefs" and organization is with the House Democrats? Why not be honest with people and run as Democrats or so-called "Independents"?

Could it be because these three think it is easier for them to get elected if the voters think they are Republicans?

This is not about criticizing anyone's voting record.

This is not about trying to stop Democrats and Republicans from working together on policy.

As a Party we have an obligation to present candidates who generally share an agenda and values, the same for the Democrats. So, when Alaskan voters elect a majority of Republicans, that majority should organize the Legislature, that is what voters have every right to expect. If

voters choose a majority of Democrats, the Democrats should organize. Each majority can pad their numbers with a few from the minority, but the will of the voters is honored.

What we have with the sleazy betrayal of Stutes, LeDoux and Seaton is that they abandoned and dishonored the team they ran with. They jumped ship and put the Democrat minority in charge. That is dishonest, disingenuous and dishonorable.

Next time out, LeDoux, Seaton, and Stutes will just have to get used to telling the truth to voters: They want the Democrats running the State House.

In 2018, if they run for reelection, they can make that case to the voters, just not while pretending to be Republican candidates.

Tuckerman Babcock
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