

PRESS RELEASE

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Ellmers disavows ‘sham endorsement’ ballot distributed by by fake conservative group

(DUNN, NC) – Renee Ellmers, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, disavowed a sample ballot being distributed at polling places and warned conservative voters to not trust group’s endorsement process.

As reported in the *Smoky Mountain News* on February 22 ([Sham endorsement linked to consultant who took thousands from Lynda Bennett campaign](#)), the “Official Conservative Ballot” being distributed should raise questions among voters as to its origin and authenticity.

According to the article, “The Official Conservative Ballot Committee of NC” appears to actually be linked to a political consulting firm run by Jordan Bowman called Red Action Strategies, which has been paid more than \$35,000 by District 11 Congressional Candidate Lynda Bennett. Bowman is also chairman of the Conservative Coalition North Carolina (CCNC)

Bennett is among those endorsed on the so-called “Official Conservative Ballot.”

Jane Bilello, a paid field representative for Bennett [and also on the board with Bowman and Jim Womack at CCNC](#), who has been handing out the “Official Conservative Ballots,” told the newspaper that the candidates had been vetted, questioned and interviewed by the committee. But Ellmers has never been contacted by anyone associated with the group.

“I’m curious to know if others running in the race for lieutenant governor were ever contacted by this group. [CCNC publishes Mark Robinson’s schedule](#) on their website so they are clearly supporting him.”

Ellmers concluded by saying that she hoped these shady organizations trying to pose as legitimate voter education groups would be eradicated from Republican primary politics. “Candidates work hard for a year, travelling the state meeting voters and trying to get out their message but they can not meet everyone. Groups like this, that claim they’ve vetted candidates on conservative positions when in fact they had not and never intended to do so, need to stop. It’s nothing but a sham and I commend the *Smoky Mountain News* reporters for bringing it to light.”