

# The Republican Caucus

**Bruce W. Bannister**  
*Majority Leader*

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Joseph M. McCulloch, Jr.  
1426 Richland Street  
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Dear Joe:

I am writing to you to, again, clarify misinformation that seems to be prevalent in this campaign. This time, I need to remind you of the facts surrounding House Bills 4452 through 4457.

Each of these bills was an attempt to achieve meaningful reform in our ethics code by removing ambiguity, politics and opportunity for fraud. The implication that any of these bills was drafted for the benefit or even to effect any particular case, investigation or individual is, quite frankly, false and unsupported.

By way of background, Kirkman began to explore specific legislative remedies to ongoing concerns in the late summer of 2013. He immediately reached out to the League of Women Voters, a consistent and strong voice on this particular issue. There were weeks of discussions between League representatives and Kirkman that culminated in a meeting between he, the League, and House Judiciary Committee staff. The result of this meeting, after detailed discussion among the three of them, was Kirkman's instruction to staff to draft legislation that removed cash, and "gotcha" politics from the process and offered clarity for the purposes of using campaign funds.

I am aware that Kirkman specifically instructed staff to avoid weighing in, legislatively, on any current matters. It was my belief then as it is now that staff carried out those instructions and that instead of looking to Kirkman's proposals for what they were, good faith efforts to create a better ethics environment, many parties with their own agendas, political and otherwise, began to mischaracterize those efforts.

I would suggest that the constant and continued support of the League helps to demonstrate exactly this point.

As I stated in my last letter to you, Kirkman has and, I expect, will continue to make concrete proposals for reforming ethics in this state. I await his critics doing the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BWB", written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Bruce Bannister  
Majority Leader