

INSIDE MICHIGAN POLITICS

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Breaking News: GOP District Chairman Questions Agema for Anti-Gay Tirade, Draft Agema for LG Facebook Page Launched

Paul Welday, 14th District GOP chair, said Monday that Republicans ignoring GOP National Committeeman **Dave Agema's** anti-gay tirade to a West Michigan newspaper do so "at our own peril."

"Agema has every right to his opinion," Welday wrote in an email to Republican activists obtained by **Inside Michigan Politics**. "But - right or wrong - given his position he is presumed to represent the Republican Party. While many GOP activists and candidates support traditional marriage, the tone, tenor and veracity of how this issue is pursued is very important to how this issue is approached."

In other news, a Facebook community page, "Draft Dave Agema for Lieutenant Governor," has been launched, which currently has 24 "likes." This comes as Tea Party leader **Wes Nakagiri's** challenge to Lt. Gov. **Brian Calley** appears to be on the wane and activists are looking for a bigger name.

The group posted a picture of Agema and Gov. **Rick Snyder**, with writing over it: "We need this guy (Agema) to protect us from this guy (Snyder)."

That would set up an interesting dynamic, as Snyder, Calley and Agema have all been advised by GOP consultant **John Yob**.

Welday, who ran for Congress in 2010, said he wrote the letter with the subject line, "What Do We Expect from Our Leadership" after he was "inundated with dozens (they are still coming in at a good clip) of emails from people across Michigan protesting Dave's remarks in the most strenuous of terms."

"Again, it would seem we have another political firestorm created by comments from our National Committeeman," Welday continued.

Agema told the *Herald-Palladium* on Saturday that gay people with AIDS "want free medical because they are dying (when they're) between 30 and 44 years old."

"To me, it's a moral issue. It's a Biblical issue. Traditional Marriage is where it should be and it's in our platform. Those in our party who oppose traditional marriage are wrong," Agema said.

Agema, a former state representative, has made a series of anti-gay remarks. Earlier this year, he posted on Facebook a piece about gays' "filthy lifestyle" that included a number of statistics without citations. Agema also compared gays to alcoholics on a national radio show.

There have been a few Republicans who have publicly criticized Agema for his rhetoric, including GOP consultant **Steve Mitchell**.

Welday also took on Agema for undermining the Republican cause in the *Herald-Palladium* interview.

"In fact, it seems Dave Agema has his own standards when it comes to supporting his Party," Welday writes. "Discussing his view on the legislative process, Michigan Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema say, *'I don't care if it's a Republican bill. If it's a bad bill, I'm not going to vote for it.'* The world according to Dave."

Agema won the committeeman post last year after ousting former Michigan GOP Chair **Saul Anuzis** with Tea Party support. Yob helped with Agema's effort, as well as that of **Terri Lynn Land**, who defeated **Holly Hughes**. Land is now running for U.S. Senate.

The Agema for LG Facebook page, launched on Nov. 25 with this message:

"Rick Snyder does not care about your conservative values. Cut and dry. He is another Wall Street Country Club Republican that has proven time and time again he will side with big special interest. Protecting our rights has never and will never be on his agenda. We need Dave Agema looking over his shoulder and looking out for us. We might not be able to get rid of Rick but we sure can tie him down."