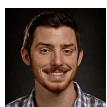


https://lancastronline.com/news/politics/fact-checking-the-attacks-and-critiques-in-the-u-s/article_d8a033fa-4d80-11e8-81ca-f364e87280ce.html

Fact-checking the attacks and critiques in the U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker, Chet Beiler debate



SAM JANESCH | Staff Writer May 2, 2018



Chet Beiler, left, holds up mailers he alleges are from Lloyd Smucker's campaign, though Smucker said he had no as group sending them. The exchange came in a Republican primary debate for the 11th Congressional District, at Col April 30, 2018.

CHRIS KNIGHT

During Monday night's Republican **candidate forum**, U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker and primary challenger Chet Beiler traded barbs over dirty campaign tactics and how often the incumbent has voted in a “conservative” way.

But how much of what the candidates said is accurate?

And how much was “hyperbole in creative ways” — which his how Beiler put it during a similar **debate in 2016**, during the pair's last matchup.

Federal investigation?

One of the most contentious exchanges came when Beiler held up two campaign mailers that he said “have no basis in reality.”

He accused Smucker of sending the mailers, which have vague mentions of Beiler having been investigated by the FBI and being charged by the state attorney general for an election law violation, among other allegations.

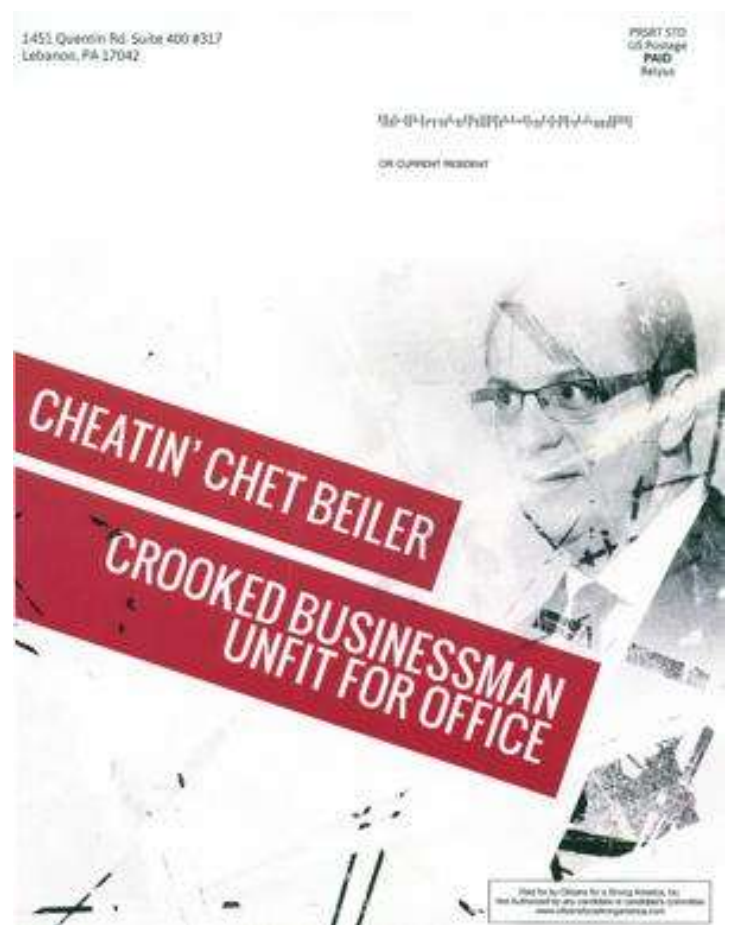
“Those particular mailers I was not aware of before they went out,” Smucker said in reply. “In fact, I don't even know who's sending them.”

After eliciting some groans from Beiler's side of the crowd, Smucker went on to say he “was aware that Chet had been investigated by the FBI.”

“That's not true,” Beiler said during their cross-talk.

Beiler was, in fact, charged by the state attorney general for **violating state election law** when he was chairman of the county Republicans before the 2000 election. The committee had planned to pay workers \$4 for every new voter they registered, which was illegal under a 1995 law.

Beiler was charged with a misdemeanor “solicitation of registration.” He agreed to a plea deal and the charge was dismissed after he served 50 hours of community service.



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Whether the FBI was involved is unclear.

According to an October 2002 Lancaster Newspapers story about the so-called “Votergate,” FBI investigators had been probing the matter and whether former state Rep. John Barley played a role in the case. There was no indication Beiler was the subject of an investigation at that point, and he declined comment when contacted for the 2002 article.

The attorney who represented Beiler in Votergate told Lancaster Newspapers then that he had spoken with federal investigators. He said they had asked about Barley and other officials, who were not charged with any wrongdoing.



CHEATIN' CHET BEILER: INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI.

Five-time election loser Cheatin' Chet Beiler is at it again, trying desperately to hide his record from the voters. (Pennsylvania Election Records, FEC.gov)

Why?

- Because Cheatin' Chet broke the law and wound up getting investigated by the FBI for his role in "Votergate." (Sunday News, 10/13/02)
- Old Cheatin' Chet was charged by the Pennsylvania Attorney General for violating election law. (Chicago: //lancasteronline.com/news/beiler-18-on-the-run/article_202254c-c0b7-61ff-8000-fa8520a8be.html)
- Cheatin' Chet calls these violations an "embarrassing episode." (Philadelphia Enquirer, 10/20/02)

But if we elect old Cheatin' Chet, we're the ones who will be embarrassed!

DON'T BE FOOLED BY CHEATIN' CHET BEILER!

- INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI
- CHARGED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
- UNFIT FOR OFFICE

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POLITICS

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker, Chet Beiler forum turns into debate over conservative records and town halls

SAM JANESCH | Staff Writer

Mailer from Smucker?

The mailers themselves say they are paid for by [Citizens for a Strong America, Inc.](#) — not any of Smucker’s campaign committees.

The group is a registered political action committee, according to federal campaign finance records. It is not associated with any candidate, so it must work independently, without coordinating with campaigns, as it supports or opposes candidates.

It spent \$37,266 on direct mail to oppose Beiler, according to campaign finance filings this week.

In the last year, it has raised \$3.1 million in mostly large, six-figure donations; and its spending has focused on a select few races in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Texas.

Those major donors include billionaire investor Nelson Peltz, who gave the largest contribution at \$400,000; and Jerry Reinsdorf, owner of the Chicago Bulls and White Sox, and who gave \$200,000.

Citizens for a Strong America did not return a request for comment through an email listed on their federal campaign filings.



LOCAL NEWS

GOP congressional candidates Rep. Lloyd Smucker, Chet Beiler meet in debate [video]

LANCASTERONLINE | Staff

Voting record

During the debate, Beiler repeatedly called Smucker “liberal” —focusing much of the attack on a vote to keep the government funded in early May of 2017.

Beiler criticized the vote because it raised the national debt ceiling and kept funding for Planned Parenthood, which Republicans have routinely tried to strip of federal aid because of its abortion services.

Smucker did cast a “yes” vote on that bill. In doing so, he said he supported that it included the Hyde Amendment that prevents the use of federal funds specifically for abortion.

“I have a 100 percent pro-life voting record,” said Smucker, who has a 0 percent [rating from Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#), which scores members of Congress on votes related to women’s health issues.

Beiler also accused Smucker of having a poor rating with conservative groups — like The Heritage Foundation, Freedom Works, The Club for Growth and Conservative Review.

According to those groups’ websites, Smucker does have mere 46 percent to 66 percent ratings, and most are slightly below average for Republicans.

Smucker, on defense, said those groups have scored only a select few of the 860 votes he’s taken, and overall he’s voted in-line with President Trump [96 percent of the time](#).

Beiler compared him instead to Republican U.S. Rep. Scott Perry, who represents the neighboring Harrisburg-based district.

“If your voting record would be anywhere close to his I wouldn’t be even challenging you,” Beiler said.

According to ProPublica, Smucker and Perry have voted in agreement 92 percent of the time.

Photo gallery: Smucker, Beiler debate, April 30, 2018

1 of 20



Student Rosalie Gilbert, 17, a junior at Columbia High School, asks a question during a debate between Republican Chet Beiler, and U.S. Representative Lloyd Smucker, R-Pa., on the issues of the 11th Pennsylvania Congressional District before the upcoming May 15 Republican primary, at Columbia High School Monday April 30, 2018.

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CHRIS KNIGHT