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WorldNetDaily™

wnd.commentary

Founded 1997

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Morning Edition



JEROME CORSI

WORLDNETDAILY EXCLUSIVE COMMENTARY

Calls for **Strickland** to **drop out**

Posted: October 18, 2006
1:00 a.m. Eastern

With the Foley scandal still swirling as a backdrop in Washington, leading Ohio moral conservatives are beginning to call for Rep. Ted **Strickland**, D-Ohio, to withdraw from the 2006 Ohio gubernatorial race, in light of disclosures made concerning his 1998 campaign manager who in 1994 pleaded guilty to criminal misdemeanors



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involving sexual improprieties with minors.

As reported yesterday, **Strickland** employed as his 1998 campaign manager an individual who in 1994 pleaded guilty to exposing himself and masturbating in front of pre-teen girls at an Athens, Ohio, school. Even after being informed of the sexual misconduct offenses, **Strickland** allegedly took his campaign manager on a private trip to Italy to celebrate his 1998 re-election, leaving Mrs. **Strickland** at home in Kentucky.

Phil Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values in Cincinnati is calling for **Strickland** to withdraw from the Ohio gubernatorial race.

(Column continues below)

"Fair is fair," Burress told this writer. "If Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid can call for Mark Foley and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert to resign, then Ted **Strickland** should step down until all the questions are answered honestly and completely."

Burress went on to detail his questions:

When exactly did **Strickland's** 1998 campaign manager stop committing these sexual abuses? Why did **Strickland** not conduct due diligence before hiring this guy? Who expunged the court records and why? Did **Strickland** play a role in expunging the records and, if so, why?

What bothered Burress was the apparent double standard in the way the Democrats were handling the allegations against **Strickland**:

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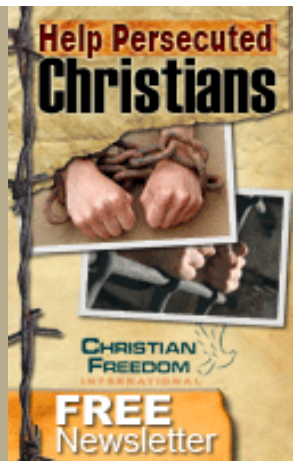
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We need all the facts because this is hypocrisy in the first degree for the Democrats to call on Republicans to step down when issues of sexual impropriety with minors are raised and not apply the same standard to themselves.

John C. Willke, M.D., president of the [Life Issues Institute, Inc.](#) in Cincinnati joined in the call for [Strickland](#) to resign from the Ohio gubernatorial contest.

"This sounds more serious than the Foley problem," Willke said, "because it indicates a willingness on [Strickland's](#) part to associate with a person of these moral deficiencies, raising a profound question about [Strickland's](#) moral character."

Willke believes that [Strickland](#) should withdraw from the race immediately to answer questions about the matter "so the Ohio voters can once and for all know the truth." Willke noted that [Strickland](#) had misrepresented the circumstances until now.

"[Strickland](#) has been lying," Willke told this writer. "This is not some campaign lower-down, as [Strickland](#) made **out** when his challenger, Brian Flannery, brought **out** these charges during the Democratic primary. We know now that this was [Strickland's](#) campaign manager, a person of responsibility and trust in the campaign. How could [Strickland](#) allow a criminally convicted sex offender to occupy this role and not do something about it?"

Mount Vernon, Ohio, attorney [Scott Pullins](#), whose [Pullins Report blog](#) was one of the first to cover sexual questions raised in the campaign regarding [Strickland](#), was outspoken in calling for [Strickland](#) to withdraw.

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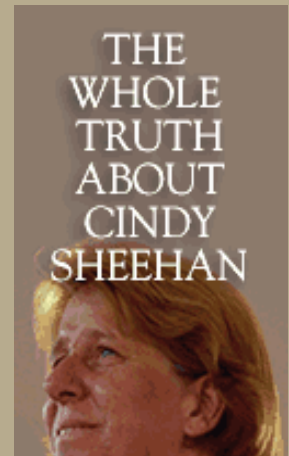
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"The question is what did **Strickland** know and when did he know it?" Pullins asked, repeating the famous question from the Watergate investigation that ultimately dogged President Nixon **out** of office. "**Strickland** is lying to the people of Ohio, and he should withdraw from this race."

Pullins wondered whether **Strickland's** experience as a former prison psychologist may have colored his vision:

I'm concerned that **Strickland** is a far-**out**, liberal former prison doctor who believes these folks can be rehabilitated. Would **Strickland** surround himself with convicted felons and those that would harm our children? Even worse, he might pardon some of these despicable individuals [as governor].

The attorney suggested that "**Strickland** might make Ohio a haven for sexual predators and other offenders who would prey on our citizens. Under **Strickland**, would we end up with a state where people would be afraid to leave their homes?"

Pullins doubted that the full story regarding **Strickland's** former campaign manager has come **out** yet.

What if there is more to this story. Has **Strickland** hired or associated with other people on his campaign or congressional staff who have a past history of sexual misconduct with minors? Has **Strickland** hidden any personal problems of this nature that he doesn't want the public to know about?

The **Strickland** campaign did not return a call asking for comment for this column.



*Jerome R. Corsi received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in political science in 1972 and has written many books and articles, including co-authoring with John O'Neill the No. 1 New York Times best-seller, "Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak **Out** Against John Kerry." Corsi's most recent book was authored with Michael Evans: "Showdown with Nuclear Iran." Dr. Corsi's other recent books include "Black Gold Stranglehold: The Myth of Scarcity and the Politics of Oil," which he co-authored with WND columnist Craig R. Smith, and "Atomic Iran: How the Terrorist Regime Bought the Bomb and American Politicians."*



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