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Liaison advises board members

NC BOE receives instructions on how to fire executive directors

Lynn Bonner
NC Newsline

Last fall, Republicans on at least two county boards of elections in North Carolina received instructions on how to fire their executive directors. Instead of

getting advice from the state elections director or legal staff at the state office that generally serves as a resource for county boards, they received the information from Dallas Woodhouse, then an employee in the state auditor's office. Last September, Woodhouse sent

GOP members of elections boards in New Hanover and Anson counties a step-by-step guide on documents they needed to collect, who they needed to talk to, and how to conduct a closed session. He included a template for the petition county boards would need to help

justify their reasons for recommending terminations, to be sent to state elections Director Sam Hayes and his chief of staff. "LIST REASONS. BE PRECISE. EXTREMELY FACTUAL. DO NOT ADD OPINION, ONLY LIST WHAT YOU CAN PROVE."

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Edwards speaks during the 219th meeting of the National Council on the Arts at the Wortham Center for the Performing Arts in Asheville on May 6. JOSH BELL/ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES

Republicans rush to fill NC-11 slot after Chuck Edwards' exit

Will Hofmann Asheville Citizen Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE — Just hours after embattled U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards announced he would end his reelection campaign in the early morning of Aug. 5, a quick and sudden selection process for his replacement began in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Among those who may be seeking to replace the congressman are a state senator and two other former challengers. By state law, the Republican 11th Congressional District executive committee will select who will replace Edwards on the ballot. The district office, composed of an executive committee of around 60 members, has to make its decision at least 75 days before the general election, providing a deadline of Aug. 20. Just hours after Edwards' announcement, the North Carolina Republican Party announced the district office would meet the week of Aug. 10 to select a candidate. Edwards' decision to drop out of the race came amid a House Ethics Committee recommendation that he be cen-

sured following an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of two female staffers. An Aug. 3 report from the committee said Edwards frequently sent two staffers unusually intimate late-night messages and paid for "flowers, a laptop and cell phone, KitchenAid mixer, robotic vacuum, vacations, tickets to performances, and one-on-one dinners."

State senators, former challengers express interest

Already, some Western North Carolina politicians and Edwards' former challengers are seemingly eyeing the ticket. In a statement to the Citizen Times, state Sen. Tim Moffitt, the Henderson County Republican who has served two terms in the Senate and three in the House, said he'll be "talking with leaders and neighbors across the district about my potential candidacy" in the coming days.

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Iran issues warning to Gulf states

Threatens attacks on infrastructure if nations don't pressure Trump

Parisa Hafezi and Samia Nakhoul
REUTERS

Iran has made a concerted diplomatic push with Persian Gulf states, warning them explicitly that Tehran will hit their oil, power and water plants unless they convince President Donald Trump to end U.S. strikes on Iran and instead seek a negotiated end to the war. The warning envisaged attacks on the energy facilities, oil fields, refineries, electricity grids, water infrastructure, transportation networks and other strategic assets of Washington's closest Arab allies, according to a senior Iranian official. The message, part of a broader Iranian effort to deter further U.S. military action by raising the prospect of severe economic disruption across the Gulf, was delivered through a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts after Trump threatened on July 28 to strike Iran's energy network and infrastructure, the sources said.

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi urged Washington's Persian Gulf allies to use their influence with President Donald Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes. REUTERS



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