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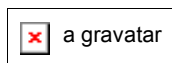
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[Sebelius Replaces Appointee to Supreme Court Nominating Commission After 42 Days](#)

August 13th, 2006

by KSMeadowlark

Sebelius Replaces Appointee to Supreme Court Nominating Commission After 42 Days — Salinian is new appointee

[On June 30, 2006 Sebelius announced the appointment of Carolyn Bird from Hays](#) to be a member of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission from the 1 st Congressional District.

[On July 3, 2006 a Kansas Meadowlark article was highly critical](#) of this appointment:

Sebelius appoints wife of "dean of Ellis County Democratic politics" to Supreme Court Nominating Commission. Is Sebelius Concerned about Qualified Justices on the Kansas Supreme Court?

Yesterday's *Salina Journal* reported the appointment of Janet Juhnke from Salina as a replacement for Carolyn Bird. [Governor Sebelius' press release](#) indicated Juhnke "replaces Carolyn Bird who was unable to serve on the Commission. Upon careful review of statutes and Attorneys' General opinions regarding the Commission, it has been determined that Bird is unable to serve due to previous service." It's not clear what this really means, and why this was not checked before the June 30th announcement.

Juhnke, a Republican, appears to be a good appointment, and a far less-political appointment than Bird. Juhnke is most known for her being a Professor of English at Kansas Wesleyan, her work [with the Kansas Humanities Council](#), and with [her church, the Salina Mennonite Church](#).

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One troubling aspect of this appointment is that Sebelius continues adding to her "Kitchen Cabinet" by picking many appointees that have been political contributors:

Date	Contributor	Dollars	Recipient	Contest
7/11/2002	JUHNKE, JANET	100	SEBELIUS, KATHLEEN	Gov
2/10/2006	JUHNKE, JANET	50	SEBELIUS, KATHLEEN	Gov

These are Juhnke's only known political contributions. But, overall Juhnke still appears to be a far less political appointment than Carolyn Bird.

Many have the attitude (like Andrew Jackson) "to the victor belongs the spoils" in their justification of Sebelius' appointments to political contributors. However, Kansas Government is about the people of Kansas, not Kathleen Sebelius. EVERY appointment made by Sebelius should be about helping the people of Kansas or improving our state government.

[Today's Hutchinson News reported](#) that Gov. Sebelius recently nominated a New York City businessman, who is the largest donor (\$25,000) so far this year to the Kansas Democratic Party, to the just-formed Kansas health policy board. The appointee is a former Kansan, but we Kansans aren't smart enough to take care of ourselves and our health policy? Is Sebelius selling Kansas out to her donors?

Related:

[Aug 5, 2006](#): Sebelius appoints former PAC Chair of "Republicans for Sebelius" to District Judge

[July 3, 2006](#): Sebelius appoints wife of "dean of Ellis County Democratic politics" to Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

[Aug. 21, 2005](#): Embarrassing Sebelius Appointment?

[July 22, 2005](#): Sebelius continues packing Kansas Supreme Court with Democrats

[Jan. 4, 2005](#): A new judicial activist? Did \$750 to Sebelius help get Six the Seventh?

[Nov 1, 2003](#): Judge rules in Sebelius' favor but doesn't disclose his wife's contributions to Sebelius?

This entry was posted on Sunday, August 13th, 2006 at 10:25 pm and is filed under [Government](#), [Governor](#), [Courts](#), [Politics](#), [Democrats](#). You can follow any responses to this

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13 Responses to “Sebelius Replaces Appointee to Supreme Court Nominating Commission After 42 Days”

1. [politicalmom](#) Says:
[August 13th, 2006 at 11:29 pm](#)

Kathleen appoints a republican and you complain. I'd have been estatic to see her appoint the most far left liberal she could, afterall, Georgie screw-up appointed the most far right he could.

I notice your blogs don't get a whole lot of attention.

Maybe you should disclose whose payrolls you're on?

2. [KSMeadowlark](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 12:48 am](#)

I didn't know Tom Bell was grading our posts by number of comments .

I am on no one's payroll for political purposes. No one gives me instructions on what and when I post items.

Why can't we agree that we should be seeing appointees' qualifications for a job, instead of their political contributions? There are few qualified people unless they give political contributions? These political contributions give us a better and more fair government?

3. [Greg Stephens](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 3:20 am](#)

Janet should be a good appointee. Are you sure she is a Republican?

4. [Tracy](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 7:03 am](#)

You're just inviting someone to post republican's contributions prior to their appointments aren't you?
Speaking of UNQUALIFIED, I wonder what Bob Corkin's political contributions look like. You gotta' grease the rails of the political train to get to a 140,000 dollar a year job, don't you?
Do we really wanna get in a pissin' match over some 100 dollar donations?

5. [politicalmom](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 10:28 am](#)

Yes I would hope that anyone who is appointed into a political position would be involved enough to contribute to a campaign.
How many people aren't interested in politics and contribute? I don't know anyone who contributes who doesn't follow politics. We have too much apathy.

Can you not throw money to a person you support without getting ripped to shreds over it? And 150 isn't like a whole lot of money.

6. [Mopar2ya](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 6:59 pm](#)

Pmama now thinks that Bush appointing Justices with well qualified ratings and years and years of experience is screwing up the court.

All I have to and need to say is Ruth Ginsburg....

7. [Raven](#) Says:
[August 14th, 2006 at 11:19 pm](#)

Exactly how is an English Professor qualified to select supreme court judges?

And it's some kind of a big deal that \$ 150 wins the post? Heck, I'll give her \$200 to appoint me.

8. [KSMeadowlark](#) Says:

[August 15th, 2006 at 1:24 am](#)

Greg: “Are you sure she is a Republican?”

According to voter registration lists from the Secretary of State, Juhnke was a Democrat from 2002 through 2004, but by early 2005 changed to a Republican party affiliation.

Tracy: I think all political contributions should be disclosed prior to appointment regardless of party, especially since many appointments are made without any public scrutiny.

I cannot find any political contributions by anyone named Corkins in Kansas either from the Kansas Gov’t Ethics page <http://www.accesskansas.org/srv-campaignfinance/processItemizedForm.do>, or from Open Secrets, <http://www.opensecrets.org/indivs/index.asp>. Please verify my findings.

PoliticalMom: Isn’t “ripped to shreds over it” a bit of an exaggeration? I said she “appears to be a good appointment” and mentioned her political contributions. How is that “ripping to shreds”? My criticism is about Sebelius’ nominating mostly political contributors. Isn’t this discriminatory? Is it OK for Sebelius to just require that on a job application?

Mopar2ya: “... Ruth Ginsburg”. I think it would be educational to go back and see how Republicans were respectful in accepting Ginsburg’s nomination, even with her ACLU connection. Republicans allowed the vote and didn’t threaten a filibuster. In fact, many Republican voted for Ginsburg — it was a 96 to 3 vote — deferring to Bill Clinton’s selection (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg). In comparison, Democrats were almost out of control, in the recent Supreme Court nominations, and few voted for Bush’s choice. Did the press ever report how bad the Democrat’s behavior was over this?

My point here is our process in Kansas for selecting Supreme Court Justices is flawed, and is quite political, even though everyone pretends it isn’t. I believe the current system should be modified to allow for KS Senate Hearings, and a vote, much like the U.S. Senate approval of a Supreme Court Justice.

Raven: I’m not sure how an English prof is qualified to select Supreme Court judges,

but a relatively politically neutral academic should have a good thought process.

Review for yourself the background of other Supreme Court Nominating Commission members:

<http://www.kansasmeadowlark.com/2006/07-03b.htm>

9. [politicalmom](#) Says:
[August 16th, 2006 at 11:37 am](#)

Actually I think it's hysterical that you can't find anything really juicy to dish on our governor about, so you talk about things so insignificant and minor and silly, just to try to put something, anything at all, bad on her.

That says a lot about the job Sebelius is doing, doesn't it? Question, do you want a GOOD Kansas, or just your party to run Kansas? Because it seems to me that nobody could do better, so putting someone else in charge would hurt us.

When the status quo is GOOD, by all means, stick with it. She's doing everything right.

10. [politicalmom](#) Says:
[August 16th, 2006 at 1:32 pm](#)

Here I've got one for ya.

maggotpunks.com/mp.html

Appears some of the right wingers won't pay their own taxes.

11. [KSMeadowlark](#) Says:
[August 17th, 2006 at 1:02 am](#)

GOOD? Kansas has the 14th highest tax burden in the country? That helps bring new business to Kansas, especially Western Kansas? Why would any business come to Kansas when taxes are cheaper almost everywhere else? What's Sebelius done about this? See: http://www.kansastaxpayers.com/editorial_hightax.html (I know you think it's a conspiracy when I cite anything from KTN).

GOOD? Sebelius' first TV ad was about leadership, but what has she really done in that department?

GOOD? Sebelius' second TV ad bragged about a billion in savings, but Sebelius claimed a billion in savings nearly two years ago. Has she saved the state any money in the last two years?

*SEBELIUS' SAVINGS CLAIMS DISPUTED -
– THE GOVERNOR SAYS SHE 'S TRIMMED \$1 BILLION, BUT CRITICS SAY
THAT FIGURE IS EXAGGERATED AND MISLEADING.*

*Wichita Eagle, The (KS)
August 9, 2004
Author: STEVE PAINTER, Eagle Topeka bureau*

Sebelius even let the son (Scott Allegrucci) of her chief of staff (Joyce Allegrucci) and KS Supreme Court judge (Don Allegrucci) be appointed to a \$60,000 a year job being the state tourism director — WITH NO EXPERIENCE — but Scott had helped with her inaugural. Scott only spent about \$1.6 million on our much needed new motto “Kansas: As Big as You Think”, then quit his job and left the state. Where's the analysis of any savings by Sebelius? Schools didn't need the \$1.6 million more than we needed a new motto?

GOOD? Sebelius' third TV ad about driving a bus hints a leadership, but she's been AWOL on any solution for funding schools. Oh, I forgot, her solution is to appoint judges that will just order new spending regardless of what the representatives of the people say. So much for separate, but equal, branches of government.

GOOD? Sebelius has constantly pushed for more gambling in Kansas. Gambling may sound good, but what happens when mom or dad gamble the house payment money away ... or the food money? Kids and families will be hurt by gambling, but Sebelius has been a leader in pushing the expansion of gambling in Kansas? (Did you see Andy Rooney's comments about state-sponsored gambling? See <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/03/16/60minutes/rooney/main1412330.shtml>)

GOOD? Sebelius has allowed the expansion of state government jobs, while private jobs are disappearing. See: <http://wichitaliberty.org/node/146>. How can a smaller and smaller work force pay for a larger and larger state government? We'll tax ourselves

into prosperity and we'll all work for the state?

GOOD? The minority party in Kansas is applying what appears to be a discriminatory hiring practice. Only those making political contributions to Sebelius or the Democratic Party are eligible to be appointed to the Supreme Court, and various state boards. It doesn't matter that these various bodies no longer reflect the political makeup of Kansas.

The Democratic Supreme Court is discovering new rights in our constitution, and usurping the power of the purse from the legislature. Not only are Democrats overrepresented on the Court, but Democrats are overrepresented on the Supreme Court Nominating Commission (the point of the original posting). Democrats are trying to effect change through the courts since they cannot win legislative races and have laws passed by the representatives of the people. This doesn't merit any public discussion?

The Governor has every right to staff her office any way she wants, but she doesn't have the right to make partisan "kitchen cabinet" appointments to ALL parts of state government. We need the best people we can get in state government, not the best people on someone's list of political contributors.

Operations Rescue recently reported (I won't put the link here because some may be offended by their background picture) that Tiller narrowly escaped indictment in the recent Grand Jury in Wichita, and the "Kansas State Board of Healing Arts' lack of cooperation in sharing details of their so-called investigation" was one of the main areas of obstruction. There are reports on the Internet that have not yet surfaced that say about half the members of the Board of Healing Arts are Democrats and that group had contributed over \$20,000 to Sebelius. A left-leaning, or far-left individual gives to Sebelius and then she appoints them to positions of responsibility that do not reflect Kansas? That's how we want our government run? One cannot be the "best" for a job in Kansas without giving money to Sebelius?

[BTW, why do we not have any "liberals" or "ultraliberals" in Kansas, but only "moderates" and "ultraconservatives"?)

GOOD? Yes, the Maggot Punks in Wichita (Tiller's friends) are doing the right thing to expose conservatives for not paying their taxes. I've tried to expose one of the leaders of Kansas Families United for Public Education (KFUPE) for not paying her

taxes on time for several years, and then advocating higher taxes for those of us that do.

I do hope the Maggot Punks can make public appearances in support of Sebelius and Morrison. They represent the best of the Democratic Party, and the public deserves to see them more.

GOOD? I'm still trying to understand why Sebelius is so popular, since I don't see how she's helping Kansas. Like Clinton, she seems to make people "feel good" but she doesn't seem to solve many problems. [BTW, Clinton in 1996 was my my inspiration for getting involved politically. I was a Democrat before Clinton was elected.]

12. [politicalmom](#) Says:
[August 17th, 2006 at 4:36 pm](#)

If you were a dem, I'm glad you're gone. Clinton ran this country beautifully, he'll be known as one of the best presidents ever BECAUSE HIS POLICIES WORKED. We were the most prosperous nation during his administration.

You do understand that anyone involved enough in government will likely contribute to someone's campaign. I know many repubs who are very happy with Sebelius, you seem to be about the only one who isn't.

Maggot Punks are kids, they're vocal, but they're INVOLVED, and that is a good thing. Yeah they look a little different, are smart alecks, but hey. I don't think they're a representative group of dems though.

It's still very hysterical that you complain about her ads, your futile attempts to try to make her look bad. LOL nobody is perfect, but she seems to be the closest to perfection in the state.

This might surprise you, but I wasn't thrilled with the Kansas as big as you think campaign either. SO WHAT?

Sebelius has long worked on Education issues in Kansas, but she doesn't have to toot her own horn all the time for people to know it. There are a lot of things happening behind the scenes that you have no idea about.

Gambling is a personal issue, I don't think the government has any right telling us we can't gamble, and I certainly don't blame the government for my smoking addiction. Aren't you supposed to be the people for 'personal responsibility?' I think you're the party of dictating morality by your own standards. If you don't like it NOBODY CAN DO IT!

Expansion of state jobs...you mean like police and prison guards. Uh, YEAH! Thank you Sebelius! I'd like to see you standing alone in a yard of 200 felons and no weapon. You'd probably wet yourself. But then you'd turn right around and criticize that offenders are being let out.

Sebelius tries to work with republicans who are more interested in playing partisan politics than working together on issues. She's not the problem.

13. [KSMeadowlark](#) Says:
[August 18th, 2006 at 1:03 am](#)

We might as well agree to disagree. We don't seem to be able to agree on anything.

I'm trying to present facts, and use deductive logic to arrive at my conclusions (e.g., high taxes in Kansas could hurt the economy, we need more money for schools more than a new \$1.6 million motto, ...). You counter with "there are a lot of things happening behind the scenes".

I'm not personally against gambling, but that doesn't mean the state should support taking people's money. Can we agree that gambling earnings should only be used by the state for math education, especially probability and statistics education?

What about the guy in Manhattan — the former Manhattan Parks and Rec Superintendant, Ivan Wilkinson — and the Wildcat announcer — who recently gambled something like \$160,000 of taxpayer dollars? Some of the money was taken from the Youth Empowerment for Success program. Gambling has just about ruined this guy and his family. How does gambling really help society, and why should the state promote or facilitate the destruction of citizens that way?

Can you cite any news articles that show how Sebelius did anything to add more police or prison guards? I can cite a newspaper story where Kline complains that Sebelius was cutting the KBI's budget — but I don't think you really care about such

facts.

You seem more about promoting a “feel good” outlook, even when the facts don’t support it. Which is the same reason I never understood Clinton.

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