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April 8, 2025

Former Butler County Auditor Accuses State and County Officials of Engaging in Lawfare

Reynolds Alleges Suppression of Witnesses, Withheld Evidence, and Political Motives Behind Prosecution

BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO – Former Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds is speaking out today, alleging coordinated political retaliation and abuse of legal power—commonly referred to as "lawfare"—by several state and county officials and staff, including Ohio Attorney General David Yost, Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones, and County Commissioners Donald Dixon and T.C. Rogers.

At a press conference scheduled for 10:00 am today at Four Bridges Country Club, Reynolds outlines what he describes as a deliberate and politically motivated campaign that involved suppressing exculpatory evidence, discrediting him in the media, and paying a witness. Central to his claim is the contention that these officials pursued charges after the Butler County Prosecutor initially declined to do so.

Reynolds was first investigated by Sheriff Jones in 2021, with the findings forwarded to Butler County Prosecutor Michael Gmoser—who declined to bring charges. Shortly thereafter, Attorney General David Yost took over and initiated prosecution, pressing Reynolds to accept a plea deal in January 2022. “I refused to be coerced,” said Reynolds. “I maintained my innocence and would not be bullied into a false admission of guilt.”

On February 9, 2022, Reynolds was indicted on five counts by a Butler County grand jury. Yost and Jones then petitioned the Ohio Supreme Court to suspend Reynolds from office, with Commissioner Dixon also calling for his resignation. However, on March 15, 2022, a special commission unanimously denied the suspension request, stating:

“There is an insufficient nexus between the alleged acts... and the functionality of the Butler County Auditor’s office... Accordingly, Mr. Reynolds shall not be suspended from public office.”

Reynolds claims that the denial prompted Yost and Jones to pivot. “When their original charges fell apart, they launched a new investigation—a setup in my view,” Reynolds said. This resulted in a superseding indictment on July 13, 2022, for allegedly having an unlawful interest in a public contract involving Lakota Schools and Four Bridges Country Club.

According to Reynolds, the prosecution relied heavily on testimony from Lakota Treasurer Jenni Logan—who, during this period, was actively pursuing a \$150/hour contract with the County Commissioners. “There was a clear conflict of interest,” Reynolds stated, pointing to emails between Logan and County Administrator Judi Boyko discussing the terms of the contract prior to any public discussion or job posting.

Reynolds also raises questions about Boyko's motivations, citing a congratulatory email she sent to Logan just hours after the superseding indictment, which also reaffirmed Logan's contract. "This wasn't justice. It was a political arrangement cloaked in legal process under the shade of darkness," Reynolds said. "Apparently, \$150 an hour is what it cost to sell out the truth."

Reynolds further alleges that key documents contradicting Logan's testimony were withheld by the State. After his conviction, Four Bridges management disclosed subpoenaed emails never provided to the defense—including a 2017 email from Lakota's golf coach, Gene Powell, to Four Bridges ownership confirming internal district support for the project. Powell's email stated "At this stage, I have met with the District COO, Treasurer, attorney and one of the high school Athletic Directors. They are "on board" conceptually and are ready for us to submit a proposal to the staff."

"These documents directly undermine the state's claims," said Reynolds. "Why were they hidden? Why weren't other involved parties interviewed by BCI and county detectives?"

Reynolds, clashed with Sheriff Jones over transparency reforms—including publishing county expenses online—and the firing of Jones's family member due to budget cuts and poor attendance. Reynolds also clashed with AG Yost over the state's mandate to increase property values by up to 40%. He believes these tensions, combined with political ambitions, drove their efforts to oust him. "This is lawfare at its worst," Reynolds claims. "I don't believe any fair-minded citizen will believe this was a good use of their tax dollars."

To share his side of the story and provide supporting evidence, Reynolds has launched a website: RogerReynoldsOH.com.