

GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

08 WATCH: DECEMBER 2005



IN FOCUS:

Ethics Complaint Filed Against Huckabee For Use of State Computers For Political Purposes. According to the [Arkansas Democratic Gazette](#), an ethics complaint was filed against Huckabee, for his use of state computers for political purposes. On December 1, 2005 Huckabee sent out an email in reference to a state bond election. In the email Huckabee claimed that the Arkansas Trucking Association, his opponents on the bond issue, had released “several instances of incorrect information.” The email also pointed recipients to a website touting the merits of the \$575 million bond

issue; the bond website was connected to Huckabee’s official website. Arkansas law bars “any public servant from using any office or room furnished at public expense to distribute any letters, circulars or other campaign materials unless such office or room is regularly used by members of the public.”

[[Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 12/2/05]

FLASHBACK: Is Past Prologue? This Isn’t Huckabee’s First Ethics Problem. During his 1994 Lieutenant Governor campaign, Huckabee used \$43,150 in campaign funds to pay himself for the use of an airplane he owned with his wife. The Arkansas Ethics Commission later found that Huckabee was “not in compliance” with disclosure rules in reporting the payments. Huckabee reported the \$43,150 as a campaign expenditure to an “Aviation Account” at a Texarkana bank. Huckabee and his wife were not listed as recipients on campaign finance documents. The account was owned by the Huckabees, as was the eight-seat, twin-engine 1974 Cessna 421B. [[Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 1/1/98; [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), 3/25/97]

IN HIS OWN WORDS: HUCKABEE ON IF HE WANTS THE PRESIDENCY

“Well, I’m not sure if I do or not. Sometimes I look at what happens to the people that get the job and it makes one wonder.” [CNN, 11/13/05]

BUZZ WATCH:

Republican Strategist Tony Fabrizio Mentioned Huckabee as Viable 2008 Republican Candidate.

During the Hotline/UVA American Democracy conference, Republican strategist Tony Fabrizio identified Huckabee as the candidate who could, “could unite the various wings of the GOP.” [Hotline’s On Call, 12/1/05]

RHETORIC WATCH:

Huckabee Accused Republican Controlled Congress of Being “Unplugged” From States. In November 2005 interview Huckabee accused the Republican controlled Congress in Washington, DC of being out of touch with the States. Huckabee said, “It does appear that Congress is becoming increasingly unplugged from the states, It’s a real growing source of frustration for both Democratic and Republican governors.” [Duluth News-Tribune, 11/26/05]

DAY JOB:

Huckabee Failed To Block Gambling Bill, Blamed Christian Groups For Not Lobbying Hard Enough. “Discontent among gambling opponents lingers over how well they fought, or didn’t fight, a bill allowing the expansion of gambling in Arkansas. During Huckabee’s television show Tuesday on AETN, a caller asked why the governor ‘as a Christian’ didn’t veto Senate Bill 999 during the 2005 legislative session. ‘The Christian organizations that normally actively lobby didn’t lobby against it,’ Huckabee, a Baptist minister, answered. ‘They did not do battle. It became apparent to me there was no real fight in them.’” [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 12/4/05]

Huckabee Lost Bond \$575 Million Highway Bond Vote. On December 13, 2005 the Arkansas Highway Bond supported by Huckabee was defeated by Arkansas voters. The bond, which allocated \$575 Million for highway construction was defeated by 710 votes, even after Huckabee strongly supported the measure. [AP, 12/14/05]

MONEY UPDATE:

Huckabee Established Political Action Committee. Huckabee established the Healthy America PAC on July 15, 2005. Eighteen individuals donated more than \$500 to Huckabee’s PAC, for a total of \$41,000 in 2005. [http://www.vpap.org/]

SCHEDULE RECAP NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

11/30/2005 –Carlsbad, NM: Governor Huckabee attends the Republican Governors Association annual meeting, La Costa Hotel, 2100 Costa Del Mara Rd. [Huckabee Schedule]

11/9/2005 – Arlington, VA: Huckabee delivered the keynote address to the National Medicaid Directors at the Marriott Crystal Gateway. Huckabee was also honored by Governing magazine as one of its Public Officials of the Year for 2005. [ABCNews.com, 11/7/05]

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