

FORMER KKK ORGANIZER RUNS FOR US HOUSE

John Abarr, a former organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, is running as a Republican for Montana's open Congressional seat.

The press reported that Abarr is running on a platform that would legalize marijuana, increase funding for mental health programs, keep abortion legal, abolish the death penalty, and save "the White Race." Abarr believes that he will do well in the election based on what he perceives as a backlash against America's first African American president.

According to a June 2011 report issued by Public Policy Polling, while fellow Republican Steve Daines appears to be outpolling him, Abarr is ahead of the Democrats in the race. Public Policy Polling stated that its poll appeared to be "based on partisan cues," meaning that Abarr's "favorability" over Democratic candidates is likely because of the "R" he has behind his name.

Bowen Greenwood, the executive director of the Montana Republican Party, told the press that his party doesn't support Abarr, saying, "We have a nine-year record of not supporting anyone who is affiliated with the KKK." Greenwood appeared to be alluding to Abarr's run for the Montana Legislature as a Republican in 2002. Abarr failed to make it past the Primary Election, receiving only 114 votes.

Abarr has supported efforts by other Klansmen running for public office. In the early 1990s, he contributed to the political campaign of David Duke.

Duke helped create a template for white supremacists running for office. A national Klan leader, Duke stashed away his Klan robe, bought a business suit, and began calling



John Abarr

himself a conservative Republican. Duke was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1989 and lost a close Louisiana gubernatorial race in 1991. Duke demonstrated how white supremacists could reposition themselves by using coded language instead of racial epithets.

Abarr seems to be hopeful of pulling a David Duke. Back in 2002, he told the press that he wasn't involved in the Klan anymore because he had decided it wasn't very effective. However, in 2004, the Aryan Nations Knights of the Ku Klux Klan listed a chapter in Great Falls, and the Network came across information implicating Abarr as the local contact.

Abarr has a history of aligning himself with the Republican Party. In 1994, he participated in MSU-Billings' Young Republicans, and the group supported Billings-area anti-Semite Red Beckman. When the Montana GOP discovered Abarr was involved, it refused to recognize the Young Republicans campus group.

Abarr also worked phone-banking for Conrad Burns' US Senate re-

election campaign in 1994.

Also in 1994, he served as the campaign manager for Rudy Stanko's unsuccessful bid for Justice of the Peace in Department 1 of Yellowstone County. Stanko was an adherent to the World Church of the Creator, now known as The Creativity Movement, which refers to people of color as "mud races" and "jungle dwelling cannibals."

Prior to moving to Montana, Abarr ran the Realm of Wyoming and worked to help William Daniel Johnson, a Wyoming congressional candidate who wrote the Pace Amendment to the US Constitution. It would have only allowed citizenship to people of European (white) descent, and anyone not fitting that criteria would have been deported.

In 2002, Abarr said he still agreed with Johnson on the Pace Amendment, although he didn't think it would work now because there would be too many people to deport.

Over the years, Abarr has recruited for the Klan in Montana under group names like Realm of Montana and Montana Quest. He has distributed literature from the Arkansas-based Knights of the KKK, in addition to anti-gay fliers that attacked Montanans. While Abarr says no longer organizes for the KKK, he admits to still being on its mailing list.

On the campaign trail again, Abarr has stated, "I think that the fact Obama got elected shows that the white people are starting to lose their political power," and "I am running to draw attention to the fact that white people are becoming a minority and losing our political power and way of life." □