

# A DIRTY DOZEN OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES WITH EXTREMIST IDEAS ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE THIS YEAR



## BY EVELYN SCHLATTER

Election years in the United States always bring out a spate of candidates from very different ideological corners, but over the past few years, electoral politics in this country have succumbed to a level of polarization only rarely seen in our history. That situation has facilitated the emergence of would-be political leaders who have links to hate groups or engage in promoting extremism based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or antigovernment conspiracy theories. The typically baseless claims of these candidates range from demonizing propaganda about certain minority groups to the promotion of fantastic conspiracy theories about the federal government's allegedly evil machinations. What follows are snapshots of a dozen such candidates, including Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, independents and others who are running for political office this fall or who ran earlier in the year.







### **PHIL HUDOK**

RUNNING FOR U.S. SENATE
// WEST VIRGINIA //
CONSTITUTION PARTY

PHIL HUDOK IS CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST Virginia chapter of the theocratic and anti-LGBT Constitution Party and a former public school teacher with a history of Christian-based activism. In 2008, he and a handful of others successfully petitioned the Department of Motor Vehicles to remove their photos from driver's licenses, saying they violated their religious beliefs because digitized photos contain "the mark of the beast." In 2012, Hudok's daughter was banned from her high school because the family refused to comply with new vaccination requirements. Hudok went to court and the school was ordered to provide home educational services for his daughter, who also was allowed to participate in its commencement ceremony. Hudok manages the website of Call To Decision Ministries, which trafficks in 9/11 conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination myths like the idea that vaccines are used to sterilize the population, derogatory claims about immigrant "anchor babies" and "homos," and the antigovernment "Patriot" conspiracy theory about a secret plot to form a socialistic global government known as the "New World Order." On his site, Hudok asserts that he serves "God, family, and country in that order" and says that "The New World Order is an anathema to everything I believe in."

#### VICTORIA JACKSON

RUNNING FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY

COMMISSION, DISTRICT 2

// TENNESSEE //
INDEPENDENT

LONG KNOWN AS A CAST MEMBER OF "Saturday Night Live" (1986-1992), Victoria Jackson later said she had been a Christian during those years but was apolitical until 2007, when she discovered an "underground conservative group of people" in Los Angeles. From there, she descended into the fever swamps of anti-Obama extremism and began garnering right-wing media attention that has turned her into a movement star, complete with appearances on Fox News. Since her "awakening" as a selfdescribed Tea Party or constitutional conservative, Jackson has wondered why there isn't a "white history month" now that the "white race is becoming a minority in America" (a statement she deleted the same day she posted it) and claimed that President Obama may dispatch a private army to kill her and other Christians. She has included Muslims in her conspiracist rhetoric, claiming that she's afraid to say anything about Muslims because "they kill people" and they - along with progressives, communists, liberals, and globalists - want to "destroy America." Last year, she protested a public discussion hosted by the American Muslim Advisory Council and joined an ugly fight against the construction of a mosque in Murfreesboro, Tenn. LGBT people don't fare much better. Jackson has claimed against all the scientific evidence that allowing gay people to adopt children is tantamount to authorizing "pedophilia and sexual molestation," and lambasted a kiss between two male characters on the TV show "Glee" as "sickening."

### SCOTT LIVELY

RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR
// MASSACHUSETTS //
INDEPENDENT

SCOTT LIVELY, HEAD OF THE ANTI-LGBT hate group Abiding Truth Ministries, has a long history as a gay-bashing propagandist with little regard for facts. He is the author of the infamous and discredited book, The Pink Swastika: Homosexuality in the Nazi Party, which claims that "masculine" gay men were responsible for the Nazi Party and thus the Holocaust, and he has traveled extensively through Eastern Europe and Africa speaking on the "dangers" of homosexuality and drumming up support for criminalizing it. Lively is currently being sued by a Ugandan LGBT rights group and the U.S.-based Center for Constitutional Rights for his role in the formation and passage of the draconian anti-LGBT bill in Uganda that was signed into law in early 2014 and stipulates life in prison for "aggravated homosexuality." On his candidate page, which is strangely devoid of evidence of his longtime antigay obsession, he opposes abortion even in cases of rape or incest ("a child must never be required to pay for the sins of his father"). He also says the first thing he'll do to prevent crime is to restore "clear-cut moral precepts to guide the citizenry," including "restoring respect for masculinity and male authority in the home and community."