

The Ice-Pac Adviser

Issue 107-1

ICE-PAC - Dedicated to Reduced Swelling in Government

July 7, 2014

Rep. Frank Foster - Under the Influence

From the frat house straight to the State House, the party continues. Known as "Free Lunch Frank" by many in Lansing, how does Freshman State Representative Frank Foster, just a year and a half out of college, become # 1 in two key areas his very first year. First, Foster was rated by *Inside Michigan Politics* as having the most liberal voting record among Republicans, and second, he was announced in *MIRS* as the "most-wined-and-dined" legislator in Lansing?

How does a 24-year-old Tea Party supported back-bencher from Northern Michigan get more free food and booze bought for him by lobbyists than the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader - indeed all of the leadership in both the Michigan House and the Michigan Senate? Good questions all. And that was just 2011, his first year in the legislature.

According to required lobbying reports filed with the State, and reported by the Lansing news outlet *MIRS*, Foster has been most-wined-and-dined two of his first

three years in the legislature. Representative Frank Foster hit the ground running, so to speak, when it comes to getting special interest

lobbyists to pick up the tab and to line his campaign coffers, and he has never looked back. In 2012, Foster plunged to # 4 out of the 148 legislators in Michigan in free food and adult beverages, but don't feel sorry - he still managed to eat and drink very well, courtesy of the lobbyists.

While two prominent Senate leaders took the top two spots, Foster still

"scored" higher than the House Speaker or any of the House leadership.

Not to be outdone by any high-profile Senators, in 2013 Frank surpassed his Freshman performance and once again took the # 1 spot with a

whopping, unprecedented \$5,338 intake of free food and drink - almost 20% more than the number two legislator who happens to be the Senate Majority



Rep. Frank Foster

Leader. This gives new meaning to the words "party politics."

What is the significance of this particular life-style, and why should it be an issue? Influence. Influence of lobbyists taking precedence over the proper influence of his own constituents. And Frank Foster is clearly under the influence—the influence of special interests in Lansing.

Once a legislator establishes that his vote might be for sale, the money starts flowing. In Frank's case, according to public campaign finance records, he received \$44,637 in contributions from special interest

groups located outside of his district for his campaign fund in 2013, a non-election year. He received just \$6,225 from individuals within his district, a paltry 11% of his campaign contribu-

tions. (The other 10% was from individuals (some lobbyists) outside the district, most of which represent the same Lansing special interests.) And

Frank Foster is clearly under the influence - the influence of the special interests in Lansing. In 2013 79% of his campaign contributions came from lobbyists and PACs which are located outside of his district.

How does a 24-year-old back-bencher from Northern Michigan get more free food and booze from lobbyists than the Speaker of the House or the Leader of the Senate?

Many, Many Questionable Ads Headed Your Way

(or, what will Frank Foster do with all that special interest money?)

Question: With all that special interest money Rep. Frank Foster is sitting on in his campaign war chest, what do you suppose he will do with it?

Answer: Spend it, to get re-elected of course. Voters in the 107th District are about to be buried in an avalanche of political ads from Frank. These ads, mostly mailers, will try

to convince you that Frank is - **Very Conservative** (certainly not his voting record, but if you buy into it Frank will be happy.)

A godly crusader for religious liberty (He has already used this one—trying to vaccinate himself from his personal campaign to advance the **radical homosexual agenda**. It might be worth pointing out that “godly” is certainly not his Lansing reputation. Remember when he was accused by a lady in Lansing of calling her an obscene name, a four let-

ter word beginning with “c”? Several media outlets carried it. But don’t take our word for it - get on your search engine and judge for yourself. And there is more—ask around!) **Devoutly Pro-Life** (Due to *Right to Life* policy, unless the incumbent strays on a vote, the incumbent **always** gets their endorsement even if his opponent is more committed to the pro-life cause - yep, bad policy to be sure.)

A Statesman who delivered on his promises (Yes Frank will be bragging about his more conservative votes - votes that any good Republican would have made. He will probably neglect to mention all the times he joined all the Democrats and the most liberal Republicans in advancing the liberal agenda, such as voting three times to prop up Obamacare. Or, Common Core!)

Besides his taxpayer funded

Leading up to the August primary you will see about 20 slick, colorful mailings from Frank Foster, each one costing \$\$\$ (thousands). Each time you see one of these expensive mailings, remind yourself how he is able to afford them.

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these amounts do not even include Frank’s “leadership fund,” *Spotlight Michigan*, which raked in another \$39,000 in 2013.

What impact does this pattern have on a legislator’s voting? Consider Frank’s vote to expand Medicaid entitlements, helping to rescue Obamacare from collapsing under its own weight. While many constituents were calling Frank, begging him not to support this huge increase in government, on September 3, 2013, Frank joined 47 Democrats and just 28 Republicans in voting for this the largest increase in state welfare in Michigan since the 1960s.

And three months later Frank deposited a check for \$4,000 from *Health PAC* of Lansing, a major supporter of the Medicaid expansion, and his largest single donation of the year. Just a coincidence, right? Hmmm - you be the judge.

“update” mailings, you will likely see about 20 colorful, slick mailings paid for by Frank’s huge campaign fund, along with radio and TV, promoting the re-election of Rep. Frank Foster in the days leading up to the August 5 primary. Each mailing will cost him thousands of dollars. Each time you see one of these expensive mailings, remind yourself how he is able to afford them.

If you are experiencing excessive swelling in Government, reach for an ICE-PAC Advisor. This edition of the ICE-PAC Advisor is dedicated to informing the people of the 107th District on how they are being represented in Lansing. Our Advisory Board is made up of former Michigan legislators who understand what is going on in Lansing: Rep. Ken Bradstreet, Rep. Jack Hoogendyk, Rep. Jack Horton, Rep. Fulton Sheen. That is why we published this little newsletter. Now if you like what Representative Frank Foster “stands” for, then by all means, vote for Frank, and you will get more of the same. If you think you should be better served, you have an opportunity to upgrade by voting for a mature, honest, principled conservative on August 5, **LEE CHATFIELD**. Whatever your vote, at least give Frank Foster a call at (517) 373-2629 and tell him to stop catering to special interests and to start representing the people of Northern Michigan.

Almost all politicians talk a good game — the key is not in listening to what they say, rather it is in watching what they do, and how they actually vote.