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Gap Grows Favoring Hanks in U.S. Senate Primary After O'Dea Publicly States He'd Vote to Make Roe v. Wade Law

May 20, 2022, Colorado Springs - Republican State Representative Ron Hanks won the top position on the primary ballot in April after defeating five candidates at assembly. Hanks is staunchly conservative on pocketbook issues, and on social policy. Hanks has been clear: Roe v. Wade should be overturned. He was instrumental in the longest debate in the history of the Colorado House, fighting against the abortion bill that made Colorado one of the most liberal abortion states in the nation.




Representative Ron Hanks giving his pro-life campaign speech to a new Mesa County citizen who will vote for the first time in the 2020 Presidential election.

In stark contrast, Hanks' opponent, a wealthy businessman, Joe O'Dea, had been trying to avoid the issue early in his campaign. On Denver's KNUS radio with host Jimmy Sengenberger, O'Dea said, "I'm not running on social issues. It's in place right now, Roe v. Wade, I wouldn't vote to overturn that. I'm not running on social issues, that's not what is important to working Americans right now." But O'Dea moved much farther to the left by stating on air that not only does he refuse to vote to overturn Roe v. Wade, "I would probably vote to codify it, along with Casey", into federal law.

That vote to codify Democrat Chuck Schumer's pro-abortion law would take away states' rights and force Christian doctors and nurses) and Catholic hospitals perform abortions. O'Dea identifies as Catholic and told the host, "he and his wife had prayed about this."

Pastor Garret Graupner, Pastor of Fervent Church in Colorado Springs, said, "At first O'Dea was double talking, trying to keep Republican voters from finding out he wasn't a social conservative. He doesn't get to support abortion industry policies and still call himself a conservative Republican. O'Dea's public statements saying he would vote for Roe, are jarring to pro-life voters and that reaffirms my decision to back Hanks."



O'Dea has already burned through hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign ads trying to portray himself as a conservative blue-collar candidate. Initially Hanks campaign feared conservative voters might struggle differentiating between the two candidates on the Republican ballot. But O'Dea's camp is targeting unaffiliated voters and skipping many rural events attended by the conservative base of the Republican Party. This week, O'Dea released a list of endorsements which was comprised entirely of elitist establishment Republicans. One endorser took a swipe at Hanks not being wealthy like O'Dea. Much of O'Dea's wealth came from government paving contracts.


Hanks retired from the Air Force to Canon City and won the District 60 State House seat on his first try in 2020. Hanks told the delegates at state assembly that he sought no endorsements. He asked only for the endorsement of the voters and he received the majority of votes from 64 counties, eliminating all other candidates. Hanks accepted the Republican nomination by saying, "Money does not move me. This country does."

Hanks joined the US Air Force immediately after high school and went on to serve 32 years in the military as an enlisted man and commissioned officer on active and reserve status. He served as an Arabic linguist, an intelligence officer, counterintelligence agent, and counterdrug officer, among other duties. Hanks is proud of his blue-collar upbringing and is uniquely positioned to bring hard working Americans into the Republican fold. Hanks said, "I've lived as an enlisted man, as a frack hand in North Dakota, working heavy equipment. I still have my truck driving license. The Republican Party is a better fit for Blue-Collar America."

Hanks believes this race is not about money or the arrogance of power. "This Grassroots campaign is about the silent majority voting to return this country to our traditional American roots, without the compromise of Liberty on social issues or mindless compromise with socialism."

O'Dea, a relatively political unknown, ducked out of the typically conservative Republican State Assembly. Instead, he chose to embrace the backing of establishment Republicans and petition onto the ballot rather than face Hanks' strong, grassroots ground game full of blue-collar volunteers. Conservative support helped him defeat five other challengers, including wealthy self-funded candidates. After O'Dea's jarring, pro-abortion statements over the past few days, it appears that he had been avoiding the overwhelmingly pro-life crowd at the Republican State Assembly as well.

O'Dea gave an interview on the George Brauchler talk radio show in Denver where he said, "I couldn't, um, support, um, putting limits on, on, uh, women earlier in their pregnancy. That's between them and their doctor. That's not my role."



In comparison this is what Hanks said on the Roe issue, “I’m passionate about restoring America to the place we were when I grew up, a place where individual rights were cherished, and our Constitution was an example to the rest of the world. But in order to benefit from all of our wonderful constitutional rights, one must first be born. Everyone deserves to get a birthday.”

This week, Hanks began advertising O’Dea’s pro-abortion positions and encourages voters to listen to O’Dea’s own words online. Those are sure to be eye-opening revelations for the majority of undecided Republican voters who vote for pro-life candidates. Joe O’Dea is now not only running as a pro-abortion candidate in a Republican primary, he’s siding with the radical Democrat lobby set on taking away states’ rights on the issue. O’Dea’s pro-abortion position defies the Republican National Committee’s and the Colorado GOP’s pro-life platform.

Democrat incumbent and pro-Roe U.S. Senator Michael Bennet has advertised polling numbers that show if he faces Ron Hanks in the general election in November, Bennet loses.

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