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Happy Anniversary: Freedom Fund Sends Cake, Balloons to Commemorate Mark Schauer's Record Campaign Finance Fine, Demand Transparency

5th Anniversary of \$208,250 Fine Arrives as Democratic Candidate Refuses to Release 11 of 12 Annual Reports from Shadowy Slush Fund

LANSING, February 26, 2014 – The Michigan Freedom Fund today hand-delivered an Anniversary cake, card, and balloons to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer's Lansing campaign headquarters, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the record-setting \$208,250 fine imposed on Schauer's campaign committee for violating Michigan's Campaign Finance Act.

The anniversary of Schauer's fine arrives while the candidate refuses to disclose 11 of 12 annual, IRS mandated, campaign finance filings—called 990s—from his "Schauer Community Fund," a secret slush fund used to solicit and spend hidden donations from 1999 through 2010.

"Five years ago Mark Schauer was hit with the largest campaign finance fine in Michigan history for skirting transparency laws but his decision to double-down on secrecy by hiding 11 years' worth of campaign finance records from the press and the public may very well make him the least transparent gubernatorial candidate in Michigan political history," said Michigan Freedom Fund President Greg McNeilly.

Accompanied by helium "Happy Anniversary" balloons, the cake delivered today to Schauer's campaign office was also decorated to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the candidate's record-setting fine. It read "Happy 5th Anniversary. A record worth remembering, \$208,250."

Schauer's struggles with transparency include:

- **Schauer holds the record for the largest campaign finance penalty ever assessed** in Michigan—a staggering \$208,250—after a Bureau of Elections investigation found he had illegally laundered nearly a half-million dollars for Democratic candidates;
- **Schauer refuses to release campaign finance records** detailing legally required donor information and expenditures **covering 11 of the 12 years he operated the "Schauer Community Fund,"** a nonprofit political fund he operated until 2010, denying the media and Michigan voters the ability to gauge potential conflicts of interest; and

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- **Schauer still refuses to disclose the names and donor information** of the individuals and organizations behind the liberal extremist group “Blue Green Alliance,” which pays his salary and is funding his run for governor.

“Mark Schauer talks a big game about financial transparency but when given the chance to practice what he preaches, he hides campaign finance records, exploits loopholes and refuses to come clean about who is paying him, how much they are coughing up or what they might be expecting in return,” said McNeilly. “Voters deserve to know exactly who paid what to Schauer’s secret slush fund and what they got or may still expect in return.”

Schauer, dubbed “Senator Slush Fund” by his hometown newspaper for his role 5 years ago in the largest campaign finance scandal in Michigan history, has spent the last three years working for the BlueGreen Alliance, a group of far-left extremists who refuse to disclose their donor information.

Both the BlueGreen Alliance and the candidate have refused to release their donor or other financial information, so Michigan voters have no clue who is paying Mark Schauer’s salary and supporting him financially as he runs for governor.

Michigan voters threw “Senator Slush Fund” out of Congress in 2010, the first chance they had after he admitted his role in a campaign finance scandal that set state records for penalties and earned Schauer the derisive nickname from transparency advocates.

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