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News From The Michigan Democratic Party

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ICYMI: Lansing Republicans Pay Chatfield Aides that Plead Guilty to Embezzlement

Former chief of staff to Speaker Chatfield, Rob Minard with political fundraiser and wife, Anné Minard, pled guilty to larceny and embezzlement and agreed to testify against Chatfield

LANSING — In case you missed it, yet again, the MIGOP is embroiled in scandal after Rob Minard, former chief of staff to Speaker Lee Chatfield, and Anné Minard, his wife and a prominent Republican fundraiser and consultant to ex-House Speaker Lee Chatfield, pled guilty to embezzling thousands of dollars from their clients. Despite being charged with multiple felonies in 2023 and investigated for their connection to Chatfield's crimes in 2022, many notable MIGOP members continued to pay the Minards — including Aric Nesbitt, Ann Bollin, Jason Wentworth, Tudor Dixon, Matt Maddock, and more.

After accusations of [intimate partner violence](#) against MAGA Matt Hall and [ongoing charges](#) against former state House Speaker Lee Chatfield for misusing state, campaign, and non-profit funds, it is clear that there is something truly rotten inside the MIGOP. Even people like Aric Nesbit and Ann Bolin are deeply connected to the MIGOP's culture of criminality.

Why aren't MIGOP leaders calling out this bad behavior and condemning it in all forms? The Minards are so deeply connected to the entire party—showing just how deep this abuse of power goes for Republicans in Lansing.

Read more about the Minard's plea deal below:

[MIRS](#): A Few Stuck With Minards After MSP Raided Their Home

- *From 2014 until 2022, Victor Strategies reported receiving an average of \$130,000 in traceable business from political candidates. This doesn't count all the soft money (dark money) accounts they ran, which is what the Attorney General ended up flagging them for.*

- *Whether the double-billings were a get-rich-quick scheme, sloppy paperwork filings by overworked operatives or part of something else, we may never know, since the Minards won't be going in front of a jury.*
- *On Thursday, **Rob Minard pleaded guilty to one count of larceny by false pretenses** — \$20,000 or more but less than \$50,000— for stealing funds from Working Together for a Better Michigan, an independent political action committee, and the political candidates that Working Together for a Better Michigan was supposed to be assisting and one count of filing a false tax return.*
- ***Last week, Anné Minard pleaded guilty to one count each of embezzlement** — \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000 — from a non-profit or charitable organization for embezzling funds from the Peninsula Fund, and filing a false tax return...*
- *After the raid, MIRS counted 43 hard-dollar payments to Victor Strategies. Whiteford accounted for eight of them. Lauwers accounted for six of them and Maddock three.*
- *Rep. Greg VANWOERKOM (R-Norton Shores) accounted for four of them, including the only purchase in 2024 for a mailing. **Senate Minority Leader Aric NESBITT (R-Lawton)'s Majority Fund paid Victor Strategies for consulting in May 2022**, but Nesbitt said the check was for services rendered prior to the raid.*

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