

Chapter 5

Exercise 2: Michigan Politics

non-political: not involved in politics, an outsider who not beholden to the political establishment

nonpartisan: not controlled or influenced by, or supporting, any single political party

buck: the stubbornly resist

dogged: persistently nag

double talk: two words

name-calling: hyphenated

Using the Associated Press stylebook as a guide, edit these sentences from news articles for style, spelling, grammar, logic, syntax and factual errors. Also correct any awkward writing. Include comments about any information in the story that is incomplete or illogical.

52-word lead:

~~DETROIT, Mich.—As state Assemblyman Michael Wilbers, the Christian coalition's Republican candidate for governor, swung across the state Tuesday carrying a message of lower taxes, political reform and family values, moderate Republicans allied with Gov. Matthew Smith dogged him at every turn, questioning his legislative record and his claim that he is a reformer.~~Detroit – As Assemblyman Michael Wilbers swung across the state Tuesday in his bid the Republican gubernatorial nomination, moderate Republicans aligned with Gov. Matthew Smith challenged his record at every turn.

Wilbers, who is supported by the Christian Coalition, is campaigning with a message of lower taxes, political reform and family values; but Smith supporters question his legislative record and his claim that he is a reformer.

In Lansing, Flint and Ann Arbor, Wilbers met with reporters to discuss his support for term limits, prayer in schools, and proposals to make government more open.

But he encountered loosely coordinated groups of Smith supporters who were calling themselves “truth squads” and ~~who~~ had already conducted news conferences attacking ~~his~~ Wilbers’ voting record on ethics issues and tax increases and his credentials to speak on family values.

In Lansing, ~~the~~ Republican ~~mayor~~ Mayor, Jonathan Parks, referred to Wilbers as a “Mikey-come-lately” [confirm this is a direct quote] to reform politics. In Flint, Assembly Speaker Stan Hardy accused him of double talk for having voted against proposals he is now endorsing.

And in Ann Arbor, ~~the~~ Lt. Gov., Ann Covington, said he was a “fantasy reformer” [confirm this is a direct quote] -who earned \$9,000 this year as chairman of a ~~Senate~~ Assembly [confirm???] ~~Agricultural~~ agricultural ~~Committee~~ committee that met only three times ~~this year~~.

The name-calling shows the dueling strategies of the two camps. Wilbers is trying to portray himself as ~~an nonpolitician~~ nonpolitician outsider trying to dismantle what he describes as the failed policies of Smith, who has served for three terms.

Wilbers was elected to the ~~assembly~~ Assembly last year.

Smith’s people, meanwhile, describe Wilbers as a candidate of much talk but little substance, a candidate who lacks the character to lead, much less buck, state government.

Smith’s campaign spokesman, Tom Bowie, said state GOP officials were helping local leaders attack the challenger by

providing them with details about his voting record.

“Whenever Mike comes into their town, people will know what his real record is,” ~~said~~-Bowie said. “We’re showing that he’s part of the problem he harps about. Mike’s people may think they have a candidate with a blank slate—, ~~But~~ but they don’t.”

~~But~~-Wilbers camp says the ~~Governor~~ governor is trying to shift attention away from proposals they say have broad public appeal. And they ridiculed his supporters’ contentions ~~s~~ that Smith has led the fight for reform.