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Graphic Ads from Fringe Groups Going Way Beyond Usual Presidential Attack Ads



By Dave Franzman, Reporter

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Story Created: Oct 25, 2012 at 6:50 PM CDT
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CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - As a political swing state, Iowa has seen a lot of attack ads in the Presidential race. But some billboards, TV ads and even direct political mail are going way beyond what voters have seen from the regular campaigns.

Several billboards funded by out-of state interest groups have caught the attention of drivers. One on First Avenue near Lindale Mall shows a photo of President Obama surrounded with words like "amateur" and "socialist." Another on First Avenue near Coe College portrays the President bowing to the rulers of oil producing countries with a message about gas prices.

A mailed flier entitled "Dreams from My Real Father" includes a documentary on dvd that claims President Obama's real father was a communist organizer.

Coe College political science professor Bruce Nesmith looked at some of the examples we provided. He said he doubts such claims by fringe groups will have any impact on undecided voters. But he also said that probably wasn't the point for those who funded the extreme political ads.

"If this has impact, the impact that is has is to raise the blood pressure of people already voting Republican and they'll just make extra special sure they get out to vote," Nesmith said.

KCRG-TV will air an ad paid for by two third party Congressional candidates that raises another question. The ad, set to air late night on Friday, includes graphic scenes of abortions and concludes with the message "if you vote for Obama, you'll have innocent blood on your hands."

KCRG national sales manager Steve Lake said the station really doesn't have a choice about airing something that may offend a lot of people. He said if the political ad comes from someone running for a federal office, then stations can't refuse the ad and can't censor or change it.

In addition, putting a warning about graphic content before the ad runs raises another issue.

"It's a problem because if we do it for one ad we have to do it for all ads--whether or not they contain that kind of information," Lake said.

The anti-abortion ad from those third party candidates will run only one time for each candidate.



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That's all the commercial time that 1st District candidate George Krail of Mount Holly, N.J. and 2nd District candidate Alan Aversa of Tuscon, Arizona have purchased.

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Levi White · Top Commenter · Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Because fear is all they have. Every single accusation about his past has proven to be false or an outright lie. It's racist trash, and they know it. Low-information = High reaction to fear. They use fear because they know that the economy is improving and people are finding jobs. Taxes are at historical lows (Obama lowered them), gun rights have been expanded (Obama expanded them), you'll get full medical care even if your insurance denies it (Obamacare), and America is safer with the death of Bin Laden (Obama ordered the strike against all advice). By every metric, the country is improving, and republicans are FURIOUS.

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Levi White · Top Commenter · Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Yup. lowest taxes in American history. <http://coloradoindependent.com/50655/forbes-tea-partiers-confused-taxes-%E2%80%98lower-by-every-measure%E2%80%99-under-obama>

Go ahead and complain about the debt and deficit. You might have some points. But then you have to ignore all the obstructionism from the GOP towards trying to fix it. TWO HUNDRED FOURTY ONE FILIBUSTERS (241!) since Obama took office. They blocked a bill ending tax breaks for corporations sending jobs overseas! (S.3816)

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Glenna Bergman · Top Commenter · Loyola University New Orleans

If you believe that then you must have been dropped on your head as a Baby.

Reply · 3 · Like · October 25 at 5:41pm



Levi White · Top Commenter · Cedar Rapids, Iowa

No, see this is where you present actual commentary, and if you disagree with my posts, you show with information and citations how it's wrong. Since you can't, you react just like the people sending the crap in the mail. With baseless accusations and vague insults to my intelligence. Try harder.

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