



Hergert Impeachment Trial

Former University of Nebraska Regent Don Blank testified today at the trial of the man accused of breaking campaign laws to beat him in the 2004 election.

Don Blank testified at Regent David Hergert's impeachment trial before the state Supreme Court.

Blank said that Hergert's late reporting of what he had spent on his campaign prevented him from getting matching state funds.

Also today, the man in charge of overseeing the state's campaign finance laws says Hergert was warned about missing campaign filing deadlines.

Frank Daley is head of the state Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

Hergert is charged with filing false campaign finance reports in 2004 and violating his oath of office.

Daley said that Hergert was sent a letter before the 2004 general election as a warning because he had missed deadlines in the primary.

A lawyer for the Legislature is now trying to convince the state Supreme Court to uphold Hergert's impeachment.

David Domina is arguing that Hergert purposely designed his 2004 campaign to prevent his opponent, incumbent Don Blank, from accessing public money.

Candidates for state offices who agree to abide by state spending limits qualify for public funds if their opponents exceed the cap.

Candidates who do not abide by the caps must estimate what they will spend and inform a state commission when they reach 40 percent of that total. That triggers the release of matching funds.

Hergert exceeded the cap last year, but did not notify the state by the deadline. That deprived Blank of \$15,000 in matching funds in the closing days of the campaign.

Hergert spent much of his money on advertising attacking Blank. attack ads Hergert bought in the week or so before the election.

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