

## **MOCK SAYS EXCESSIVE OVERTIME PAYMENTS SHOW JAEGER'S MISMANAGEMENT OF OFFICE**

(FARGO, N.D.) – Today Secretary of State candidate Rep. Corey Mock questioned the leadership of Secretary Jaeger given the excessive amount of overtime accrued and the backlog of work in the office.

Mock held a press conference where he revealed that under Jaeger's direction, the office accumulated over 3,600 hours of overtime from July 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. That is an average of 181 hours of overtime for each of the 20 employees that received overtime in that 10-month period. In the previous biennium, the office paid a total of 7209.75 hours of overtime for 22 out of 27 employees, and the office is on track to accumulate the same amount for this biennium.

The two salaried directors of the office have accrued 605 and 549 hours, respectively, in just 10 months time, which is nearly 4 months of overtime each in less than a year.

Jaeger has acknowledged that his office is behind in its work, yet no amount of overtime seems adequate enough to rectify the delays that plague his office.

“To me, this is a clear sign of mismanagement of his office. It’s either a waste of money, a case of overworking staff, or maybe it's both. All the while, there are delays in paperwork that are hurting North Dakota businesses.”

Jaeger has failed to request additional staff to address the backlog. Overtime wages cost North Dakotans time and a half, and Mock believes that taxpayers would be better served if the office hired more help. Mock also noted that the Attorney General's office has almost seven times as many employees as does the Secretary of State's, yet the AG's office has accrued approximately the same amount of overtime.

Mock said that it’s time for Secretary Jaeger to take responsibility for what goes on in his office and stop passing the buck.

“I am running for office to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars, and to efficiently carry out the state’s business. Managing an office well is an extremely important part of being an elected official. Despite all of these overtime hours, there have been no improvements in efficiency within the office. It is clearly time for a change in leadership in the Secretary of State's office,” Mock said.

According to Mock, this is yet another example of mismanagement in what has become a pattern with Secretary Jaeger.

“First, we learned that Secretary Jaeger signed a contract with an out-of-state, bankrupt company to print our ballots. Then he left a candidate off the ballot for the primary election, failed to tell him about it, and declared that he would still place him on the ballot despite legal questions about his actions. And if that wasn't enough, he sent an election certificate to a candidate who did not receive enough votes to be on a ballot. Now we learn that his office is handing out thousands of hours of overtime at the taxpayers' expense; where do these inefficiencies stop?”

