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Cooking The Books!

"Mike Berryhill has been churning through loans..." - *The Modesto Bee*, 5/29/2010

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Just like the Greek government cooked its books to persuade the European Union to allow it to join the single currency, so has career politician Mike Berryhill "cooked" his campaign financing reports to make it appear he has established widespread support.

According to Federal Election Committee reports, Berryhill has raised over \$600,000.00 for his campaign. Looking beyond report summaries, however, we learn that **Berryhill is engaged in a politician's version of the old check kiting scheme where he puts huge personal loans into the account, and then pays himself back as soon as the reporting period is over.** Berryhill's actions are political gamesmanship and a disingenuous attempt to dupe potential donors into believing he has widespread financial support.



MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!



"Berryhill, though, has also begun paying himself back well before the election season kicks off." - Modesto Bee, February 2, 2010

The last Federal Election Committee report filed by Berryhill shows he made a loan repayment to himself for \$225,000.00 and then turned around just before the report filing deadline and re-loaned himself \$225,000.00. Meanwhile, in his many financial appeals to potential donors, nowhere is there any mention that the money may go to Berryhill's loan repayments.

Often times, a candidate will loan his or her committee personal funds to jump start their campaign. Those candidates then repay their loan once the campaign is over and all other debts and obligations are met. Berryhill, however, is doing it differently. He is making the loan, repaying it or some of it with another loan that only shows up after the next financial reporting deadline.

Then he does it again...

Most recently, Berryhill loaned himself \$225,000.00 on May 19, 2010 to be repaid on June 30, 2010. Of the \$600,000.00+ raised by Berryhill, \$570,000.00 is loans from himself. Of these loans, Berryhill has already repaid himself \$245,000.00. That leaves \$225,000.00 for current donors to pay off.

***Berryhill Federal Election Committee Reports: [12/31/2009](#) [3/31/2010](#) [5/19/2010](#)