

Pence targeted for defeat by women's group

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Chris Sikich, chris.sikich@indystar.com 2:46 p.m. EDT June 10, 2015



(Photo: Charlie Nye / The Star)

The fallout from the so-called [Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(/topic/religious-freedom-restoration-act/\)](/topic/religious-freedom-restoration-act/) continues for Gov. Mike Pence.

A women's political organization has targeted the first-term governor during the 2016 election. Saying Pence is not a friend of women, Washington, D.C.-based EMILY's List says it will work to ensure he is not re-elected.

The group says it has raised \$400 million over time to support Democratic pro-choice candidates. While EMILY's list likely won't be the only out-of-state group spending time and money to unseat Pence, his political allies didn't sound concerned.

"Indiana's economy is stronger than ever, our schools are improving and the governor wakes up everyday focused on how to get more, higher-paying jobs to Indiana," said Indiana Republican Party spokeswoman Erin Reece. "Emily's List will focus on divisive, negative politics that divides people, and Hoosiers will reject such tactics."

The group publishes an "On Notice" list that currently includes 16 Republicans being targeted in 2016. Pence is the first governor the group has targeted next year.

Stephanie Schriock, the group's president, said in a news release that Pence has a political record of supporting policies dangerous to women and families and damaging to the economy.

Schriock cited, in the news release, his [signing of the RFRA law \(/story/news/politics/2015/03/25/gov-mike-pence-sign-religious-freedom-bill-thursday/70448858/\)](/story/news/politics/2015/03/25/gov-mike-pence-sign-religious-freedom-bill-thursday/70448858/), his support of federal legislation that sought to limit abortions, even in certain cases of rape, while in Congress. She also cited the closure of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Scott County 2013 ahead of an HIV outbreak. The clinic provided HIV testing, though it did not offer abortion services.

"The EMILY's List community — more than three million members strong — is committed to holding elected officials accountable who are more focused on driving their extreme ideological agendas than growing the economy and giving more women and families a fair shot," Schriock said in a prepared statement.

Three Democrats have announced they are running in 2016: Former Indiana House Speaker John Gregg, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz and Sen. Karen Tallian, D-Ogden Dunes.

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[Chris Sikich \(/staff/6639/chris-sikich\)](http://www.indystar.com/staff/6639/chris-sikich)



Hamilton County Reporter: Chris Sikich is an award-winning journalist who covers Hamilton County on the government watchdog and investigations team. Chris has been reporting on state and local governments for The Indianapolis Star since 2007.

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