

Complaint filed in COA to bar “fake Tea Party” candidates from the ballot

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As reported in today's *Detroit Free Press*, a group of Republican candidates and Tea Party activists have filed suit in the Michigan Court of Appeals to keep candidates from appearing on the ballot whom the plaintiffs claim represent a phony Tea Party formed by Mark Steffek, a retired UAW worker. The plaintiffs allege that the 23 candidates claimed to have been nominated before a party convention was even held. Already, assertions that at least one of the candidate affidavits was forged has led to the resignation of an Oakland County Democratic Party official who apparently acted as a notary. Steffek's Tea Party plans to file a separate lawsuit today, challenging the Board of State Canvassers' decision to leave the candidates off the ballot.