

## **Teal Confirms Legal Suit Resulting from Illegal Campaign Tricks**

### **Shadow Cast Over Marshall County Sheriff's Office**

Ed Teal released the following statement today:

After numerous inquiries from the press and private citizens of Marshall County, I have decided it is best to address the suit that has been filed and clear up the rumors and confusion.

It is a matter of public record that a legal action suit has been filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham in response to a series of dirty campaign tricks designed to hinder my candidacy. (Amended Complaint Attached) On January 6, 2010, the day after I announced my candidacy for sheriff of Marshall County, a person who took steps to mask his identity purchased a series of internet domain names with the intent of obstructing my campaign. The domains were mostly variations of my name, Ed Teal and included Internet Domain Names like "VoteEdTeal.com", "EdTealForSheriff.com", and "TealForSheriff.com". The obvious intent was to deprive my campaign from the use of the Internet in support of my candidacy.

Materials from the domain name service on which these domain names were registered show that a current Chief Deputy Sheriff, Doug Gibbs, reserved those names without my permission. So far, the Sheriff has not taken any action or made any statements condemning these campaign tactics.

The most egregious part of this whole unfortunate situation is the attitude of the individuals involved and their disregard for the rule of law when presented with the opportunity to execute a cheap political trick.

The lawsuit speaks for itself; however, as chief law enforcement office for the county, the Office of Sheriff is entrusted to enforce the law. If the Sheriff cannot manage his own deputies, how can he be trusted to address the real challenges that face Marshall County such as illegal immigration and infiltration of crystal meth.