

Jewish Ex-Navy Seal Veteran and Rhodes Scholar runs for GOP Governor Nomination in Missouri



Eric Greitens: “What’s beautiful about the military is that it’s probably the most well integrated institution on the planet.” (Photo: Chloe Crespi)

Eric Greitens threw his hat in the ring this week announcing his run for the GOP nomination in the 2016 Governor race in Missouri reported the JTA/Forward [Just before suicide, Missouri politician fretted about rumors he was Jewish](#), amidst a whispering anti-Semitic campaign aimed at knocking him out of contention. Tom Schweich, had Jewish origins-his grandfather. Schweich was an Episcopalian.

The Forward reported:

Tom Schweich committed suicide right before he was supposed to file a complaint against another

political figure, John Hancock, for spreading that he was Jewish in attempts to hurt his candidacy.

Just two days before the suicide, ex-navy seal Eric Greitens launched an exploratory committee to raise funds for the governor race. He has already obtained \$400,000 for the GOP primary,

Although it is expected that he will run, Greitens has refused to give the public any details about

his stance. He has declined requests on why he is running, what issues he wishes to tackle and the issues Missouri residents are concerned about.

These pressing topics include abortion rights, the state's financial crisis and of course the Black Lives Matter movement that has been taking place in Ferguson, Missouri due to a young black man being shot by a police officer.

“Unfortunately Eric isn’t

doing political interviews at this time,” said Greitens’ press officer, Adam Miller, when pressed on this. Miller indicated that the Navy SEAL, who has not yet officially declared his candidacy, was more focused right now on his promoting his book.

In his interview, Greitens was willing to go on the record with a clear statement about his religion. “I’m proud to be Jewish,” he told the

Forward.

As to the controversy surrounding the allegations of a rumored anti-Semitic campaign against Schweich, the *Forward* noted:

Hancock, the chairman of the Missouri State Republican Committee, has admitted that he was one of those who had stated that Schweich was Jewish, but that it wasn't supposed to be malicious

Though, former Republican

U.S. Senator John Danforth, a dean of Missouri state politics, refuted that statement. Richard Fox, a Jewish donor to the Republican party in Missouri, has insisted that Hancock resign for his comments.

But Greitens declined to say whether Hancock should give up his position as chairman of the Missouri GOP. “Before I would make that determination I would want to talk with John

Hancock and I would want to know more about what these accusations are,” he said.

As for allegations of anti-Semitism, Hancock said it was as simple as saying “I’m a Presbyterian and somebody else is Catholic,” but that it was intended to hurt anyone.

At least one Republican donor did not interpret it innocuously. In a sworn affidavit, David Humphreys said he understood Hancock to mean “that being Jewish

is a negative attribute for Tom Schweich's gubernatorial race."

However, a detective involved in the police investigation of the suicide told the *Associated Press* that "we have not been able to prove that there was a whispering campaign."

Greitens responded:

"It certainly could be that there are prejudices around," said Greitens, the

**honest-to-goodness Jewish
GOP gubernatorial
candidate. “I can only
speak to what I have lived,
and I have experienced that
people have been incredibly
welcoming to me as a Jewish
Republican.”**

**“There is no room for anti-
Semitism in the Republican
Party,” Greitens insisted,
“and the leaders need to
show that.”**

**We know from the
deadly April 2014
attack , in
adjacent Overland
Park, Kansas that
Missouri harbors
some anti-Semitic
extremists. See our
Iconoclast post,**