

# When the shine comes off the apple

By **DAVID A. COOK**  
President

In early 2015, it seemed unlikely that political newcomer Eric Greitens could win a statewide Republican primary, much less beat Democrat Attorney General Chris Koster, a true champion of middle class Missourians.

But now, Eric Greitens is governor of Missouri thanks in no small part to a wave of anti-establishment fever that swept political “outsiders” like Greitens and Donald Trump into office. Gov. Greitens’ ambition is to one day occupy the White House himself. This is no secret here in Missouri. He’s already reserved his presidential website. He’s made trips to Iowa. He’s sought out events across the country to bump-up his national profile.

Barely three weeks ago the world shifted under the governor’s feet, and Missourians were staring into the face of a scandal threatening to engulf a governor who already strained relationships, even with his own party, in Jefferson City.

You’ve probably heard the television reports or seen the headlines. Gov. Greitens had an affair which lasted for many of the early months of his campaign. The woman he was involved with, his former hairdresser, told her now ex-husband that Greitens took intimate photos of her without her consent and promised to release them if she ever “mentioned his name.”

The governor admits to this affair but denies threats of blackmail. His wife released a statement saying the two had worked through Eric’s “mistake” and both asked for privacy in the matter.

For some of you, it’s easy to feel inclined to let this go. A consensual affair that a married couple are able to move past seems like their personal business, and not something the public ought to be too concerned with. While I understand that instinct, it’s important to remember who Eric Greitens claimed to be during his campaign as this affair took place, and even who he claimed to be in the months and weeks before this scandal broke.

During his campaign, and even as governor, he railed against the “establishment” and entrenched special interests. He promised to “clean up Jefferson City”



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so often it would have surprised no one if he began handing out mops at his rallies. Eric Greitens ran on transparency, he ran on cleaning up our State Capitol, and he ran on family values.

In a now infamous election ad, Greitens promised to “take aim at politics as usual” before firing an assault rifle at a distant target that then exploded into the air.

And yet, is there anything more representative of “politics as usual” as a married elected official caught engaging in exactly the kind of behavior he claimed was repulsive and wrong? Is there anything more “usual” as a politician hiding for more than a week after a scandal breaks, only to emerge for interviews with friendly news outlets to avoid answering any difficult questions?

Gov. Greitens is officially a typical politician: Flash without substance, talk without walk.

Even if he is not guilty of the criminal act of threats of blackmail — which are deeply disturbing — he is absolutely guilty of hypocrisy and political cowardice.

Sadly, we now know that Eric Greitens ran on three principles and didn’t believe in any of them. Simply put, he isn’t who he says he is.

**He doesn’t care about cleaning up the Capitol** — if he did he wouldn’t threaten members of his own party and bully school board members.

**He doesn’t care about transparency** — just look at his record on deleting text messages or pushing against open records requests.

**He doesn’t care about special interests and dark money** — his own campaign and time as governor have been flooded with dark money from mysterious donors.

**And now we know he certainly doesn’t care about family values.** He’s the first governor in state history to feature his wife and children in his official portrait hanging in government buildings and offices around the state. Yet as he preached family values to us he was having an affair behind the back of his pregnant wife.

After spending literally years telling us that he was better, it turns out that Eric isn’t the better man at all. He is, in fact, more of the same.

*“Beware the person who seeks to lead and has not suffered, who claims responsibility on the grounds of a spotless record...”*  
– Eric Greitens, Resilience: Hard-Won Wisdom for Living a Better Life.

## Local 655 Executive Board sworn in



**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UFCW LOCAL 655** was sworn in last week to start their new three-year term. The Local 655 Executive Board oversees the decisions made by Local 655 including monitoring expenditures, managing the budget, and approving procedures for the good of the entire union. The Board consists of elected union officers like President David Cook, Secretary-Treasurer Garry Torpea, and Recorder Nancy Parker, along with rank-and-file Local 655 members from various workplaces, as well as a small number of staff members. State Sen. Jacob Hummel administered the oath of office. (Not pictured: Rank-and-file board member Harry Walker.)

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## It’s Time: Local 655 Members vote to give to the RTW fight

Over the course of more than a dozen meetings in five Missouri cities, Local 655 members voted overwhelmingly to approve the membership-wide 12-month assessment of 50 cents per week to raise funds to fight “right-to-work-for-less” in Missouri.

The 2018 vote on Prop A is one of the most serious votes for middle-class families in Missouri’s history. If so-called “right-to-work for less” is allowed to pass, it will impact all Missourians.

States with RTW on the books have household incomes that are lower by thousands of dollars on average, they have higher workplace fatalities, and they don’t create higher-quality jobs.

UFCW has been one of the single most active organizations in the state in making sure that RTW does not become law in 2018. An overwhelming vote of rank-and-file members of Local 655 sends a clear message that UFCW is all in here in Missouri.



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