

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)

Editorial was right about Hinckley Institute

Letter to the Editor

Posted: 9/8/06

Editor:

I agree strongly with your unsigned editorial ("Hinckley Institute's intentions need to be closely monitored," Sept. 7) regarding the need to keep a vigilant eye on partisanship at the Hinckley Institute of Politics because its director, Kirk Jowers, has shown his active partisanship by serving as Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's political action committee's legal counsel.

I served 18 years as director of the Hinckley Institute and walked the fine line that Jowers now treads. As director, one must show students the need for partisan involvement by example but manage the institute's programs and programming in a way that involves all varieties of opinion—a point well made by your editorial.

In my view, Jowers has done an excellent job so far with this delicate task. I know from personal association—though Jowers is Republican and I am a Democrat—that his views are moderate and well positioned to afford lively debate—an atmosphere the Hinckley Institute is famous for.

"Every student a politician," is the institute's motto, and this should apply to keeping a bit of heat on Jowers. That heat, provided by The Chronicle and others during my days, will help Jowers meet the challenge.

Ted Wilson

Director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, 1985-2003

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