

Leader of White Supremacist Group Cited in Charleston Shooter Manifesto Donated to Walker, Johnson, Ryan

Posted on Jun 23, Posted by [Bob Kiefert, Green Bay Progressive](#) Category [Wisconsin](#)



Earl Holt III, leader of white supremacist group Council of Conservative Citizens cited in 'Dylann Roof manifesto' donated to top Republican politicians, including ours in Wisconsin. Says it is "not surprising" that Roof learned about "black-on-white violent crime" from the group's site.

GREEN BAY - A white supremacist who influenced the Charleston church shooter gave tens of thousands of dollars to Republican candidates and committees in the past five years, including \$3,500 to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, \$1,250 to Sen. Ron Johnson and \$1,000 to Rep. Paul Ryan's leadership committee.

The Green Bay Press Gazette [reported](#) Monday that Earl Holt III, president of the Council of Conservative Citizens, which was cited in a manifesto by shooter Dylann Roof, contributed \$500 on seven occasions to Walker's campaign since 2011.

Holt also contributed \$500 in 2011 and \$500 in 2012 to Ryan's Prosperity PAC and gave Johnson's campaign \$250 in 2010 and \$1,000 in 2013. In Johnson's campaign filings from 2013, Holt lists his occupation as "slumlord."

AshLee Strong, a Walker spokeswoman, said, "The governor will be donating this money to charity."

A spokeswoman for Johnson said his campaign learned about the contributions on Monday

morning and cut a check for the full amount to a charity to help the victims in Charleston.

"As soon as we discovered that Mr. Holt had contributed to the campaign, we immediately donated the full amount of his contribution to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund," Johnson campaign spokeswoman Betsy Ankney said.

A spokesman for Ryan's committee said the PAC will give the contributions it received from Holt to the Charleston church where the shooting occurred.

Roof, the suspect in last week's murder of nine blacks at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., said he learned about "brutal black-on-white murders" from the Council of Conservative Citizens website.

Holt said in a [statement posted Sunday on the group's website](#) that it is "not surprising" that Roof learned about "black-on-white violent crime" from the group's site. But the group "unequivocally condemns Roof's murderous actions."

The [Guardian](#) first reported Sunday that Holt has given more than \$65,000 to Republicans in recent years, including presidential contenders Rick Santorum, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz.

Melissa Baldauff, WisDems Communications Director, also contributed to this article.

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