

SPECIAL REPORT

TRUE LIES:

The REAL Ryan Hampton Story

By Chuck Muth

September 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION

For the past couple of years, I've been working with Nevada Assembly District 9 candidate Erica Neely.

She's a graduate of my Campaign Boot Camp and member of my Winners Circle candidate coaching program.

And when I tell you she's something special, you better believe it.

But some say she can't win. Don't believe it.

That's the same thing everybody told me in 2018 about Assembly candidate and brothel owner Dennis Hof.

Dennis went on to win with 62% of the vote...three weeks after he died!

Now, I won't lie to you – unlike her opponent, Lyin' Ryan Hampton – it won't be easy.

Through the last campaign finance reporting period at the end of June, Erica had raised around \$56,000.

Hampton, on the other hand, had raised around \$190,000.

Pretty big gulf, right? But before writing this race off, consider two things:

1.) Hampton ran for the Assembly in 2024 in a different district.

In that race, he raised just over \$660,000... and STILL lost to Lisa Cole.

2.) Erica also ran for the Assembly in 2024. Against the sitting Democrat Assembly Speaker, Steve Yeager.

She raised just over \$49,000 - compared to Yeager's \$691,000.

And she came within two points of beating him!

So as I teach my students, you don't have to raise as much money as your opponent.

You just have to raise enough money to communicate your message to the voters - if you have the right message to communicate.

Since the June primary, I've been studying Lyin' Ryan's background and history.

And if Erica can raise enough money to tell voters the REAL story, to the right voters, at the right time, in the right media...

She could very well be the next David vs. Goliath success.

So in this Special Report - "True Lies: The Real Ryan Hampton Story." - I'll be telling you all about it.

Buckle up. It's gonna be one heckuva ride.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"I was already practiced at concealing that I was gay. My addiction was another thing to hide..." – *Ryan Hampton, "American Fix"*

CHAPTER 1

In the 1972 Western classic *The Cowboys*, Wil Andersen, played by John Wayne, has just lost his regular cattle drive crew to a gold rush and is desperate for hands to drive his herd to market.

So he recruits a group of schoolboys.

And while the kids are on the ranch learning the skills to make the drive, three grown drifters ride up looking for work, led by Bruce Dern's character, Asa Watts.

Dern explains that the three tried their hand at panning for gold but came up empty and were "ready to get back to what we know, and that's cows."

Wayne asks about their experience.

"There's Oscar West at the Triple-D, and George C. Thompson over there at McNeil," Dern replies, then adds, "Dillard Fant at the Santa Rosa."

"How long were you with Fant?" Wayne asks.

Dern replies, "Well, sir, the last eight years. What a lovely old gentleman he is. If we weren't three of the damndest fools you ever saw we'd be there with him now."

"And if you were, you'd be in a pine box," Wayne deadpans. "I was pallbearer at his funeral five years ago."

Caught in a lie, Dern fesses up that the three were "fresh out of jail" and lied because "when you tell that to people, they just turn a deaf ear on you."

Wayne then informs Dern that he won't hire them.

"You mean you're gonna be like everybody else and not give us a chance?" Dern asks.

To which the Duke replies, "I don't hold jail against you, but I hate a liar."

Which brings us to Nevada Assembly District 9 candidate Ryan Hampton.

* * *

Hampton is essentially applying for the job of representing the voters of Assembly District 9.

So it's natural to ask what experience he has that qualifies him as the best person for the position.

When he ran for the same office in a different district, AD4 in 2024, Hampton provided his own sorta “fresh out of jail” story.

In a video promo he explained:

“I’m Ryan Hampton, running for Nevada Assembly. When I injured my knee hiking in my twenties, the doctor prescribed opioids and addiction and despair began.”

On his “Meet Ryan Hampton” [page](#) his campaign wrote:

“Like many in our state and across the country, in his twenties, Ryan went through a period of addiction after being prescribed painkillers for a hiking injury.”

Hampton lost that race to Assemblywoman Lisa Cole, then carpet-bagged his way into AD9 last year.

And on his new-and-improved (but not lemon-scented) “About” [page](#) on his campaign website he writes:

“Like many in our state and across the country, in his twenties, Ryan went through a period of addiction after being prescribed painkillers for a hiking injury.”

But like Bruce Dern in *The Cowboys*, Hampton’s hiding some important information about his drug addict past from his prospective employers.

He’s not telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

In fact, it’s a lie of omission. A BIG LIE.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

“I could fake being straight indefinitely. But I couldn’t fake being sober forever.” – Ryan Hampton, “American Fix”

CHAPTER 2

There's a great scene in the 1970 World War II – or as Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) calls it, World War Eleven – epic movie “Patton.”

General Patton is awakened and advised that German Field Marshal Rommel was planning an attack at El Guettar.

The scene ends with the camera panning to Patton's nightstand where a copy of Rommel's book, *Infantry Attacks*, was sitting.

While watching the ensuing battle unfold just as he anticipated, Patton lowers his binoculars and shouts triumphantly...

“Rommel, you magnificent bastard, I read your book!”

And with that in mind, I started reading Nevada Assembly District 9 candidate Ryan Hampton's book, *American Fix*.

What an eye opener. And what a world-class liar.

As you'll recall from the Introduction, Hampton has been presenting a sanitized version of his drug addiction to voters in both his failed 2024 campaign, as well as this year's.

To hear him tell it, in his own words...

“I'm Ryan Hampton, running for Nevada Assembly. When I injured my knee hiking in my twenties, the doctor prescribed opioids and addiction and despair began.”

And now, as Paul Harvey used to say, the rest of the story...

* * *

I'll accept at face value Hampton's claim that he started taking prescribed opioids for the pain from injury.

But there's a lot more to his story, as detailed in his own book, that's been conveniently hidden from voters on the campaign trail.

Let's start with something small and generally insignificant.

On the campaign trail, as you'll see from the quotes taken directly from his campaign websites, he says it was a knee injury.

But in his book he wrote that he started taking the pain-killer pills “after I'd hurt my ankle, and it just wasn't healing.”

He then blamed his ensuing addiction on “seeking care for my ankle.”

Ankle or knee?

Yeah, that’s a pretty minor difference. But it portends much bigger problems and discrepancies in his story as it all unfolds. So let’s get started.

Hampton writes about taking his first prescribed pill and notes that his pain went away.

However, he wrote, “Four hours later it came back. So I took another one.”

“The number of pills I had wasn’t enough,” he explained. “It was never enough.”

Hampton notes that he got that first prescription pain pill “in a doctor’s office.”

He then derisively refers to his doctors as his “dealers” and refers to their care as “nothing less than medically sanctioned murder.”

That’s a damned serious accusation... if true.

But is it? Let’s see.

First, Hampton admits to earlier drug use, marijuana, and alcohol.

He writes that he “enjoyed my college years and the period of socially acceptable excessive drinking.”

Then, after getting his first prescription, Hampton writes:

“I bounced in and out of care clinics, collecting a new prescription every time. My ankle had long since healed, but I’d tell the doctors that it hurt, and they’d reach for the prescription pad.”

So in other words, he LIED to his doctors - but still accuses THEM of “medically sanctioned murder.”

In his mind he is, of course, completely blameless. He’s a “victim.”

But is he really? Onward...

CHAPTER 3

Hampton goes on to write about finding Dr. Leah – “tall, like a model, with long blond hair” – who operated a pain clinic in Ft. Lauderdale in 2005.

He says he told the nurse who checked him in that “My ankle is swollen” – even though it wasn’t.

In other words, he lied. Again.

Dr. Leah prescribed him two new prescriptions for OxyContin and oxycodone.

She also told him, he admits, that if he had any problems with the dosage being too high that she would...

“...taper you off at ten to twenty percent of your dosage per day until you’re completely off the medication.”

And she told him to come back in a month.

But, Hampton admits, “I lasted three weeks.”

“My ankle didn’t hurt,” he writes. “I was doing great. ***If I took the pills more frequently than the doctor’s suggestion, so what?***”

In other words, HE immediately started misusing his prescription. Not the doctor. HIM.

Hampton continues:

“When the prescription was almost gone, I realized I had another week before I could go back for a refill. I panicked. The long days without my medicine stretched out in front of me. I felt nauseated. How would I get by?

“I picked up the phone and, with shaking hands, dialed Dr. Leah. Luckily, the receptionist was able to get me an appointment for the next day – for an extra \$100. I was happy to pay that amount out of pocket. Soon I had more pills and my fear of running out of them went away. ...

“THIS prescription was gone in less than two weeks. The next one, even sooner.”

So instead of tapering off as the doctor advised, HE doubled down.

“I couldn’t afford an extra \$300 per month to cover my early visits to Dr. Leah, so I found another clinic that would prescribe to me. And then another one. I rotated as many as five pain doctors as I juggled those pill bottles. The whole time, I somehow knew that what I was doing was risky...”

Again, these were choices HE made.

Instead of sticking with Dr. Leah and working with her to taper off, he just went to five different doctors, lied about his condition, and kept popping more and more pills.

HE was misusing his opioid prescription – lying all the way,

But somehow THEY were committing “medically sanctioned murder”?

And things were about to go from bad to worse. Much worse.

And if you don’t already know the story, you’re simply not going to believe it.

CHAPTER 4

As I've [written previously](#), before this series, the paperback version of Ryan Hampton's book includes an updated section to his story in which he demonizes pharmaceutical companies and blames them for his addiction without acknowledging his own role in creating his own problem.

He wrote that pharmaceutical companies were guilty of "medically sanctioned mass murder," that if they "were drug dealers, they'd be behind bars for life," and compares entire, federally regulated American companies to "El Chapo."

Hampton also claims the pharmaceutical industry "buys elected officials in every branch of government" and invokes 9/11, the Titanic, and plane crashes full of dead passengers to depict those he blames for his addiction.

But the fact is, his own actions and choices – willfully and knowingly made - led to his addiction that didn't lead others down the same path.

He was given a prescription by a doctor and immediately began misusing it.

He was popping more pills than prescribed and lied about his injury to keep getting more rather than taper off as his doctor advised.

And the misuse of opioid prescriptions was not as widespread as he would have you believe.

According to numerous studies, the number of people who misuse and abuse opioids for short-term pain – like his ankle/knee injury – is somewhere between 1-3%.

Hardly the epidemic he claims. So let's continue...

* * *

"I used prescription pills for a long time," Hampton writes. Then continues:

"I kept using pills, through the stressful times and the good ones. They were my safety net, my security blanket. I worked on one political campaign after another. I landed multiple senior-level staff positions with the Democratic Party. My star was rising. ... I justified my usage and need by focusing on any excuse in my life."

So not only was he lying to all the doctors and pain clinics who wrote him prescriptions, he was lying to himself.

Lying seems to just be an innate part of his being.

Hampton clearly knew what he was doing but did it anyway.

Yet somehow, we're supposed to blame his doctors and the pharmaceutical companies for his misuse and abuse that comparatively few experienced?

In 2009, Hampton writes, he temporarily kicked the habit - but then "relapsed on pills."

It was then that he "started cooking and injecting the pills."

"I watched YouTube videos about how to shoot up," he writes. "I practiced tying off my arm and watching my veins rise and throb out of my skin."

"I did this with the same collegiate attitude I had toward writing a term paper," he added. "I didn't think about the horrific consequences."

He writes that he knew he should "Just Say No" but that his "need to get high" was saying "Why not?"

He picks up from there:

"I went to a pharmacy and asked for some clean syringes – the kind people use to inject insulin. They were small, slim plastic tubes with long orange caps.

"I took them home in a bag. I had a spoon, a lighter, a cotton ball, and these sterile syringes. I crushed the pills, put them in the spoon with some water and heated it up.

"Let's see what happens, I thought.

"I followed the instructions. They worked. And just like that, my addiction completely took over my life. ... (O)nce the needle went into my arm, there was no turning back."

Again, no doctor or pain clinic or pharmaceutical company told him to crush up the pills and inject them into his arm.

That's something he did on his own after studying YouTube videos.

"The shots left marks on my arm, but I didn't care," Hampton continues.

One day he went to get more pills from a Dr. Sullivan who ran a pain clinic.

And when the receptionist rolled up his sleeve, "she saw the track marks on my skin" and informed the doctor.

"Sullivan was furious with me," Hampton writes. "She accused me of drug-seeking, called me a 'junkie,' humiliated and confused me. *Hadn't she been giving me the prescription?*"

Again, no self-responsibility. It was somehow the doctor's fault that he watched YouTube videos and learned how to shoot the pills into his arm.

The doctor banned him from the clinic "and told me that if I ever came back, they'd call the police."

He returned home, out of pills. And this is where he really fell off the deep end:

"My neighbor, seeing the condition I was in, offered me some of the heroin he had in a piece of foil. This time I didn't turn him down. I snorted what he gave me, then caught the bus to buy new syringes at the pharmacy.

"When I returned home, I locked myself in my room and prepared by first shot of heroin. Easy.

"The first time I missed my vein completely. But the second time I got it. I really got it. As I felt my new reality take hold, I was already planning on how I could score again. I had officially leveled up to IV heroin. Game over."

The neighbor - not the doctor, not the pain clinic, not the pharmaceutical companies - had previously encouraged Hampton to try heroin, "telling (him) it was cheaper and more effective than the pills."

Research suggests two separate, low-probability steps stand between an opioid prescription and heroin use.

First, patients prescribed opioids for a short-term injury - Hampton's situation - misuse them at notably lower rates than chronic-pain patients, on the order of 1-3%.

Second, even among the small number of people who do misuse prescription opioids, only an estimated 4-6% go on to use heroin.

Compounding two low-probability events makes the overall path from a short-term prescription to heroin exceedingly unlikely, though obviously not impossible.

And yet, according to Hampton, the doctors, pain clinicians, and pharmaceutical executives are the ones who are guilty of "medically sanctioned mass murder" and should "be behind bars for life"?

This is not someone whose word can be trusted. On anything.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"From the minute I woke up until the instant I fell asleep, heroin was the only thing I thought about." – **Ryan Hampton, "American Fix"**

CHAPTER 5

Before starting this chapter, I want to make something perfectly clear.

Recovery from heroin addiction is not a small thing, and Ryan Hampton deserves real credit for getting to the other side of it.

Overcoming that kind of dependency takes a level of discipline and resilience that most people never have to summon, and voters should recognize that struggle for what it is.

But the issue here isn't about his addiction or his recovery.

The issue here is that he's been deceptive about his past in both this current election for State Assembly and the one he lost in a different district two years ago.

While Hampton was very open about his heroin addiction in his book, he's hidden that aspect of his struggle on the campaign trail.

He's sanitized the story, referring only to his initial addiction to opioid pills.

Again, here's his talking point in his own words:

"I'm Ryan Hampton, running for Nevada Assembly. When I injured my knee hiking in my twenties, the doctor prescribed opioids and addiction and despair began."

We all know, from painful experience, that even the most "honest" of politicians often succumb to lying, misrepresenting, and fudging their positions once in office.

Now imagine someone with Hampton's history of deception sitting in Carson City.

Well, we don't have to imagine.

He's already done it in this campaign with the other 800-pound gorilla in the room that everyone is afraid to talk about.

Everyone but me.

CHAPTER 6

On July 2, 2026 – after both Hampton and his Republican opponent, Erica Neely, had won their primaries – Hampton posted on X:

“As we celebrate America’s 250th, we need to talk about freedom. There are people running for office right now, including my opponent here in Nevada, who are on the record opposing basic rights like marriage equality.

“This isn’t just about my right to be married. It is about the millions of people whose fundamental rights they want to strip away, including the basic freedom to love who you love.”

And there it is. Playing the “gay card.”

While Hampton is very open about being gay in his book – which I’ll come back to later – he only barely touches it on his campaign’s website, writing:

“Home truly means Nevada for Ryan. It’s where he started his small business in 2019 and married his husband Sean in 2023...”

I guess voters are just supposed to put two and two together. Which is fine. Intentionally deceptive. But fine.

What’s not fine is accusing Erica of homophobia by falsely claiming in his tweet that she’s on record opposing gay marriage.

That’s a lie.

I’ve been working with Erica for more than two years now and not once has she ever brought that issue up.

It was settled by the Supreme Court long ago and has nothing to do with the Nevada Legislature.

As for me, I double-dog-dare Ryan to make the same claim about me. If he does, I’ll embarrass him from here to Uranus and back.

No, what Hampton is trying to hide is his opposition to one of Erica’s signature issues in this campaign: protecting girls’ sports.

And he’s playing the “gay card” in an effort to avoid taking a public stance on it.

Protecting girls’ sports has nothing whatsoever to do with gay marriage. Suggesting it does is just a flat-out lie - the one addiction Hampton just can’t seem to shake.

Indeed, in chapter one of his book, *American Fix*, he writes:

“I was also exploring my sexual identity and finding my footing in the LGBTQ scene very discreetly. My identity added another layer to my already surreptitious drug use. I’d been lying about who I was for so long that it started to feel hardwired into my brain.”

Gee, ya think?

“I was already practiced at concealing that I was gay. My addiction was another thing to hide, from my family, my employers, and even some of my friends.”

A man hardwired to lie - to his family, his employers, and his friends - will obviously have no problem lying to the voters he wishes to represent.

Indeed, he’s already done it. And will do it again. He just can’t help himself.

CHAPTER 7

Again, to be perfectly clear, the issue that should concern voters in Assembly District 9 isn't that he's a former drug addict. Or that he's gay. It's that he's a habitual liar.

In fact, he's even lying about why he moved into Assembly District 9 last year after losing his Assembly race in 2024.

From a *Nevada Current* profile published on May 12, 2026:

"Hampton previously ran in Assembly District 4 in 2024 but lost in the general election. Following the race, he said his family decided to move into AD 9 after facing a rent increase."

A rent increase? Let's go to the tape...

Ryan Hampton and Assembly Speaker Steve Yeager are joined at the hip.

And in that 2024 race the two conspired to pull off "a cheap and dishonest ploy" to elect Hampton by creating a phony PAC designed to "to suppress the GOP vote by lying to Republican voters" about Hampton's GOP opponent, Lisa Cole.

I connected the dots and [exposed the scam](#) in October 2024, right before the election:

"Yeager's PAC had already maxed out to Hampton with two \$5,000 donations and couldn't give him any more."

"So Hampton's business partner created a 'scam' PAC to which Yeager funneled \$100,000 from liberal PACs to do mailers and text messages attacking Hampton's GOP opponent with misleading, at best, ads."

"This is money laundering along with false advertising. A disgraceful campaign tactic. If it was anything other than politics, people would be going to jail."

Yet we're supposed to believe that Hampton conveniently moved into Yeager's Assembly district - after Yeager decided not to run again - because of "a rent increase"?

It's simply not true. And I'll come back to this later.

CHAPTER 8

Ryan Hampton has made a small fortune off his three book deals and speaking fees talking about his addiction.

And according to his 2026 [Financial Disclosure Statement](#), his other sources of income come from Ryan Hampton LLC and his nonprofit organization, We Stand for Recovery LLC.

There's also a web of inter-connected nonprofit organizations – Mobilize Recovery and Foundation for Recovery – fueled by government grants.

IRS records appear to show Mobilize Recovery generating \$1.9 million in revenue for 2025, and Foundation for Recovery shows an additional \$2.02 million for 2024.

And according to some quick research into Hampton's campaign finance reports, it appears he's put \$192,787 dollars of his own money into his campaigns since becoming a candidate in 2023.

While it's near impossible to figure out exactly where and how much of all this money has ended up in Hampton's pocket, one thing is certainly clear: the man is no pauper.

But he moved into AD9 because of "a rent increase"?

Come on. Give us a break.

And still - despite all of this lying and deception and political shenanigans - that's not the #1 reason the voters of Assembly District 9 should reject Ryan Hampton as their representative in Carson City.

Keep reading.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"My election (as a Democrat convention delegate for Hillary Clinton in 2016) made it clear that people were ready to vote in support of this *one specific issue*." – **Ryan Hampton, "American Fix"**

CHAPTER 9

For eleven seasons, television audiences tuned in to watch Sam Malone pour drinks, crack jokes, and hold court behind the bar at *Cheers* - all while carrying, in the background of the show's mythology, the label of a recovering alcoholic.

It was played as one of the show's quiet ironies: the man who battled the bottle now spent every waking hour surrounded by it, and somehow, week after week, he was fine.

It's a good punchline. It's also, according to how addiction actually functions, close to the worst possible setup for someone trying to stay sober.

Ryan Hampton is living in this fantasy world.

His world, however, isn't a neighborhood tavern. It's politics.

Real recovery isn't built on willpower alone, and it isn't immune to environment. Decades of addiction research point to something *Cheers* never had to reckon with.

Sustained exposure to the sights, sounds, and rituals of substance use - the clink of glasses, the smell of a bar, the routine of handing someone a drink - can trigger cravings long after a person has gotten clean, sometimes years into recovery.

And therein lies the danger of spending four months in the high-pressure, insulated political bubble that is the Nevada Legislature in Carson City.

If he falls off the wagon, how will anyone know? He'll just lie about it. Like he's done before.

CHAPTER 10

Hampton says he started in politics when he was around 15.

Worked as a staffer in Bill Clinton's White House (more on that in the Conclusion chapter).

Managed campaigns.

And hung out with "policy makers, legislators, and people I idolized for ages."

"I was surrounded by people like myself," he writes in his book, "which turned out to be a double-edged sword."

"Alcohol was part of every social function. There were work lunches at the brew pub around the corner from my office. Cocktails for networking events. Champagne toasts at every campaign win.

"If my first drug of choice came with a prescription, the second one, alcohol, was culturally embedded and used to celebrate at every turn of events. Was I supposed to 'just say no' to alcohol too when I encountered it every day?"

In the world of politics, nothing has changed. If anything, it's gotten worse.

Yet now Hampton wants to re-enter that world - not as an extra on the set, but as the main character: State Assemblyman.

And we're supposed to pretend this doesn't present a clear and present danger? Not just to the constituents he's seeking to represent, but to his own well-being?

But even that's not what I think should be the #1 concern for the voters of Assembly District 9.

This is...

CHAPTER 11

Hampton writes about listening to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address in January 2016 – some 18 months after cleaning himself up for the fifth time - when the president said:

“We need to work together to help people who are battling prescription drug abuse and heroin abuse.”

And that's when Hampton decided to get back into politics.

In April he saw an article about the upcoming election for delegates to the Democratic National Convention and decided to throw his hat in the ring.

He ran “on a platform about heroin.” His pitch to voters was, “Hi, my name's Ryan Hampton and I'm running for delegate. I'm in recovery for heroin addiction.”

He won a spot in the delegation and said, “I can't believe a junkie like me won.”

He then decided he “was ready to kick my activism into high gear and see where it took me.”

And here's the key point. Hampton wrote:

*“My election made it clear that people were ready to vote in support of this **one specific issue.**”*

And THAT'S the problem Assembly District 9 voters should really be worried about.

It's not just “one specific issue.”

It's his ONLY issue.

Not the cost of groceries. Not the cost of filling up your gas tank. Not our failing public schools. Not traffic. Not unemployment.

Not having toothpaste and soap locked up behind display cases due to crime!

Drug addiction.

But don't take my word for it. Just take a look at his social media X account since he won his primary election in June.

Ryan Hampton's X Post Topics:

June 2026 Primary thru August 28, 2026

8/28: Campaign	7/23 Addiction	6/22 Addiction
8/25: Addiction	7/22 Addiction	6/21 Addiction
8/24: Addiction	7/22 Addiction	6/20 Addiction
8/23: Addiction	7/21 Addiction	6/20 Campaign
8/22: Addiction	7/21 Addiction	6/20 Addiction
8/20 Campaign	7/20 Miscellaneous	6/19 Addiction
8/20 Addiction	7/19 Campaign	6/18 Addiction
8/20 Trump	7/19 Miscellaneous	6/17 Campaign
8/19 Addiction	7/18 Campaign	6/17 Trump
8/18 Addiction	7/17 Addiction	6/17 Addiction
8/17 Addiction	7/17 Miscellaneous	6/16 Campaign
8/16 Addiction	7/16 Campaign	6/16 Addiction
8/15 Addiction	7/16 Addiction	6/15 Addiction
8/14 Addiction	7/15 Addiction	6/14 Addiction
8/14 Addiction	7/14 Addiction	6/13 Addiction
8/13 Addiction	7/13 Campaign	6/12 Miscellaneous
8/13 Addiction	7/13 Addiction	6/12 Addiction
8/12 Addiction	7/12 Addiction	6/12 Miscellaneous
8/11 Addiction	7/11 Addiction	6/11 Addiction
8/10 Addiction	7/11 Addiction	6/10 Campaign
8/9 Addiction	7/10 Campaign	
8/9 Dog	7/10 Addiction	
8/9 Dog	7/10 Campaign	
8/8 Campaign	7/9 Campaign	
8/8 Addiction	7/9 Addiction	
8/7 Addiction	7/8 Addiction	
8/6 Addiction	7/8 Addiction	
8/5 Addiction	7/7 Addiction	
8/4 Miscellaneous	7/6 Addiction	
8/4 Addiction	7/5 Addiction	
8/2 Campaign	7/5 Miscellaneous	
8/1 Miscellaneous	7/4 Miscellaneous	
7/31 Miscellaneous	7/3 Addiction	
7/29 Addiction	7/2 Campaign	
7/28 Addiction	7/2 Addiction	
7/28 Campaign	7/1 Addiction	
7/27 Addiction	6/30 Addiction	
7/26 Campaign	6/29 Addiction	
7/26 Addiction	6/28 Dog	
7/25 Addiction	6/28 Addiction	
7/24 Addiction	6/27 Addiction	
7/24 Addiction	6/26 Addiction	
7/23 Campaign	6/25 Campaign	
7/23 Addiction	6/25 Addiction	
7/23 Addiction	6/24 Addiction	
7/23 Addiction	6/23 Campaign	

He posted 112 times.

Over 2/3 of them – 76 in total - were about drug addiction.

Another 21 are about the campaign – almost all of them simply announcing endorsements, mostly from unions.

Another 15 about miscellaneous topics, including his dog and Donald Trump.

Notice anything missing?

Not a single tweet about Assembly District 9, the struggles those voters are facing in *their* daily lives, and what he'd do about them.

The truth is, Ryan Hampton isn't running to represent the voters of AD9.

He's running to gain a bigger microphone and soapbox to talk about the one and only issue he really has any interest in: drug addiction.

In fact, one might say his campaign is addicted to drug addiction.

CHAPTER 12

To be fair, Hampton's campaign website does talk about other issues. But only in generic, poll-tested consultant language.

Some samples:

- "I will fight to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare by increasing state funding for subsidy programs."
- "I will work to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Nevadans."
- "I will work...to ensure our public safety professionals have the resources they need to keep us secure."
- "I will champion policies that increase the supply of attainable housing for both renters and homeowners."
- "I am committed to fighting for our students, teachers, and schools by increasing funding to classrooms."

A lot of high-fallutin' fancy words that say absolutely nothing – other than he wants to increase government spending which, of course, means raising your taxes.

His campaign isn't about you. It's about him - and the only issue he really cares about.

Drug addiction, drug addiction, drug addiction.

Marcia, Marcia, Marcia.

A single-issue candidate.

Or as his opponent, Erica Neely, calls him, a "one-trick pony."

But again, the thing that really bothers me about this guy isn't that he's a recovering drug addict. It's that he's a stone-cold liar.

This "politician" no longer talks about heroin addiction the way he did in his first election to be a convention delegate:

"I'm in recovery for heroin addiction."

That part of his story has been scrubbed from the campaign trail. He's hiding it from the voters he wants to represent.

That's not courage. That's cowardice.

He's nothing but a political opportunist trying to fool voters into giving him a high-profile platform to continue the grift he's created for himself over the past few years.

And that brings us to another huge question:

Who owns him?

CHAPTER 13

There's a scene near the end of *All the President's Men* where "Deep Throat," sitting in that parking garage in shadow, tells Bob Woodward the only three words that matter:

"Follow the money."

Everybody remembers the line.

What everybody forgets is that Woodward and Bernstein didn't get to the truth by asking Richard Nixon nicely.

They got there by pulling campaign finance reports, cross-referencing addresses, and asking simple, boring, unglamorous questions like, "Who wrote this check, and why?"

So that's what I'm doing here with Lyin' Ryan Hampton.

In the previous chapters, I've shown you a man who tells voters he hurt his knee when he wrote in his own book that it was his ankle.

Who's regularly and consistently lied to his doctors, his friends, his co-workers and his family.

Who's scrubbed the word "heroin" from his campaign talking points after writing an entire book about shooting it into his arm.

Who accused his opponent of opposing gay marriage when she's never said any such thing.

Who now wants you to believe he moved into Assembly District 9 because of a rent increase.

Let's take that first, because it's where the money trail actually begins.

CHAPTER 14

Let's start with this: The voters of Assembly District 9 didn't beg Ryan Hampton to move into their district and run for this seat and represent them.

He didn't grow up there. He didn't build a business there. He didn't raise a family there.

And he sure didn't spend years knocking on doors there before deciding he had something to offer them.

He ran, and lost, in a different district, Assembly District 4, in 2024.

Then, when the seat next door opened up because the sitting Assemblyman, Steve Yeager, decided not to seek re-election, Hampton suddenly discovered AD9.

What AD9 offered him was simple arithmetic: friendlier voter registration numbers than AD4.

As I've documented earlier in this series, Hampton told the [Nevada Current](#) a whopper about his move:

"Hampton previously ran in Assembly District 4 in 2024 but lost in the general election. Following the race, he said his family decided to move into AD 9 after facing a rent increase."

That story never added up. Here's why.

The house Hampton now calls home - 6994 Citrine Bluff Way in Las Vegas - was actively listed for rent to tenants as recently as June of 2025.

That listing came down around July 19.

Five days later, on July 24, 2025, Hampton's own campaign finance filings show his first payment tied to that address:

\$2,550 to a political web design firm to build his campaign website.

Five days after that, on July 29, 2025, Nevada's own voter registration records show Hampton officially switched his registration to the Citrine Bluff Way address.

Two weeks after that - on August 11, 2025 - Yeager announced his retirement.

One day after that, Hampton announced his candidacy for the seat - and Yeager immediately endorsed him.

Rental listing pulled in July. Campaign website ordered in July. Voter registration switched to the new district in July.

All of it wrapped up before Yeager had even told the public he was stepping aside.

Maybe that's all a remarkable coincidence.

But four coincidences in a row, all landing in the same three-week window, all lining up perfectly with a Speaker's retirement announcement he supposedly knew nothing about?

Come on. That story stinks like yesterday's diapers.

Now let's follow the money. All of it.

CHAPTER 15

According to Hampton's own campaign finance filings, he has personally loaned close to \$200,000 of his own cash to his campaigns since he first filed to run.

I reported that figure earlier.

But then I went back through every single itemized campaign finance report he's filed, in both his 2024 and 2026 races, line by line.

Here's what I found.

In his 2026 run for AD9, Hampton has personally advanced \$76,196.45 to his own campaign as of his most recent report.

Every single one of those loans is checked off as a loan on the official paperwork - meaning the campaign owes him that money back.

In his 2024 AD4 race, the pattern is even more interesting.

Through just the first three quarters of that campaign, Hampton had already personally loaned his campaign \$68,972.20.

Then, in the campaign's final quarter, the campaign found \$12,771 to pay back to Hampton personally before it ran completely dry.

Read that again.

A campaign that finished the year with \$10 in the bank still managed to cut its own candidate four separate reimbursement checks totaling \$12,771 first.

Now, where does a "person in long-term recovery" - Hampton's own words, the label his campaign leans on constantly - get nearly \$200,000 in spare cash to loan himself, twice, across two different Assembly races?

Follow that money far enough, and it stops looking like a mystery.

CHAPTER 16

Ryan Hampton didn't just build a national reputation off the opioid crisis. He built an entire financial ecosystem off it.

And pieces of that ecosystem are now writing checks to his campaign for a State Assembly seat in a district he only recently moved into.

Start with his own household.

Hampton's husband, Sean O'Donnell, is the Executive Director of Foundation for Recovery, a Nevada nonprofit.

According to research shared with me, Foundation for Recovery's own filings show it sent \$228,574 to Hampton's nonprofit, Mobilize Recovery, in 2023, and another \$50,000 in 2024.

I haven't personally pulled Foundation for Recovery's own tax return to verify those two figures, so take them as reported rather than independently confirmed.

What I have confirmed though, from Mobilize Recovery's own 2021 federal filing, is that Foundation for Recovery gave it \$30,030 that year.

So this is not a new relationship. Money has been moving from Hampton's husband's nonprofit into Hampton's nonprofit for years.

Now follow Hampton's own paycheck.

Mobilize Recovery's 2025 Form 990 - the organization's own federal tax return, signed under penalty of perjury - lists Ryan Hampton's position as "Consultant."

His direct compensation from Mobilize Recovery itself - zero dollars.

However, his compensation "from related organizations" - \$198,260.

WHOA!!

For context: per capita income in Assembly District 9 is \$47,813, according to Census Bureau data.

Ryan Hampton's reported compensation from a related organization alone - not counting his book royalties or his speaking fees - runs to more than four times that figure.

Yeah, a real "man of the people" who couldn't afford "a rent increase."

And that's before you factor in whatever his husband, Sean O'Donnell, draws as Executive Director of his own nonprofit, Foundation for Recovery - a number I haven't been able to pin down, so I'm not going to guess at it.

This gives "non-profit" a whole new meaning. And it's been going on for a while.

CHAPTER 17

Back in 2021, when the same organization was still called The Voices Project, Hampton was listed as "President" - again drawing zero dollars directly from the nonprofit but \$55,000 from a related organization.

In four years, that number has grown almost fourfold.

So which related organization is paying him?

The same tax return only discloses one: We Stand for Recovery, LLC.

Schedule R of Mobilize Recovery's 2025 return states - again, on the record, under penalty of perjury - that Mobilize Recovery paid We Stand for Recovery LLC \$149,000 in 2025 for "performance of services," paid by check.

That's the identical company that shows up on Hampton's own state Financial Disclosure Statement as one of his personal income sources.

And the identical company that has now written \$15,000 in checks directly to his political campaigns.

And here's where it closes into a perfect loop: that same tax return lists We Stand for Recovery LLC's registered address as 6809 Armistead Street, Las Vegas, NV 89149.

That's the same house Hampton himself was living in when the company wrote its first \$10,000 campaign check back in February 2024.

I want to be careful here, because the tax return doesn't spell out in one single sentence that the \$198,260 paid to Hampton came specifically from We Stand for Recovery LLC.

But We Stand for Recovery LLC is the only related organization Mobilize Recovery discloses anywhere on this return. There isn't a second name to point to.

So follow it around the loop one more time: Hampton's husband's nonprofit has been funding Hampton's nonprofit for years.

Hampton's nonprofit's own tax return says it paid \$149,000 to a company that operates out of Hampton's own house.

That same company is where Hampton's personal income comes from, according to his own state disclosure.

And that same company donates to Hampton's political campaign.

Now, none of that is illegal.

Nonprofits transact with related organizations all the time, and the IRS built an entire form - Schedule R - for exactly this kind of disclosure.

I'm not a lawyer and I'm not accusing Ryan Hampton of a crime.

But when a candidate spends his campaign telling voters he's a "person in long-term recovery" fighting for the little guy, and his own nonprofit's own tax filings show nearly \$200,000 a year running through a closed loop with his name on every stop - voters are entitled to ask where the "working family" part of that story actually is.

And that LLC isn't the only insider money, either.

CHAPTER 18

Nicholas Boatman has now given Hampton \$12,000 across three separate contributions.

What his contributor line doesn't tell you is that Boatman is a director of Hampton's own nonprofit, Mobilize Recovery - and, separately, the president of two addiction-treatment companies, the Discovery Institute for Addictive Disorders and Poplar Wellness Group.

Stuart Smith gave Hampton's campaign \$5,000 on September 3, 2025.

That same day, an entity called Smith Vicars & Company LLC - registered at Smith's own Charlottesville, Virginia address - gave another \$10,000.

I flagged that same-day, same-address pairing months ago as a pattern worth running down. Now we know why it matters:

Stuart P. Smith isn't just a name on a donor list. He was the president of Hampton's nonprofit back in 2021, and by 2025 was serving as its Secretary.

And according to that same 2021 tax return, Stuart Smith personally donated \$100,000 to Hampton's nonprofit that year - on top of everything he's since given to Hampton's political campaigns.

Then there's Andrews & Thornton, the Newport Beach, California law firm that's already given Hampton \$15,000 across his two campaigns - on top of \$10,000 from firm attorney Anne Andrews personally and \$10,000 from fellow attorney Sean Higgins.

And this isn't a random California law firm that stumbled onto a Nevada Assembly race.

Anne Andrews and Sean Higgins were both involved in the Purdue Pharma opioid bankruptcy proceedings - the same case where Ryan Hampton was appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice to represent more than 120,000 victims.

Attorney Ed Neiger of ASK LLP is another Purdue-proceedings figure who's given Hampton \$5,500 of his own money.

And according to Mobilize Recovery's 2021 tax return, ASK LLP itself gave Hampton's nonprofit \$100,000 that same year.

I want to be precise about what I can and can't tell you here.

Mobilize Recovery's most recent tax return, for 2025, doesn't publicly list individual donor names the way its 2021 return did.

That kind of disclosure isn't required anymore for a public charity and Mobilize Recovery has apparently stopped including it.

So I can't tell you whether Stuart Smith or ASK LLP are still funding Hampton's nonprofit today.

What I can tell you is what's undeniable: as recently as 2021, they were among his nonprofit's single largest donors.

And every one of them - Smith, ASK LLP through Ed Neiger, Andrews & Thornton through Anne Andrews and Sean Higgins - is also, right now, a donor to Ryan Hampton's political campaign.

None of these people live in Assembly District 9.

Most of them, as far as I can tell, have never set foot in it.

They're not investing in a State Assembly seat. There's obviously much more to it.

Which raises the only two questions that actually matter:

What did Ryan Hampton already do for them, that earned this kind of loyalty?

And what do they expect him to do for them next, once he's sitting in the Nevada Legislature with a vote?

I don't know the answer to either question.

But you don't send this kind of money into a small Nevada state Assembly race - one you have no ties to, in a district you've never lived in, for a man whose actual job before this was suing pharmaceutical companies - without expecting something back.

Maybe it's just access. Maybe it's a friend in office. Maybe it's bigger than that.

Voters in Assembly District 9 don't get to know which one it is.

They just get to watch the money train move.

CHAPTER 19

And it turns out that same 2021 tax return solves a mystery I raised earlier in this series.

Months ago, I flagged what I called the "Naples, Florida cluster" - a group of Hampton campaign donors named Kristen Williams, George Haseotes, Williams Properties LLC, and Structure One LLC, all giving from the same corner of Naples, Florida, totaling more than \$55,000.

At the time, I asked who these people were and what their connection to a Las Vegas Assembly seat could possibly be.

Here's the answer.

Mobilize Recovery's 2021 tax return lists one of its largest donors that year as "Kristen Williams Haseotes" – a single contribution of \$75,000.

Put the two names back together and the mystery disappears.

Kristen Williams and George Haseotes aren't strangers who happened to notice a State Assembly race in Nevada.

They're almost certainly the same Kristen Williams Haseotes who wrote Ryan Hampton's charity a \$75,000 check years ago.

The "out-of-state donors nobody can explain" turned out to be some of Ryan Hampton's own people the whole time.

Same caveat as before:

I can't confirm from what's publicly available whether the Haseotes family is still funding Hampton's nonprofit today, since the most recent return doesn't name individual donors.

But I don't need to.

The pattern is already established. His nonprofit's past mega-donors are his campaign's current mega-donors, again and again.

And none of them live in Assembly District 9.

CHAPTER 20

Even the purely partisan money tells the same story.

Take Joe Kiani, the founder of medical device maker Masimo, who's given Hampton \$5,000 personally - on top of \$10,000 from Masimo Corporation itself and \$10,000 more from a second Kiani family contribution, a \$25,000 cluster I flagged earlier in this series.

Kiani isn't a Nevada figure at all. He's a major national Democratic donor.

The Los Angeles Times has reported he raised roughly \$1.3 million for Joe Biden's 2020 campaign alone, on top of a million-dollar check to a pro-Biden super PAC.

Another half a million to Priorities USA, a quarter-million to Nancy Pelosi's campaign operation, and hundreds of thousands more to the national effort to elect Democrats to Congress.

A man who moves that kind of money at the presidential and congressional level doesn't send \$25,000 to a State Assembly race in Nevada because he cares deeply about zoning in southwest Las Vegas.

He sends it because of who Ryan Hampton is on the national stage.

And maybe because of who Ryan Hampton might become if he moves up the political ladder.

CHAPTER 21

And speaking of industries with a rooting interest in an "addiction advocate" winning a seat in the Legislature...

Let's talk about the \$7,500 that's flowed into Hampton's campaigns from two different arms of Philip Morris International, the tobacco giant behind some of the biggest cigarette brands in the world.

This is the same Ryan Hampton who wrote in his own book that pharmaceutical executives were guilty of "medically sanctioned mass murder" and belonged "behind bars for life" for their role in the opioid crisis.

Funny how that outrage doesn't seem to extend to the people who manufacture and market nicotine - one of the most addictive substances legally sold in America - when they're the ones writing him campaign checks instead of the other way around.

I'm not saying \$7,500 bought Ryan Hampton. It's a small slice of what he's raised overall.

But I am saying that a man who built a national reputation screaming about corporate greed and addiction profiteering apparently draws that line exactly where it's financially convenient for him to draw it.

CHAPTER 22

Now let's zoom out, because everything above is really just symptoms of one much bigger pattern:

Hampton's campaign isn't being funded by the people of Assembly District 9.

Not even close.

Going through every contribution of \$500 or more that Hampton has reported in this election cycle, only 22.8 cents of every dollar comes from somewhere in Nevada.

The rest - more than three out of every four dollars - comes from California, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and points beyond.

Now you know why.

It's not a mystery. It's his own donor network, following him from his nonprofit into his campaign account, one familiar name after another.

One has to ask why?

There's a similar story out of the Baltimore suburbs, where one family and a company sharing their address have combined to give Hampton \$50,000 across three separate reporting periods.

None of that is illegal. But ask yourself this:

Why would people who don't live in Nevada, don't vote in AD9, and in most cases have never set foot in Las Vegas care so much about who represents a State Assembly district on the southwest side of town?

Because, as we've now shown, in case after case, they're not investing in a lowly state legislative seat at all.

They're investing in Ryan Hampton - for reasons that have nothing whatsoever to do with the families living in Assembly District 9.

CHAPTER 23

Which brings me to the thing Ryan Hampton's campaign website will not tell you, but his own endorsement page does.

Go look at ryanfornevada.com/endorsements yourself.

The names featured most prominently aren't Assembly members, aren't county commissioners, aren't anybody from Nevada's part-time citizen Legislature at all.

They're members of the United States Congress: Dina Titus. Susie Lee. And Ro Khanna - a congressman from California's Silicon Valley.

Why would a sitting California congressman care who wins a State Assembly race in Las Vegas?

Add to that "The Next 50," a political action committee whose own public materials brag about endorsing candidates in "crucial state legislative races in battleground states" all across the country - and which has already written Hampton's campaign a \$10,000 check.

And then there's Mosaic Communications, the Arlington, Virginia media firm that has now been paid \$187,972.52 by Hampton's campaign - roughly half of every dollar his campaign has spent this cycle.

And take a look at Mosaic's own published client list sometime.

It's full of the DCCC and other national Democratic Party committees. I couldn't find a single other Nevada race they've ever worked.

Now go read Hampton's actual campaign website.

Nineteen separate issue positions - jobs, housing, healthcare, education, energy, you name it.

And not one of them mentions Assembly District 9 by name.

Not one references a single street, neighborhood, school, shopping center, or specific local concern in the district he's supposedly dying to represent.

He's running a national campaign on national issues, not a local one.

So here's an honest question:

Is Ryan Hampton actually running to represent the people of Assembly District 9... or is a seat in the Nevada Assembly just a stepping stone - a résumé line, a launching pad -

on the way to something bigger in Washington, powered by a network of donors, nonprofits, and consultants who couldn't find AD9 on a map if their lives depended on it?

I think you know the answer.

CHAPTER 24

Earlier I asked the question: Who owns Ryan Hampton?

Follow the money, like Deep Throat said, and here's where it leads.

It leads to a closed financial loop running through his own husband's nonprofit, his own nonprofit's own sworn tax filings, and a company operating out of his own former home.

It leads to a nonprofit board - Boatman, Smith - that writes campaign checks the same day it writes checks from a second checkbook.

It leads to a Purdue Pharma litigation network of attorneys who knew Ryan Hampton from a courtroom, not a canvass, and whose firms poured six figures into his charity years before they ever gave a dime to his campaign.

It leads to a \$75,000 nonprofit donor whose name, split in two, became a mysterious Naples, Florida donor cluster nobody could explain - until now.

It leads to Big Tobacco money flowing to a man who built his entire career denouncing corporate profiteers.

It leads to a Washington, D.C. media firm that doesn't appear to have ever worked a Nevada race before pocketing half of everything he's spent.

And it leads, again and again, right back to Steve Yeager.

The man whose seat this is, whose endorsement Hampton is running on, and whose district Hampton just so happened to register in just days before it opened up.

Nowhere in that trail does the money lead back to the actual voters of Assembly District 9.

And that, more than the ankle-versus-knee story, more than the scrubbed heroin chapter, more than the phony anti-gay accusation against Erica Neely, is what should worry you most.

Because here's the thing about a habitual liar: once you catch him in enough lies you stop being able to take anything he says at face value.

It's a trust issue. And politicians are untrustworthy enough already.

If Ryan Hampton tells you the sun rises in the east, you'd genuinely be forgiven for grabbing a compass and checking for yourself.

That's not cynicism. That's just what happens to a politician's credibility once the pattern of lying and obfuscation becomes this clear.

A final note on all of the above before I get to the conclusion.

I'm a political consultant, not a forensic auditor or a CPA.

Everything in this piece is drawn from public records - Nevada campaign finance filings, Nevada voter registration records, federal nonprofit tax returns, and Ryan Hampton's own campaign website.

And I've done my best to read them accurately and represent them fairly.

But if I've gotten something wrong - misread a filing, or mischaracterized a document - I genuinely want to know about it.

Mr. Hampton and his campaign are welcome to contact me directly, and if a correction is warranted, I'll make it.

CONCLUSION

Here's the bottom line: You just can't trust Nevada Assembly District 9 candidate Ryan Hampton.

With him, the fine print is the main event.

If he says "let me be clear," brace yourself for a San Francisco fog.

And when he says he's fighting for "working families," he's only talking about his own.

And here's the real danger...

Lying Ryan tells great stories because telling stories is his profession.

He's got a cherub-looking face. He's personable. He's articulate. He says all the right things. And I'm sure he can cry on cue.

As George Burns once quipped, "The key to success is sincerity. If you can fake that, you've got it made."

You know, like Bill Clinton. And we all know how that turned out.

Clinton looked the country in the eye, wagged his finger at us, and said with all sincerity, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman."

One of the most infamous lies in all of American political history.

And it's no surprise that Hampton has mastered the Art of the Whopper since he worked for Clinton early in his political career and studied at the feet of the master.

This isn't a guy who just wandered into politics.

This is a guy who, by his own admission, had been "going to left-wing marches and taking part in liberal politics since middle school."

This is a guy who was raised in politics, trained in it, and learned how to say whatever he thinks you want to hear – truthful or not.

It's a serious character flaw.

And he didn't just learn how to lie with a straight face as one of Bill Clinton's White House staffers. He's learned the Art of the Grift from Bill and Hillary as well.

Hampton's Mobilize Recovery non-profit is a formal partner of the Clinton Foundation's Global Initiative - an alleged pay-to-play influence operation long suspected of cashing

in on foreign money, political access, national donor networks, and non-profit money sloshing.

Bill and Lyin' Ryan are literally birds of a feather.

* * *

Again, and I can't emphasize this enough, my point in this series isn't to criticize Ryan Hampton for being a former heroin addict.

My point is that he's a former heroin addict who has intentionally and willfully hidden that fact from the voters he's seeking to represent.

Instead he only talks about his misuse of opioids after a hiking accident. It's a lie of omission.

And as Lord Tennyson observed, "A lie that is half-truth is the darkest of all lies."

Ryan Hampton is the Prince of Dark Lies.

Like how he told a news organization that he moved into Assembly District 9 because of "a rent increase" at his former address when we know it was solely for the purpose of running for what he believes is a more winnable seat.

Like how his whole reason for being is supposedly to fight addiction while simultaneously taking tobacco money for his campaign even though nicotine is one of the most addictive drugs out there.

Like how he claims to be fighting for "working families" while hauling in almost \$200,000 funneled to him through a company tied to his own "non-profit" – not counting his husband's income from a similar charity - plus all his book royalties and speaking fees.

"Working families" in AD9 should be so lucky.

And while we're on the subject, let's talk a little more about his web of "non-profits."

* * *

I went and read Mobilize Recovery's own federal tax filing, in the exact section where the IRS requires a non-profit to describe what it actually does with its money.

Not what Hampton says on a podcast. What the organization tells the federal government, under penalty of perjury, is its real work.

Bus tours. Campus events. "Advocacy workshops." "Empowerment trainings." Celebrity co-chairs. A tour that visited college campuses to "normalize recovery in campus culture."

You know what's not in there?

Treatment beds. Counseling sessions. Case management. Medical detox.

The actual, unglamorous, difficult work that non-profit organizations like [Vegas Stronger](#) do here in Nevada every single day, with addicts who are still fighting for their lives.

From Vegas Stronger's website:

"Our mission is to provide immediate, comprehensive, and evidence-based treatment to individuals struggling with addiction and mental illness, ensuring they receive the care they need without barriers or long waiting lists.

"We treat the person, not just the addiction - focusing on long-term recovery, reintegration into society, and creating a sustainable path to housing, employment, and wellness."

Ryan Hampton doesn't run a treatment program. He runs an awareness campaign. A very well-funded one - with a bus and a book tour and celebrity co-chairs.

And according to the same tax return, nearly \$200,000 flowing to Ryan Hampton personally through a related company.

Vegas Stronger doesn't have that kind of money. Vegas Stronger is too busy actually helping addicts to throw a "surge tour" featuring an American Idol winner.

* * *

George Orwell once wrote, "Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable."

Ryan Hampton is the living embodiment of that trick. Indeed, in his book, *American Fix*, he flat-out admitted it...

"Instead of alcoholic, addict, user, or abuser, we now say a person with a substance use disorder."

The man who wrote that sentence knows exactly how to construct a plausible, sympathetic lie, tell it with a straight face, and walk away with what he came for.

The families of Assembly District 9 aren't his potential constituents. They're his next mark.

In fact, here's another quote, directly from his book, about what he did when he was still strung out on heroin...

"I went to the (Shell gas) station every morning to panhandle for change so that I could buy dope. I told people my car had broken down up the street and asked for gas money."

A clever, if unoriginal, hustle. A small, sympathetic lie, told with a straight face, tested on strangers, and used without shame to get what he wanted.

No wonder he's gravitated back into politics. He's now doing the exact same thing - just better dressed.

Lyin' Ryan has spent the last ten years on national television and on the professional speaking circuit hawking his books.

He's one of the most sincere-sounding liars I've ever watched in Nevada politics – and I've seen a lot of them.

He's the living embodiment of "you can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time."

And Nevada Republicans better pay attention.

* * *

I have no doubt Hampton's run for State Assembly is nothing more than a launching pad to a bigger and higher office, probably Congress.

He's a DC swamp creature, born and fed, who's dying to return to the nest.

Carson City isn't his destination. It's just a rest stop.

The minor leagues while waiting to be called up to the majors.

And probably a new lucrative book deal.

The time to stop him is right here, right now.

Or it's going to be a LOT more expensive to keep him from entering the halls of Congress when he'll be even better funded, better known, and harder to beat.

But it's even more dangerous for the voters in Assembly District 9.

Ryan Hampton isn't running to make things more affordable for families...

He's not running to make gas cheaper...

He's not running make schools better...

He's not running to lower housing costs...

And he's not running to fix the roads...

No matter what his high-priced consultants put up on his campaign website.

Those issues are boring to him. He has one issue and one issue only: drug addiction.

All other issues are just side gigs.

You don't have to believe me, just go look at his Twitter feed.

It's the same topic. The same soapbox. The same fight. Post after post after post.

The voters of AD9 won't be his priority. His signature issue of drug addiction will be.

He's lived and breathed it for years.

And he and his husband have made a pretty penny off it in the process.

He sure as hell won't be giving that up anytime soon.

So let's wrap this up by going back to where this series began.

After John Wayne's character in *The Cowboys* caught Bruce Dern's character not telling the truth about his past in a job interview, Dern accused Wayne of not hiring him simply because he'd spent time in jail.

To which Wayne replied: "I don't hold jail against you, but I hate a liar."

Same thing here.

I don't hold Ryan Hampton's heroin addiction against him, but I hate a liar.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"You just can't trust Ryan Hampton." – **Chuck Muth, 8/31/26**