

Fair Election Practices Committee

Date: Sunday, November 4, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rome Celli
Voice: 585.732.1767

Fair Election Practices Committee Rules on Three Complaints

Monroe County, NY. November 4, 2007. The Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC) handed out its tenth ruling of this year's election season today in the general election in the race to represent Monroe County Legislative District #1 between incumbent Republican Dick Yolevich and Democrat, Todd Dunn. The complaint was filed on November 2, 2007.

The complaint – filed by Mr. Yolevich – alleged that a mailer (informally referred to as “Some People Just Can’t Seem To Tell the Truth...”) sent by Democratic candidate Todd Dunn violated the Fair Campaign Pledge by misrepresenting the negative impact of Mr. Yolevich’s vote in the county legislature to accept the sales tax intercept option then have the county reimburse property taxpayers through intermunicipal agreements that require towns to pass on a town property tax credit to property owners. The committee found that the precise implication(s) of this complex arrangement is a fair & appropriate topic for public discussion & debate in the context of the campaign and therefore **the committee found no violation of The Fair Campaign Pledge.** (See the decision form below.)

The FEPC’s role is to arbitrate complaints about alleged violations of The Fair Campaign Pledge. The committee is an independent, non-partisan body comprised of five members and two alternates. Rome Celli, John G. Curran, Margaret Freeman, Channing Philbrick and Kay Wallace heard today’s complaints. Alan Bernstein was out of town and Thomas Frey recused himself from the proceeding. The committee will hear complaints with a quorum of at least three members and no more than five. Members of the committee are chosen by the two sponsoring organizations.

Both candidates in today’s hearing have signed The Fair Campaign Pledge -- co-sponsored & promoted by the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester & the League of Women Voters, Rochester Metropolitan Area. The FEPC & its sponsors believe candidates should be held to the standards found in the “Fair Campaign Pledge” regardless of whether they signed the Pledge. The deadline for signing the Pledge was September 5, 2007.

NOTE: The committee will not comment on the content of the deliberations, vote totals or the precise reasoning behind its decisions. However, the FEPC chair, Rome Celli, will provide copies of the exhibits upon request as well as discuss the committee’s history, standards and procedures.

-- # --

Fair Election Practices Committee

Decision Notification Form

Election: General Election on November 6, 2007

Races: County Legislative District #1

Complainant: Dick Yolevich (Republican)

The complaint was filed against: Todd Dunn (Democrat)

Date Complaint Received: November 2, 2007

The Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC) found that the various campaign materials cited in the complaint **DID NOT** violate the Fair Campaign Pledge.

- The FEPC has decided **AGAINST** the complainant.

Date of Decision: November 4, 2007