



Interfaith Alliance of Rochester  
PO Box 25245  
Rochester, NY 14625

League of Women Voters-RMA  
PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610

August 6, 2019

Dear General Election Candidate:

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area (League) are again encouraging all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Some candidates feel that negative ads are effective. We believe positive campaigns that address important issues are *winning* campaigns, and we urge you to publicly commit yourself to running a positive, issues-oriented campaign.

Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of The Fair Campaign Pledge (The Pledge) for your review. If you agree to abide by The Pledge, please sign, scan and email to [FEPC@lwv-rma.org](mailto:FEPC@lwv-rma.org) or sign and return the form to the League by US mail at the address above **no later than Tuesday, September 10, 2019**, eight (8) weeks ahead of the General Election. You may sign the pledge again at the Signing and Recognition Ceremony as detailed below.

**Who can sign The Pledge?**

All General Election candidates recognized by the Monroe County Board of Elections are eligible except judicial candidates.

**Who decides if The Pledge has been broken by a candidate?**

General Election candidates **who have signed The Pledge** may file a complaint (in her or his own race) against any opposing candidate. The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) Hearing Panel hears complaints. A copy of the FEPC complaint form as well as the Hearing Panel's rules and procedures are enclosed with this letter. You can also download these forms from the League's website ([www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)). PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION! You may need it once the Panel begins hearing complaints.

**What about candidates who do not sign?**

General Election candidates **who do not sign** The Pledge **cannot** file a complaint against an opposing candidate, whether or not the opposing candidate signed The Pledge. By signing The Pledge, you are publicly proclaiming your support for a fair, issues-oriented race. You can tout that fact in your promotions and tell your potential supporters. We'll even help (see below).

**When will the complaint and hearing process begin?**

The **FEPC Hearing Panel** will accept properly filed complaints beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup> and until November 4<sup>th</sup>, the day before the General Election. Complaints will not be accepted after noon on November 4<sup>th</sup> for the General Election.

**Will there be a press conference to promote The Fair Campaign Pledge?**

Yes. TIAR and the League will hold a joint press conference and signing ceremony on **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at noon in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building recognizing those who have signed The Pledge by Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Candidates may also sign again at the ceremony. All local media will be invited to witness the ceremony and interview candidates in attendance who have signed The Pledge. For more information about The Fair Campaign Pledge and the FEPC, please visit the League of Women Voter's website: [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or contact Panel Chairperson Jim Morris at (585) 292-5750 x 2 or email [jmorris@morrisatty.com](mailto:jmorris@morrisatty.com).

Please join us in encouraging positive campaigning!

Sincerely,  
Kim Byers, League of Women Voters-RMA  
Gaynelle Wethers, President-The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester