



Interfaith Alliance of Rochester  
PO Box 25245  
Rochester, NY 14625

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

May 7, 2019

Dear Primary 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, May 28, 2019**, 4 weeks ahead of the Primary Election. If you prefer, you may sign the pledge at the Signing and Recognition Ceremony as detailed below.

#### **Who can sign The Pledge?**

All Primary 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?**

Primary 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 Committee (**FEPC**) hears complaints. A copy of the **FEPC** complaint form as well as the Committee'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 **FEPC** begins hearing complaints.

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

Primary 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** will accept properly filed complaints beginning on May 15<sup>th</sup> and until June 24<sup>th</sup>, the day before Primary Election Day. Complaints will not be accepted after noon on June 24<sup>th</sup> for the Primaries.

#### **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 **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** at noon in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building recognizing those who have signed The Pledge by Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> or 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 **FEPC** 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