

About half of candidates in area races sign clean campaign pledge

Written by David Riley Staff writer

Sep. 08

democratandchronicle.com

A little more than half of Monroe County candidates facing election in Tuesday's primary or November's general election have signed a Fair Campaign Pledge, according to [a list](#) from the Rochester-area League of Women Voters and the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester.

That's a good number compared with other recent elections, said the league's Sheila Abeling. Candidates who sign [the pledge](#) commit to not engage in personal attacks on their opponents, focus on the issues and sign off on all their campaign materials, among other promises.

Organizers held a signing event to highlight the pledge last week. Voters go to the polls in primary races Tuesday, from noon to 9 p.m.

In primary races, Thomas Richards, the Democratic incumbent in the Rochester mayoral race, signed the pledge. His opponent, Lovely Warren, was missing from the league's list, but campaign spokeswoman Chris Christopher insisted that was an error. She said Warren had in fact signed and abided by the pledge and submitted another copy on Monday.

All Democratic City Council candidates except Anthony Giordano also signed, according to the list.

In primary races elsewhere, Independence Party candidate Rick Antelli was listed as having signed the pledge in a contest for receiver of taxes in Greece, but not his opponent, Walter J. Schiemann.

In Henrietta, Republican incumbent Town Supervisor Michael Yudelson and opponent Jack W. Moore both committed to clean campaigns. So did Republican supervisor candidates Edmund Dunn and Mike Barker in Perinton.

No Republican town board or supervisor candidates in primary races in Hamlin were listed as having signed the pledge. Supervisor Thomas Breslawski, who faces a primary challenge from Eric Peters, said he did not make a conscious decision not to sign the pledge — he recalled seeing it in past elections, but just had not thought of it this year.

The [Fair Election Practices Committee](#), which includes members of the League of Women Voters and the Interfaith Alliance and has sought clean elections in the region since the 1970s, has received no complaints about inaccurate or unfair ads this election cycle, Abeling said.

"I think we're doing very well this year," she said.

Voters unsure where to vote in Tuesday's primary elections can [find out here](#).