



LEAGUE URGES USE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Letter to the Editor:

Each year, the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area (LWV-RMA) and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) encourage all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns through our Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC). This involves asking candidates to sign a Pledge to that effect and appointing a Hearing Committee to review complaints filed by candidates alleging violations of the tenets of the Pledge. Such violations may include personal or character attacks, advertisements using quotes or images taken out of context, or materials that offer a misrepresentation of an opponent's views or message.

At this particular time in our community, there are many real issues and concerns that need to be addressed through debate of possible solutions: policing reforms, job losses and health concerns related to the pandemic, government and school budgets, to name a few. Time and effort cannot be wasted on negative messaging. Our community needs to hear a range of voices and ideas so that we can start to choose a path forward. These include the candidates who would be our elected leaders over the next 2 to 4 years.

The LWV-RMA thus urges all candidates in the General Election to: review and sign the FEPC Pledge; participate in debates and forums to share their vision and ideas for our future; and utilize the Vote411.org website to post their positions. Anyone who would like more information about the Pledge and the FEPC is invited to visit the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area website at www.lwv-rma.org.

Rochester, New York, September 10, 2020

Signed,

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