



VOLUNTARY CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play which every candidate for public office and every Political Action Committee supporting or opposing candidates for City office or local ballot measures has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested, but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

- (1) I SHALL CONDUCT my campaign openly and publicly without false or misleading statements.
- (2) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT the use of character defamation, libel, or slander on any candidate or their personal or family life.
- (3) I SHALL NOT distribute campaign materials, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, that knowingly contain materially deceptive audio or visual media intended to injure a candidate's reputation or to deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate. (Cal. Elec. Code § 20010).
- (4) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, sex, age, sexual orientation or other protected status.
- (5) I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any dishonest or unethical practice which tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections, or which hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters including acts intended to hinder or prevent any eligible person to full and equal participation in the electoral process from registering to vote, enrolling to vote, or voting.
- (6) I SHALL NOT coerce election help or campaign contributions for myself or any other candidate from my employees.
- (7) I SHALL IMMEDIATELY AND PUBLICLY REPUDIATE in writing or in the media, and by responding to a complaint under Chapter 1.36 of the City's Municipal Code, support deriving

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from any individual or group which resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to the methods and tactics which violate this code. I shall accept responsibility to take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing ethics.

I, the undersigned candidate for election to public office in the City of Benicia or treasurer or chairperson of a committee making any independent expenditures, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct my campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

If you are a candidate for local office and accept the above terms of the Pledge, please sign and date the lines below:

Date: _____ Signature: _____

If you are a representative accepting the above terms of the Pledge on behalf of a Political Action Committee, please provide the legal name of the Committee, sign, and date on the lines below:

Date: _____

Name of Political Action Committee: _____

Signature: _____

This pledge form may be returned to the:

City Clerk's Office 250 East L Street Benicia, CA 94510

All Completed pledge forms submitted to the City Clerk will be maintained on file for public inspection for a period of one year. Once received, the city shall post on its website a statement that the candidate has voluntarily subscribed to the Benicia Code of Fair Campaign Practices.