

I. THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS AFTERNOON

II. I AM CALLING TODAY FOR MY OPPONENT TO STOP THIS

A. "RECKLESS REGARD FOR THE TRUTH" AND I AM REQUESTING THAT HE SIGN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PLEDGE: CODE OF CONDUCT (WHICH I SIGNED IN FEBRUARY.)

B. THE PLEDGE IS SELF -EXPLANATORY AND ONE CAN SEE AS WE PROCEED HOW HE HAS VIOLATED THE PREMISE OF THE LEAGUE'S INTENT.

III. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO POINT OUT TO YOU A PATTERN OF TOTAL LACK OF TRUTHFULNESS ABOUT VOTES, WHICH IS AN INSULT TO THE VOTERS OF THIS DISTRICT.

A. GAS TAX VOTE

B. ELECTION CAMPAIGN REPORTING

C. STADIUM REFERENDUM

D. CASINO STYLE GAMBLING (SLOTS AT RACE TRACKS

IV. WOULD NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE LEAGUE OF WOMEN'S VOTERS REPRESENTATIVE FOR A STATEMENT.

V. THE VOTERS OF THIS DISTRICT DESERVE AN OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT FACE THE LEGISLATURE IN THE FUTURE

VI. SO I'M CALLING ON MY OPPONENT TO STOP THIS RECKLESS CAMPAIGNING --AND I CALL ON THE MEDIA , THE PUBLIC , THE CHAIRPERSON OF REPUB. PARTY TO URGE MR. BUSH TO SIGN THIS PLEDGE AND LIVE UP TO IT'S STANDARDS.

ELECT TOM TANGRETTI COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 292
Greensburg, PA 15601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: JULY 16, 1998

Contact: REP. THOMAS A. TANGRETTI

Phone: 724-834-6400

State Rep. Tom Tangretti today challenged his opponent to commit to a pledge of fair campaign practices and rule out any further “demonstrably false and misleading” accounts of the legislator’s record.

He called on the Republican candidate John Bush to sign the League of Women Voters’ code of campaign conduct which is intended to improve the quality of political contests and which pledges political candidates to document their claims and concentrate their campaigns “on a frank discussion of public issues”.

Tangretti cited erroneous statements by Bush that contradict the legislator’s publicly recorded votes on the gas tax and the so-called “stadium tax” as well as a non-existent vote Bush ascribed to Tangretti to allow slot machines at Pennsylvania race tracks. In addition, Tangretti said a review of a \$75 expenditure by the legislator’s campaign committee in 1997 has determined that the outlay was entirely lawful and proper and not “a violation of the campaign rules” as Bush had charged.

“In each instance, my opponent’s accounts of the events were exactly the reverse of what actually happened, leading me to believe he is either incapable of understanding the record or incapable of reporting the truth about it,” said Tangretti.

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“Either way, his statements cannot go unchallenged. He needs to know that whether he is simply ignorant of the facts or is knowingly fabricating false charges, there will be consequences to his campaign for misleading the public.”

Meeting with news reporters today, Tangretti produced official legislative records, public statements and other documents showing he had voted against the gas tax when it was inserted in a bill that earlier dealt only with recreational vehicle registrations; he voted against the bill that authorized a referendum on the so-called stadium tax and publicly opposed the tax, and never voted on Senate amendments to House Bill 148 allowing slots at race tracks. An earlier version of the bill dealing only with credit card fraud, was approved unanimously by the House. But when the Senate inserted the slot machine language in the bill, it was dropped from any further consideration or votes.

Tangretti urged Bush to review and sign the League of Women Voters’ ten-point Candidate’s Pledge, a document the incumbent made a commitment to uphold at the beginning of his campaign in February. There is no record of Bush having signed the League’s widely respected code of campaign conduct.

“I hope he will sign the campaign pledge and abide by its principles,” Tangretti said. “I’m also asking the League, the local media, the Chairperson of the Republican Party and the public to monitor the conduct of my opponent’s campaign in the future so the 57th District gets the kind of discussion the pledge is intended to foster and the voters of the district deserve.”

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