



# WE DEMAND TRUTH IN POLITICS

Many political campaigns are filled with **disinformation**. As voters make critical decisions about who will represent them in government, they are bombarded with irrelevant, misleading, dishonest, and hateful campaign communications.

Not only does this result in disgusted and frustrated voters, **this is dangerous to our democracy**. If candidates who run races based on disinformation win their elections, they cannot be trusted to be ethical public servants.

Campaign communications should present only **fair, relevant, and truthful information**. Fair campaigns would allow candidates and voters to focus on the issues. Voters could more accurately assess the qualifications of the candidates and make a decision informed by facts, rather than disinformation.

## How can we restore honesty, civility, and fair play into political campaigns?

### YOU, THE VOTER, can make a difference!

- Ask all candidates to sign the **Code of Fair Campaign Practices** (see the other side of this flyer).
- **Attend town hall meetings** and candidate forums and publicly ask candidates to sign on to the Code.
- **Generate awareness**—tell others about the Code and encourage them to prioritize Ethics in the next election.
- Ask your state legislators to support the **Truth in Politics Act**\*
- **Be skeptical of suspicious information, get informed, and uplift truthfulness.** Download the free, nonpartisan guide "Voting for Ethics" by Hana Callaghan from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics of Santa Clara University: [www.scu.edu/voting-for-ethics](http://www.scu.edu/voting-for-ethics)

*\*The Truth in Politics Act was introduced by Rep. Denyse Stoneback in the 102nd General Assembly as House Bill 5850.*

IF YOU REPEAT A LIE  
OFTEN ENOUGH, IT BECOMES  
THE TRUTH **POLITICS**



## LEARN MORE:

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# CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate for public office in the State of Illinois 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 will conduct my campaign openly and publicly, and limit attacks on my opponent to legitimate challenges to his record.
- 2.** I will not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his personal or family life.
- 3.** I will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.
- 4.** I will not use campaign material of any sort that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor will I use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or patriotism of my opposition.
- 5.** I will not undertake or condone any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters.
- 6.** I will defend and uphold the right of every qualified American voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.
- 7.** I will immediately and publicly repudiate methods and tactics that may come from others that I have pledged not to use or condone. I shall take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this Code or the laws governing elections.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Illinois or chairman of a political committee in support of or opposition to a question of public policy, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct my campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

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Date

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Signature

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Office Sought

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(Print Name)

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Date of Election

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Name of Political Committee