VOLUNTARY CODE OF
FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

Contra
Costa
County

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declares that the purpose of this pledge is to encourage every candidate for County office or committee making independent expenditures involving campaigns of County candidates and ballot measures to subscribe to the County Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors that every candidate for County office or committee that participates in a County candidate and ballot measure campaign and subscribes to the County Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices will follow the basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play which every committee 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 untrammeled choice, and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

The purpose in creating the County Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices is to give voters guidelines in determining fair play and to encourage committees making independent expenditures to discuss issues instead of untruths or distortions.

This pledge form may be returned to the:

Office of the Clerk-Recorder, Elections Division
555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553

All completed pledge forms submitted to the Clerk-Recorder, Elections Division, will be maintained on file for public inspection for a period of one year.

[SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR PLEDGE]

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
VOLUNTARY CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play which every Candidate and every Independent Expenditure Committee 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 untrammeled choice, and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE, commits

(1) To participate in campaigns for office and in ballot measure campaigns openly and publicly, discussing the issues and presenting the Candidate's record and policies and the measures supported with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing without fear or favor the records and policies of candidates and measures opposed.
(2) Not to use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his or her personal or family life.
(3) Not to use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, physical health status, or age.
(4) Not to 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 from registering to vote, enrolling to vote, or voting.
(5) Not to coerce election help or campaign contributions from the Candidate's or Independent Expenditure Committee's employees.
(6) To immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group which resorts to the methods and tactics condemned in this Code; to accept responsibility to take firm action against any subordinate who violates the provisions of this Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices.
(7) To defend and uphold the right of every qualified American voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.
(8) To make a copy of this Code available to donors to the Independent Expenditure Committee and give them an opportunity to sign the Code.

I, the undersigned, Candidate for election to office in Contra Costa County, Chairperson of an Independent Expenditure Committee, or Donor to such committee, hereby voluntarily endorse or subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to participate in election campaigns in Contra Costa County in accordance with the above principles and practices. I understand that a candidate, an independent expenditure and donors to an independent expenditure committee may return this signed Voluntary Code of Fair Campaign Practices to the County Clerk-Elections Division and that this Code will be placed on file as a public document in the County Clerk-Elections Division office.

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(Date) *(Candidate or Committee Chairperson or Donor to Committee)*