

## **Miller and Bigley Disclosing Every Campaign Contribution**

Earlier this year, a Lawrence resident appeared at a council meeting to speak in opposition to the council majority's position on an issue he was concerned about. He asked Mr. Puliti, Mr. Powers, and Ms. Mount a pointed but fair question: "How do I know your decision wasn't influenced by campaign contributions you may have received from the people who are benefiting from your vote?"

If this resident ever asks the same question of Councilman Rick Miller and his running mate Ginny Bigley, he'll get a straight answer. That's because Miller and Bigley are posting on their web site ([www.millerandbigley.com](http://www.millerandbigley.com)) within 48 hours the name and dollar amount of every single campaign contribution they receive, no matter how small or how large.

"The best way to ensure that elected officials aren't being influenced by campaign contributions is to report the source of every single contribution they receive," Rick Miller recently stated.

"I believe that every resident has a right to know the source of every dollar a candidate receives for his or her campaign," Ms. Bigley declared. "That's what openness in government is all about."

Miller and Bigley have challenged their opponents to do the same. Unfortunately, Mr. Puliti and Mr. Kownacki have refused to disclose the source of all the funds in their campaign war chest. Instead, they are taking advantage of complicated and obscure campaign finance laws to avoid telling voters the sources of all their campaign funds.

Miller and Bigley's Full and Immediate Disclosure pledge ensures that every contribution their campaign receives is promptly made public. This pledge goes far beyond what state law requires. Under New Jersey law, candidates are only required to report the names of contributors who give more than \$400. And because of the infrequent deadlines, many contributions are not reported until after Election Day.

Incredibly, in addition to opposing Full and Immediate Disclosure, two years ago Puliti and Kownacki supported a proposal to have taxpayers pay for local campaigns (Mr. Miller was the only member of the council at the time to oppose this scheme). They wanted to give property tax revenues to local political candidates to fund such things as bumper stickers, junk mail, and political cocktail parties. The cost of this ill-advised idea could easily have reached \$100,000.

The idea was so bad that even the committee hand-picked by Mr. Puliti to devise a system of taxpayer funded campaigns (and that Mr. Kownacki was appointed to), ended up deadlocked – four in favor and four against. Had they gotten their way, local taxpayers would be involuntarily paying for this year's campaigns.

“In these tight economic times, using taxpayer dollars to pay for local campaigns would have been a disaster,” Councilman Miller declared. “Our Full and Immediate Disclosure plan is the best way to ensure that people know the source of campaign funds,” Ms Bigley added, “and it doesn’t cost taxpayers a cent.”