

Miller and Bigley: Campaign Corner – October 1, 2009

Rick Miller and Ginny Bigley believe that local government has to live within its means. When times are tight – as they are now – local government has to do what every family does – tighten its belt and look for ways to reduce spending.

“Since the current council majority took control in January 1996, the municipal tax rate has skyrocketed by more than 65 percent,” Miller recently reported. “This tax and spend approach to local government has got to stop. The only way that will happen is to change who’s in control at Town Hall”

“As a member of the school board, I worked hard this past year to hold our spending flat,” Bigley added. “Despite the rising cost of numerous mandated spending categories, we made the tough decisions to keep the budget flat. We did that because we know people are hurting – especially families and seniors living on fixed incomes.”

“Over the past two years,” Miller continued, “Councilman Bob Bostock and I have been instrumental in reducing the budgets proposed by the administration. In 2008, over the initial objections from some in the council majority, we insisted on finding \$400,000 in savings to offset cuts in property tax relief enacted by Governor Corzine. This year, we successfully pushed to reduce the proposed tax increase from three cents to one cent.”

“I believe the town council has to control spending,” Bigley stated. “We have shown on the school board that it can be done. Rick and I want to do the same thing on town council, but we can’t do it alone. We want to bring a change – a change for the better – to town hall, and we need the support of the people on Election Day.”

“With Ginny Bigley joining me and Bob Bostock on the council we will not only change control, we will change the way our local government works, bringing back fiscal responsibility, openness, and commonsense,” Miller asserted. “We have to keep Lawrence Township affordable and the only way we can do that is by controlling spending and holding the line on taxes.”

“My hope is that Lawrence remains an affordable place where young people can afford to raise their families and where our senior citizens can continue to enjoy the community they helped build,” Bigley concluded. “Enough is enough. We cannot afford business as usual. It’s time to bring fiscal responsibility and accountability back to our local government.”