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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

From concerned Clinton Township Republican Committee Members

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**HUNTERDON COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUESTION
VALIDITY OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS**

April 20, 2007

Clinton Township, NJ. Several Clinton Township members of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee are concerned that recent telephone polling by the Republican Party to establish ballot positions in the Primary Election was inappropriate. According to the Party Bylaws, party decisions require a formal committee meeting that must be noticed seven days in advance. Party candidates who have been given “the party line” have not been properly endorsed by the Committee.

Prior to the Primary election each year, the County Committee of each party decides which of the candidates who have filed to run will be formally endorsed by the party. Party endorsement gives “the party line” on the ballot to a candidate.

“Being ‘on the line’ is said to give significant advantages to candidates,” said Committee Member Carol Nemetz. One benefit is that when people vote, they often accept their Party Committee’s recommendation and vote for all candidates who are on that line of the ballot. “I rely on the party line. It always affects my vote.”

In anticipation of the upcoming June Primary Election, the municipal Chairman of the Republican Committee in Clinton Township carried out a telephone poll to determine who would receive the Republican Party endorsement for Clinton Township Town Council.

“This procedure is in direct conflict with the Bylaws, which provide that candidate endorsements are made at County Committee meetings,” said Nemetz. “The Bylaws

require that meetings be noticed in writing at least seven days in advance. Voting by proxy is not allowed, so only the members attending may vote. A verbal vote over the telephone cannot be validated and does not comply with the Bylaws.”

Nick Corcodilos, who was elected to the Republican Committee last year, said, “The responsibility of deciding who goes on the line should not be taken lightly. Every Committee member has an obligation to the entire party. Republican voters count on us to review the candidates and to grant the party line to the best candidates. That means we need to meet them and give them each a chance to make their case. We need to know what they stand for. But there was no meeting.”

The telephone vote took place the week before the candidates’ filing deadline, which was April 9, 2007. “I didn’t know all the candidates I was being to asked to comment on,” said Committee Member Steven Krommenhoek. “During the phone poll, only the candidate names were given. No background information on which to compare their credentials was offered.”

Corcodilos added that, “We were told this polling method has been used every year for many years.”

Concerned members of the Clinton Township Municipal Committee say they ran for the Committee to do their civic duty, and to help determine the best candidates for each position. Committee Member Paul Versarge said, “This choice was taken from us. There is no way to verify the telephone poll. We didn’t have the chance to learn about each of the candidates for Clinton Township Town Council so we could make an informed choice. Republican voters in Clinton Township who expect we reviewed candidates according to the Party Bylaws won’t have the benefit of that review.”

Several members of the Committee notified the County Party Chairman of this inappropriate polling action. To date, no meeting of the Clinton Township Committee has been convened to review and properly endorse candidates for Clinton Township Town Council.

Corcodilos cautions, “If you are a Republican voter and you normally rely on the Party Committee’s endorsement and recommendation of candidates, this year you must carefully review the qualifications of each candidate, regardless of where they are on the ballot, because ballot position does not indicate endorsement of the Party Committee under the Bylaws. We were not given the opportunity to properly review the candidates.”

Recent controversies about possible election irregularities at the county level of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee also concern these party representatives, and lead them to wonder whether voters at all levels are being given the opportunity to consider candidates based on a proper Committee review process.