

Republican Women of Park Ridge

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Press Releases

RWOPR 04/28/2013 Press Release

Since 1936, the Republican Women of Park Ridge (RWOPR) has served the Park Ridge community through activism and education. RWOPR has many long-standing traditions; perhaps the most well-known of these is a non-partisan event: our bi-annual Candidate Forums. RWOPR believes it is important for all citizens to have an opportunity to participate in the political process and come together as a community for discussion. This is why RWOPR proudly hosts public forums which welcome all non-partisan candidates and guests equally - regardless of their individual backgrounds.

While RWOPR asks all citizens - including its members - to get involved in the political process, RWOPR still maintains the following policies:

- RWOPR provides financial support only to Republican candidates in partisan elections. Information regarding political funding is publicly available at the Illinois Board of Elections website. As a general matter, all candidate flyers and yard signs must indicate the source of funding under Illinois law. Candidate robo-calls must also disclose the funding source in the message under Illinois law.
- RWOPR endorses only Republican candidates in partisan races. Information regarding RWOPR's endorsement position(s) in any given election is publicly available on the RWOPR website, the RWOPR Facebook page, the RWOPR newsletter, RWOPR press releases, RWOPR news posts, and via public announcement at monthly, public RWOPR meetings.

RWOPR has, unfortunately, become aware of emails circulated by School District 64 Board President John Heyde prior to the non-partisan April 9, 2013 election which contained false statements regarding RWOPR. On behalf of all its members, RWOPR is compelled to point out the inaccuracies of Mr. Heyde's statements.

- Mr. Heyde wrongly stated that RWOPR endorsed school board candidates. RWOPR did not endorse any candidates per its policy outlined above. Although multiple candidates running in different non-partisan races sought endorsement prior to the April 9th election, RWOPR consistently applied this policy. All candidates were very respectful of RWOPR's policy in this regard. RWOPR's position here is well-known and was well-documented on various websites prior to the April 9th election. As a practical matter, it must be acknowledged that RWOPR membership consists of many citizens, as well as public officials, both past and present, who all hold different viewpoints on local matters and in non-partisan races. RWOPR respects the diversity of all its members in the non-partisan arena.
- Mr. Heyde wrongly stated that RWOPR circulated nominating petitions for candidates. RWOPR is a club, not an individual registered voter, and therefore is not qualified to 'sign' a nominating petition as a circulator under Illinois law. Individual citizens circulate nominating petitions under Illinois law.
- Mr. Heyde wrongly stated that RWOPR raised money for candidates. RWOPR did not raise money for any non-partisan candidates. RWOPR does not charge for any of its public events throughout the year other than our annual luncheon each fall.
- Mr. Heyde wrongly stated that RWOPR circulated flyers. RWOPR did not circulate flyers. Individual citizens circulate flyers. Moreover, all candidate literature and yard signs must indicate the funding source on their face under Illinois law. No candidate literature or yard signs listed RWOPR as source in the April 9th election cycle.
- Mr. Heyde wrongly stated that RWOPR commissioned a robo-call. RWOPR did not commission a robo-call. Moreover, all candidate robo-calls must state the funding source in the message of the call. No robo-calls listed RWOPR as a source in the April 9th election campaign.

It is the position of RWOPR that all of Mr. Heyde's statements pertaining to RWOPR not only are false, but appear to have been knowingly false, given the very public nature of the true facts here. RWOPR therefore respectfully requests a written apology by Mr. Heyde for these false statements.