

My name is Tessa Marquis. I am a member of the Milford Democratic Town Committee. The legislators know what this entails, but I will outline my responsibilities for the record.

As a member of that organization, I am tasked with assisting candidates for political office. Included in that is raising the necessary finances to run a political campaign. This is the most difficult and time consuming activity we need to do for our representatives. The task was made easier by the Citizens Election Program.

In fact, there is a Special Election being held next week in Stratford for the State Rep seat in the 120th District. Candidates from both the Republican and Democratic parties have qualified for the Citizens Election program, which granted them more time to meet voters and address the issues of the race. In a Special Election – with only slightly more than a month to campaign – it is vitally important that the candidates meet the voters, rather than spend time raising funds.

I know that many politicians at the State level are more comfortable with the older methods of raising funding – high priced parties with corporation executives and well heeled well-wishers. But this means that we are not able to build new people into the pipeline.

I remember Richard Nixon and his “Scorched Earth Policy”, where nothing can exist on the land you leave behind. I fear this occurring in our political system, with legislators and constitutional officers and gubernatorial candidates proceeding forward in their careers, leaving constituents with nobody to represent them. That is not a good Exit Plan. You will be burning down your own houses.

If we can keep the Citizen’s Election Program, not allowing government raiding of the fund, continuing to fund it at no cost to taxpayers, we may even begin to grow the program to encompass the Municipal level campaigns as well as the State campaigns.

And that will allow people who are not “Connected” to run for office. People with good ideas, good intensions, and no indebtedness to outside interests. The kind of Good People you all strive to be.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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22 February 2010