

FINANCIAL REPORTS REVEAL CANDIDATE SPENDING
Jim Martin Demonstrates Extreme Fiscal Conservativeness

Lake Elmo, Minnesota – 30 July 2010:

How candidates spend during their campaign is a good indication of how they are likely to spend when they are elected. On July 26th, the campaigns for Minnesota legislator hopefuls were required to file their first 2010 report with the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board. This report covered transactions between 1 January and 19 July. A review of three reports from candidates for Minnesota House in district 56A reveal some interesting facts.

At the beginning of this election year, the campaign of incumbent Julie Bunn (D) carried forwarded nearly \$22,900 from previous years. She received over \$16,400 of which 39% came from lobbyists, political committees, and political funds. Loans were made from Bunn's campaign to the campaigns of expressly female incumbent DFL House candidates, and Rep. Bunn personally loaned \$5,000 to her campaign instead of making a contribution. Over \$11,700 was spent by Bunn's campaign of which only 42% was used for campaign expenses that included printing and postage, delivery costs of mailings, a fee for the Lumberjack Days parade, and an advertisement in the Stillwater Gazette. Over 92% of non-campaign disbursements were spent on “expenses in serving in public office” and “constituent services.” Though Rep. Bunn's committee reported ending the period with \$27,600, she requested a public subsidy from the State of Minnesota to aid her campaign.

Kathy Lohmer (R) reported carrying over an excess of \$25,300 from previous years. She received over \$11,700 of which 0.4% came from political party units and principal campaign committees¹. Of the \$8,200 her campaign spent, 88% was used for campaign expenses, which included a list of voters' addresses, labels, envelopes, postage, printing of a newsletter, and rental of a post office box. The campaign expenses also included the printing of shirts, a spot in the Lumberjack Days and Woodbury Days parade, internet access, a car wrap, cable ties, and \$1,500 in consulting. Nearly 71% of non-campaign disbursements were spent on “food/beverages for volunteers while campaigning.” On 19 July, Lohmer 's campaign had \$28,800, and she too requested public money from the state.

The campaign of Jim Martin (no political affiliation) began with nothing. Receiving nearly \$1,800, every contribution was made by individuals instead of lobbyists or political entities. Martin was the only candidate to be on public record as a contributor to one's own campaign (\$223.62)¹. Also, 100% of the \$1,500 spent were campaign expenses, and included envelopes, card stock, stickers, a rubber stamp with ink, tee shirts, iron transfers, photographs, a slot in the Lumberjack Days parade, a booth at the Washington County Fair, newspaper advertising, and a domain name. Martin's campaign ended the period with only \$277.12. After his opponents made their requests, Martin requested a public subsidy as well.

These reports indicate that Jim Martin is acting substantially the same as his opponents but spending nearly 82% less than Lohmer and over 87% less than Rep. Bunn. His campaign has shirts, stickers, literature, attends public festivals, takes out advertising in the media, and even has a website. The only notable difference is mass mailings and signage. Martin comments, “That stuff's in the works and won't cost much. When I tell people that I can do the same thing for less, they look at me with a smirk and say 'We'll see.' The proof is in the pudding.”

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For more information, please visit <<http://www.VoteJimMartin.com>> or contact Jim Martin directly at (651) 206-8663.

1 This sentence was revised on 8 August 2010 to correct misleading implications.