

AN INTERFAITH PLEA FOR POSITIVE CAMPAIGNS

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A PASSIONATE CALL FOR A RETURN TO POSITIVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

We, the undersigned, are deeply disturbed by the character and tone of the vast majority of political campaigns which are being conducted during the election season of 2006.

The overwhelming use of negative campaign strategies and attack ads constituted nothing less than a national disgrace. Negative campaigning erodes the moral fabric of our society. In the eyes of the public, it not only diminishes the stature of the candidates, but also the importance of the offices which they seek. Such campaign tactics generate an environment of distrust of public officials. Even worse, by forcing the voters to choose between what is presented as "the lesser of two evils," these strategies serve to dramatically discourage citizen participation in the electoral process.

The American people need and deserve far more from its political candidates. We need and deserve to have the candidates' attentions focused on positively presenting their positions on the pressing issues of our day. We need and deserve to hear thoughtful dialogue between the candidates on these issues. We need and deserve to know what our potential future leaders stand for, and what they intend to accomplish should they be elected.

Therefore, we the undersigned, believing that negative campaigning is destructive to the American democratic electoral process:

1. Call upon political candidates to responsibly present to the public their own positions on the pressing issues of our day, refraining from irresponsible and misleading interpretations of the positions held by their opponents.
2. Call upon political candidates to cease and desist from attacking the character of their opponents.
3. Call upon political candidates to distance themselves from and denounce any political ad run by an independent source which supports their candidacy, but which also engages in the destructive practices mentioned above.
4. Call upon the American public to withhold financial support from political campaigns that engage in a strategy of negativism.
5. Call upon the news media to monitor and report upon the successes

and failures of political campaigns to adhere to these principles.

Name Address City / State /Zip Code

This petition is co-sponsored by the Quad Cities Progressive Clergy
and Churches United of the Quad Cities Area

Please return your signed petition to:

Churches United of the Quad Cities Area, 630 Martin Luther King
Drive, Rock Island, Illinois 61201-8337