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2011 Electoral Impact Assessment

Rochester, NY – New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms Political Action Committee (NYCFPAC) has evaluated its 2011 election activity and is pleased to report victory in 5 of the 6 races NYCFPAC was involved in. The fact that 2011 was an off-year election (no federal races, and only one state race) allowed the PAC to focus on its interests in various county and local races.

Rev. Jason J. McGuire, Executive Director, NYCFPAC, summed up NYCFPAC's 2011 election efforts saying, "We were very pleased with the results. NYCFPAC has clearly found its niche impacting elections we choose to take part in."

"2011 was merely the precursor for what we hope to achieve in 2012," concluded McGuire.

Ray Walter, 148th State Assembly Seat

Ray Walter (R, C, I) was the NYCFPAC-endorsed candidate in the special election for the 148th State Assembly seat. Through efforts aimed at pro-life and pro-family voters in this district, NYCFPAC was able to energize a strong base of support in a tight race. Walter won this race by only several hundred votes. If pro-life and pro-family voters had not turned out, it is likely that the other candidate would have won.

The 148th Assembly District encompasses Amherst, Pendleton, and parts of North Tonawanda.

Thomas C. Buckel, Jr., Candidate for State Supreme Court Justice, 5th Judicial District

Tom Buckel (D, WF) is the Onondaga County legislator currently representing the 7th district. Mr. Buckel was involved in a nine-way race for Supreme Court judge with only four judicial seats available. As a legislator, Mr. Buckel has been a strong proponent of gambling expansion. NYCFPAC felt that Mr. Buckel would have been an adverse addition to the Supreme Court based upon his vote refusing to allow public input on an Onondaga County "racino". His vote sought to rapidly advance endorsement of the casino by the Onondaga County Legislature.

Rev. Jason J. McGuire, Executive Director, NYCFPAC, publicly stated, "If a candidate won't heed the pleas of constituents as a legislator, why should we assume that on the bench he will stand up against the injustices his constituents experience?"

Going into the race, Buckel was the only candidate with any real Onondaga County name recognition. NYCFPAC adopted a strategy of playing this to its advantage and contacted over 30,000 homes with automated calls that repeatedly used Mr. Buckel's name, raising our concerns about his candidacy.

Mr. Buckel lost by less than 900 votes in a race where over 234,000 ballots were cast. Based on Election Day results, Buckel lost this race by less than 0.4%. Without a doubt, NYCFPAC's efforts were the deciding factor in this race.

Kevin A. Holmquist, Onondaga County Legislator, 10th District

Kevin Holmquist (R, C, I) is a current Onondaga County legislator who was seeking reelection. Mr. Holmquist has been opposing secretive attempts by some county legislators to ram various gambling expansion proposals through the county legislature. NYCFPAC felt that Kevin Holmquist should be thanked for his efforts to defend a fair and open process.

Additionally, Holmquist is committed to the protection of innocent human life and was endorsed by the New York State Right to Life Political Action Committee.

Prior to the election, NYCFPAC made contact with over 5,700 homes in Mr. Holmquist's district. There were only a little over 5,500 votes cast. NYCFPAC efforts helped Mr. Holmquist prevail in this race.

William H. Meyer, Onondaga County Legislator, 3rd District

Bill Meyer (R, C, I) is an Onondaga County legislator who sought reelection this November. Mr. Meyer has consistently stood up against gambling expansion proposals before the county legislature and any attempts to maneuver a pro-casino package without public input.

NYCFPAC was in contact with almost 5,200 homes in Mr. Meyer's district where only 4,400 votes were cast.

Martin D. Masterpole, City Auditor, Syracuse

Mr. Masterpole (D, WF) is currently serving as the Onondaga County legislator representing the 17th district. He is best known among NYCFPAC's base for his stubborn support of gambling expansion in Onondaga County. Various gambling proposals have been defeated or withdrawn from consideration for lack of public and legislative support several times in the past 18 months.

Masterpole had the wind at his back in this race where Democrats outnumber Republicans 3 to 1, but as a matter of principle and to alert voters, NYCFPAC made the decision to get involved. NYCFPAC contacted 13,184 voters in this district and believe that we were successful in driving down support for Mr. Masterpole, although ultimately he still prevailed. Even so, the voters are better informed of the need to keep a close eye on Mr. Masterpole's activities at City Hall when he starts serving as Syracuse's fiscal watchdog in January 2012.

Rose Marie Belforti, Town Clerk, Ledyard

Rose Belforti (R) is the town clerk whose name has drawn some notoriety since her announcement that she could not in good conscience sign same-sex "marriage" licenses. No couples, same-sex or opposite-sex, have been denied a marriage license, but nonetheless some intent on punishing Belforti for her personal religious convictions began boycotts of her business and an aggressive campaign to unseat her from the office she has held for the last ten years.

Rev. Jason J. McGuire, Executive Director, NYCFPAC said, "Rose Belforti has faced unreasonable bigotry and harassment. Some gay activists would not be satisfied with Mrs. Belforti's right to have her religious freedoms reasonably accommodated, but thankfully the people of Ledyard stood with her."

NYCFPAC's efforts in Ledyard aided Mrs. Belforti's efforts to turn out voters that would favor her candidacy. 525 votes were cast in this small, but well-watched race. Only 85 votes separated Rose Belforti from her challenger. Without NYCFPAC involvement, it is unlikely that Mrs. Belforti would have emerged victorious.

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