

CANDIDATE INTEGRITY PLEDGE
FOR
FALLS CHURCH CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Background/Context

In recent times, across our country – at the national, state and, increasingly, local levels – uncontrolled campaign financing and incivility have adversely affected our elections. And, for the first time ever, in the 2021 election cycle Falls Church experienced the infusion of largescale contributions to candidates from outside interests and individuals with no direct history of involvement in City affairs.

Responding to this situation, the Citizens for a Better City (CBC) has been examining these issues and, in consultation with dozens of other local civic organizations and individuals, has developed the following pledge all City Council and School Board candidates running for election will be asked to sign voluntarily in the current and future election cycles. The objective is to ensure that Falls Church City elections remain local, accessible to all citizens, affordable, and are conducted with civility.

Candidate Conduct

Service to our community requires a great deal of time and commitment from all those who serve, especially in elected positions. The City is best served when its office holders represent everyone in our community. Office seekers should conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the spirit of our City to ensure that they as candidates – and ultimately as office holders – are able to serve its best interests.

Accordingly, I pledge to conduct my campaign in a civil and public-spirited manner. I will campaign on issues that are important to me and my community, and will express those views and promote my candidacy with respect for those who hold different views. Acknowledging our City's long history of candidate forums in our local elections, I will participate in them to assist Falls Church citizens in their understanding of the issues and candidates' views on them.

Campaign Funding

Candidates in our local elections have typically advanced their campaigns by: visiting their neighbors door-to-door; enlisting others to volunteer on their behalf; spending money on yard-signs, flyers, and other promotional materials; purchasing ads in newspapers; setting up websites and using social media platforms; and other related events and activities. To support these efforts, candidates welcome contributions from friends, family, and local supporters.

Accordingly, I pledge to make every effort to support my campaign with financial contributions from family, friends, and neighbors who also hold the interests of Falls Church uppermost in their minds. I will endeavor to seek and accept only contributions from those residing within our borders – excepting, of course, in the case of close family and longtime friends. I will fully disclose my campaign fundraising results and expenditures in a timely manner, as required by the [Virginia Department of Elections](#).

Signature

Date

Declared City Council and School Board Candidate, City of Falls Church