



Sandy City Council Office

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MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2022

To: City Council Members

CC: Dustin Fratto, Council Executive Director

From: Cyndi Sharkey, Council Member At-large

Subject: First Reading: Additions to the Pledge of Fair Campaign Practices

Utah Code 20A-9-206, Fair Campaign Practices, includes a voluntary pledge for candidates seeking elective office. Upon filing to run for office in an upcoming election, the Code requires that the Candidate be offered the option to sign the Pledge of Fair Campaign Practices. The signed document is further described as a public record which must be retained until 30 days following the election.

In accordance with this State law, Sandy City offers all candidates for elective office the option to sign the Pledge. The Pledge sets expectations for “basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play” to ensure that “our citizens may exercise their right to a free election, and that the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.” It asks Candidates to pledge commitment to the moral obligations associated with fairly and honestly competing for elective office. In taking the pledge, Candidates commit to avoiding attacks on competitors, being truthful in all ways, and never coercing campaign donations. They further commit to the expectation that their campaign subordinates will act in the same manner.

As with all State law, Sandy City can add greater expectations but not fewer. Therefore, we can add elements to the Pledge but not delete.

Council, I propose that we add provisions to the Pledge. The additional elements would specify that Candidates voluntarily commit to following all City ordinances relating to temporary sign placement and installation, to refrain from putting up campaign signs until after filing for office with the City Recorder, and to remove campaign signs promptly following the General Election.

Finally, the State Code specifies that the signed Pledge is a public record. To increase transparency and meet the voter need for easily accessible information, I propose that we direct the City Recorder to publish a link to the signed Pledge next to the Candidate’s name on the city’s Elections website, or to indicate in the same space that the Candidate has declined to sign.

The purpose of these changes is to reinforce the importance of following Sandy’s ordinances, to keep Sandy beautiful during a municipal election, to call upon campaign volunteers and supporters to do the same, and to make valuable information easily available to voters.