

SUSAN ADELIZZI
SCHMIDT
★
SENATE

June 27, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew
State Senator, 1st Legislative District
PO Box 941
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

“[Voters] should get a campaign that is truly positive - in word and deed - and which underscores why we ask for their vote, not why don’t want them to choose others.”

“People are sick and tired of campaigns that spend all their time trying to tear down the other side without giving voters a sense of why they want their vote.”

Dear Jeff:

Do you recognize the statements above? You should; they were from a letter you sent me back on June 11 and a press release you placed in the Cape May Count Herald on June 20.

Given the actions of you or those associated with your campaign in the past week, I question whether you meant a single word of what you wrote.

As I am sure you are aware, a creepy negative push poll was received by area residents this past week personally attacking me, my business and my family. The caller, from a Florida-based call center, treated voters to a torrent of misleading charges, accusations and innuendo about me and my personal life juxtaposed with statements full of praise about you.

The resulting feedback to my campaign via Facebook, the phone or in-person, from people who received the call, was unanimous: You and/or your supporters were behind the call.

This is in addition to a “tracker” who is now in the district and shadowing me at events with video/audio equipment. She apparently works for you or the Democrat party bosses you are loyal to. As a working mother, who brings my young children to events with me, you would understand how this is disconcerting, to say the least.

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I understand why you and your handlers want to make the campaign about something other than your record in office. After 11 years in Trenton, the unemployment rate in our part of the state nearly doubled and the average property tax bill statewide increased by 70%.

Our campaign should be about your record on these important issues, and our competing visions for our state and region now and into the future.

Sadly, the events of this past week foreshadow a different kind of race from your side.

Frankly, Jeff, this why normal, hard-working people don't get into politics and run for office.

They fear putting themselves out there so career politicians clinging to power and the party bosses who bankroll their campaigns will go to any means necessary to avoid a substantive debate about important issues and instead drag the campaign and them into the mud.

If you commissioned this push poll and hired this tracker, shame on you.

If you deny responsibility, than I challenge you to denounce the people who did commission that poll and hire that tracker. I challenge you to publicly declare that these dirty campaign tactics and reckless personal attacks have no place in our campaign now or ever.

In short, Jeff, I challenge you to live up the words in your own letter and press release condemning this type of behavior. **Failure to do so renders those words completely hollow.**

I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt".

Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt
Candidate for State Senate
1st District