

Deptford Republicans For A New Start

Deptford Council Challengers Outline Reform Plan for Local Government

Candidates say local township council election is about lower taxes and safer neighborhoods, not political party labels

For Immediate Release

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Deptford, September 28, 2009 – Calling the upcoming Deptford Township Council election a referendum on the incumbent party and their record of higher property taxes, more crime and self-enrichment at taxpayer expense, Deptford Council challenger candidates Jay Madara, Barbara Gallagher, James Capone, and Jon Mangel outlined a three-point reform plan they say will bring positive change to the Township.

In a town where registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans, Madara, Gallagher, Capone, and Mangel urged residents to look beyond party labels and vote for the team with the best plans to lower taxes, reduce crime and provide open, accessible government.

“The incumbents and their party have had a stranglehold on Deptford government for years and look where it has gotten us,” said Madara, a VP of Financial Planning & Analysis with Comcast. “Municipal property taxes have increased by 25% since 2005 and crime has risen by 24% in just the last year alone. When township government is collecting \$5.2 million more from local property taxpayers than it did four years ago, but we still don’t have enough money to maintain a proper police presence in our neighborhoods, something is wrong. That’s what this campaign is about.”

The “Change for Deptford Reform Plan” will:

1. Commission an Independent Audit of Township Finances.

“The tax and spend mentality of the current Council has finally caught up to them,” said Gallagher, a Clinical Research Manager at Thomas Jefferson University. “We cannot expect local residents to sustain 25% property tax increases every four years. It’s outrageous! After years of one-party control here in Deptford, we need an outside, independent auditor to go through

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township finances line-by-line to ferret out the waste and abuse that is driving up taxes and making it unaffordable for working families.”

2. Put More Police on the Street to Fight Rising Crime.

“The 2008 New Jersey State Police’s Uniform Crime Report says we have a 24% increase in crime and the township council responds by cutting the number of police!” exclaimed Capone, a Certified Public Accountant. “You can’t make this stuff up. It’s like throwing gasoline on a fire. According to a prior township council recommendation, we need to have 74 officers to be at full-strength, yet with the recent jobs cuts we will only have 65. Our plan will restore those nine jobs and consider the possibility of increasing the size of the force to combat the growth in local crime.”

3. Eliminate Taxpayer-Paid Health Benefits for Members of Council.

“Property taxes are skyrocketing in the midst of a recession and we’re cutting police officers during a spike in local crime, while at the same time members of township council are taking up to \$16,000 per year in taxpayer-funded health benefits for their part-time elected position – this is unconscionable and it must end now,” said Mangel, an Attorney and VP & CFO of Mamacita, Inc. “We all pledge to refuse taxpayer-funded health benefits and vote to ban them for all future Mayors and Council Members. With people struggling to hold onto their jobs and their own healthcare, how dare these elected officials continue to take this costly perk at taxpayer expense.”

For more information, visit: www.changefordeptford.com