Dear Fellow Derry Voter:

My name is STEVEN TODD. I am your neighbor, fellow taxpayer and a Write In candidate for Derry Township Supervisor. Neither candidate on the ballot has said one thing that I can find on the issues. So I will continue to, as I have publicly for years.

We need to reform a flawed and inefficient Derry government; it has historically been too inundated by non-constituent cash, and too often ignores OUR laws, to effectively represent my family...or yours. I have the qualifications to do so, but more importantly I will owe no one except OUR human neighbors one thin dime. This means I will be allowed to do something about it.

As a Write In candidate, I am not on the ballot, and therefore not allowed to participate in tonight's debate. In the interest of making sure my neighbors hear all their options, I have prepared a list of questions of the most relevant issues our next Supervisor will encounter. Most, of course have to do with efficient use of OUR tax money.

I have answered each one. I have left space for you to write in John Foley and Chuck Witmer's positions, so we might each make an informed choice at the polls. Whether or not these issues are addressed tonight, please keep them in mind as we vote for the person most qualified to ensure efficient use of OUR tax money...and least encumbered against doing so.

QUESTION:
The only publicly available position Foley has taken is on his Facebook page: a promise to "continue to fulfill the Hershey dream. If we do that, we will ensure a vibrant community for the next generation." What does that might mean, and how will it get a grip on our out of control spending?

STEVEN TODD's answer:
I have no idea how that ties Foley down to doing ANYTHING independently verifiable once elected. My **website has had a long-standing and specific platform**:

- Decrease our tax expenditures by voting against award of any no-bid contract over $75,000.
- Continue history of smart growth/sustainable land use comprehensive plan & ordinance updates.
- Accept no campaign funding from non-constituents
- Accept no more than $200 from any campaign donor.
- Recuse self from any issue involving campaign donor.
- Advocate creation of staff engineer, without adding staff.
- Fight for fair-share taxation by exploring converting flat earned income tax into one which varies with income.
- Support legislation to strengthen ability to ensure new development considers school capacity & infrastructure costs.

It's been posted - and growing for months - at http://steventodd.wordpress.com/derry-supervisor/

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
Witmer's website states his platform includes "keeping in check corporate influence". Please explain how and why you will do this.

STEVEN TODD's answer: Bravo if Witmer joins me and Sandy Ballard. Ballard pledged last year to: "Seek fair share taxes; Avoid tax increases; Strengthen Conflict of Interest and competitive bidding rules; Limit campaign contributions"

I claim that **we can not avoid tax increases indefinitely while overpaying for no-bid work**, and might be able to look at a tax decrease. As a professional engineer, I can say without question we are overpaying - and without a change of course, will continue to overpay - for at least our announced $23M no-bid infrastructure improvements. That will lead to even more unfair taxes, inasmuch our EIT is regressive; the EIT may be one of the easiest politically to raise, since they have historically seemed to me least able to influence government**. Awarding work no-bid to campaign donors is a Conflict of Interest in my personal ethics**. I will vote against it because of that fact, even if it remains legal to do so.

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
Former Board member Skip Memmi abstained from appointing our current engineer. He stated his reason, on the public record: "He commented on the good work of HRG (the Twp Engineer), but suggested it would be good government to seek requests for proposals from other engineers." Do you agree or disagree with this approach to governance, or how would you move in a similar situation?

STEVEN TODD's answer:
I applaud Mr Memmi's wisdom on this issue, but I would have opposed the motion, rather than abstaining. All members should have opposed it, if only for the "good governance" reason Memmi cited. I don't know how a mere human can gain the insight needed to make such an appointment - effectively assigning $23M no-bid infrastructure improvements - without interviewing a single firm. If elected, I pledge to oppose every similar circumstance, ensuring OUR tax money is most wisely spent.

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
Harrisburg lobbyists Greenlee Associates and Keystone Strategies websites boast having hosted $250/plate "receptions" for Foley's candidacy this August. Is that a good way to ensure "good governance"?

STEVEN TODD's answer:
No, and **I would never attend a $250/plate Harrisburg lobbyist "reception" to be Derry Supervisor.** The main reason I am running is to bring to light, and fight against, that very non-constituent influence, if elected.

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
The Code of the Township of Derry, Part I, Chapter 28, Section 3 - says **OUR township manager has to be a township resident**. Ours is not. Should ours be, or should we change our law?

STEVEN TODD's answer:

Our manager must be subject to the expenditures for which our staff recommends you and I pay. That would ensure he or she has skin in the same game WE do. It's fair, it's just, and it is typical of many municipalities of similar size. At the very least, I will ensure that upon our manager's retirement, his replacement is a resident. There is simply no reason - or benefit to OUR citizens - to ignore OUR law on this issue any longer. By the end of this weekend, I will have added a new plank to my platform. It will be called: "Solution: Twp Manager." I commit to pursuing this shortcoming vigorously.

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
Derry Township's budget has a line item of $96,000 for "Board of Supervisors." Where does that money go, and is it appropriate to allow such a substantial yet vaguely defined line item in our budget?

STEVEN TODD's answer:
I do not know where it goes, but I will find out, once elected. **It is not appropriate to allow such a substantial yet vaguely defined line item in our budget**.

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

QUESTION:
According to Democracy Rising PA's Oct 13, 2011 DR News: "**67 percent (of PA citizens) want to prohibit public officials from taking gifts and gratuities from those who do public business with them."** Do you agree with two-thirds of PA, or do you dispute DR's findings?

STEVEN TODD's answer:

That 67% sees how it leads to unwise expenditures at all levels. I applaud their wisdom. By the end of this weekend, I will have added the following plank to my platform: “Solution: Outlaw Non-Constituent Cash”. I will work to make it illegal for Derry Twp Supervisors to accept gifts (including campaign contributions) from those who do public business with them. I will report online which Supervisors vote which way on any related motion, so WE will have this information the next time we pick OUR leaders. This will mean better representation of, by and for Derry citizens…if you’ll let me.

John Foley’s answer:

Chuck Witmer’s answer:

QUESTION:
What is one example of **improvements to staff utilization** efficiency you would pursue?

STEVEN TODD's answer:
The duplication of our Director/Asst Director of Community Development is overkill and insufficient at the same time. A more typical organization for a municipality of our size and budget is to have a Zoning Officer/Twp Engineer organization.

By the end of this weekend, I will have added a new plank to my platform. It will be called: "Solution**: Create Staff Engineer**". It will outline a plan to, upon attrition of one of the two employees who fill these redundant positions, move to the more typical Zoning Officer/Twp Engineer scenario. It **will add no staff.**

Alternately the township engineer could remain a consultant. But that consultant must help us spend our tax dollars wisely, by helping us select the right proposal at the right price. This is so obvious to me, and was even before I became an engineer. I can not see why OUR leaders and those running to become OUR leaders don't agree. If they do agree, why doesn't one of them say something?

John Foley's answer:

Chuck Witmer's answer:

In closing, my biggest platform plank is that I agree with US Supreme Court Justice John Stevens, in his January 21, 2010 dissent enjoined (in part) by Justices Ginsburg, Breyer and Sotomayor, of Citizens' United narrowest-possible 5-4 decision. CU opened even further the already-gaping floodgates, allowing special interest money into OUR government: "The conceit that corporations must be treated identically to natural persons in the political sphere is not only inaccurate but also inadequate...the distinction between corporate and human speakers is significant. **Although they make enormous contributions to OUR SOCIETY, CORPORATIONS ARE NOT ACTUALLY MEMBERS OF it**. They cannot vote or run for office. Because THEY MAY BE MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY NONRESIDENTS, their interests may conflict in fundamental respects with the interests of eligible voters. The financial resources, legal structure,and instrumental orientation of corporations raise legitimate concerns about their role in the electoral process. Our lawmakers have a compelling constitutional basis, if not also a democratic duty, to take measures designed to GUARD AGAINST THE POTENTIALLY DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF CORPORATE SPENDING in local and national races."

We here in Derry can't do anything at the federal level, and very little at the state level. The die is cast by that point; the players, so addicted to this bribery scheme as to be out of reach of normal, working taxpayers.

But **we CAN affect our representation**. We MUST agree with the largest-possible Supreme Court minority: that "Although they make enormous contributions to our society, corporations are not actually members of it." We MUST excercise OUR "democratic duty, to take measures designed to guard against the potentially deleterious effects of corporate spending in local races."

Money from any source other than my Derry neighbors has no place in any campaign to become OUR representative. I am doing, and will continue to do, all I can to prevent its effect, by refusing it myself and working to limit its inflow.

But I can do more, if I am at the table on behalf of "actual members of society". That's you and your neighbors. It is NOT lobbyists from Arlington, VA or Harrisburg, land developers from Harrisburg or “homemakers” from Warwick, NY – all of whom have found a need to contribute to OUR Supervisors in the past. It is not non-human, for-profit, incorporated entities or the Political Action Committees they set up.

Please consider well. Elections have consequences. Before pulling the lever for either of my opponents, please consider OUR government…of, by and for human citizens of our beloved Derry Township.