

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 12

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to compile and make available to the public the names of candidates for election to the House of Representatives and the Senate who agree to conduct campaigns in accordance with a Code of Election Ethics.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. HINCHEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to compile and make available to the public the names of candidates for election to the House of Representatives and the Senate who agree to conduct campaigns in accordance with a Code of Election Ethics.

Whereas electoral campaigns throughout the Nation are subject to unacceptable levels of negativism, attack advertising, and other practices which demean representative democracy;

Whereas negative campaigns are directly related to the cynicism, alienation, and decreasing participation rates among American voters;

Whereas all Americans have a stake in positive electoral processes, the centerpiece of civil society;

Whereas each candidate is responsible for fair and ethical practices by or on behalf of the candidate's campaign; and

Whereas the five core values of honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion are fundamental to our society and are widely shared throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. COMPILATION OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES**  
4 **AGREEING TO FOLLOW CODE OF ELECTION**  
5 **ETHICS.**

6       The Clerk of the House of Representatives and the  
7 Secretary of the Senate shall—

8           (1) provide upon request to any candidate for  
9 election to the House of Representatives or the Sen-  
10 ate (as the case may be) a statement of agreement  
11 to conduct the campaign for election for such office  
12 in accordance with the Code of Election Ethics de-  
13 scribed in section 2;

1           (2) compile a list of the names of all candidates  
2       who sign and return such statement to the Clerk or  
3       the Secretary (as the case may be); and

4           (3) make such list available upon request to any  
5       member of the public.

6 **SEC. 2. CODE OF ELECTION ETHICS DESCRIBED.**

7       The Code of Election Ethics described in this section  
8       reads as follows:

9       “My campaign will be committed to the principles of  
10     honesty, fairness, respect for my opponents, responsibility,  
11     and compassion.

12                     “HONESTY AND FAIRNESS

13       “I shall emphasize my views, beliefs, and experiences.  
14     I am committed to an open and public discussion of issues  
15     and presenting my record with sincerity and frankness.

16       “I shall not use or agree to let third parties use subtle  
17     deceptions, half-truths, falsifications, or such practices as  
18     push polling. If such practices are used by third parties  
19     without my approval, I shall repudiate those practices im-  
20     mediately and publicly upon my knowledge of their occur-  
21     rence.

22       “Factual claims made by my campaign will be sup-  
23     ported by publicly available documents provided by my  
24     campaign office.

1 “RESPECT

2 “I shall avoid demeaning references to my opponents  
3 and demeaning visual images of my opponents.

4 “I shall respect my opponents. I shall not use or allow  
5 to be used personal attacks, innuendo, or stereotyping.

6 “RESPONSIBILITY

7 “I shall ensure that my campaign staff and campaign  
8 supporters will observe these principles of fair campaign  
9 practices. I take full responsibility for all advertising cre-  
10 ated or used on my behalf by staff and supporters.

11 “I shall conduct my campaign openly and publicly,  
12 discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record  
13 and policies with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing  
14 without fear and without malice the record and policies  
15 of my opponents and their political parties that merit such  
16 criticism.

17 “I will not condone or allow third-party advertising  
18 which does not meet the principles contained in this docu-  
19 ment. If such practices are used by third parties without  
20 my approval, I shall repudiate those practices immediately  
21 and publicly upon my knowledge of their occurrence.

22 “COMPASSION

23 “In the conduct of my candidacy, I shall show com-  
24 passion at all times for my opponent. I shall remember  
25 that the campaign process is fundamental to representa-

- 1 tive democracy and that my behavior in the campaign af-
- 2 fects the integrity of our society.”.

