

An open letter to U.S. Senate candidate Joe Miller
October 20, 2010

In the Alaska Republican Party's officially adopted "Statement of Principles," Alaska Republicans affirm our commitment to "strongly support ... high ethical standards, transparency and accountability in government for ... elected and appointed officials." It follows that our Republican candidates for public office should commit themselves individually to this standard.

As current and former members of the Alaska Republican Party State Central Committee and other concerned Republicans, we ask Republican U.S. Senate candidate Joe Miller to honestly and directly answer all questions asked him by the public and the press, and to allow the release of relevant documents that will show Alaska voters that he is both qualified and morally fit to represent our state in the United States Senate.

No electable candidate can seriously pursue public office without implicitly saying to voters, "I promise to be ethical, honest and accountable and to make my candidacy as open and transparent as possible." It is unacceptable - and certainly not a winning strategy - to explicitly refuse to answer reasonable questions about oneself, and to disrespect the Alaska public and the press' right to do so before the questions have even been asked.

On a larger scale, the electoral process in Alaska will cease to function if candidates for public office offend the electorate by withholding from a free press - and thereby voters - information necessary to comfortably make intelligent and informed choices.

This is not unfair scrutiny. It is what the Founding Fathers foresaw voters considering when they wrote the U.S. Constitution. It is at best inconsistent and at worst hypocritical to conceal facts about one's past while at the same time basing one's campaign on a claim to respect the U.S. Constitution as the most important source of political legitimacy in the land.

If Republicans, and indeed Alaskans, are being asked to trust that Mr. Miller will do the right thing in the U.S. Senate for a six-year term, then there is no excuse for him not to start doing the right thing right now, with no further delays.

Bill Noll, Anchorage

*Larry Crews, Sitka
Roy Burkhart, Willow
Paulette Simpson, Douglas*

*Kathleen Dalton, Fairbanks
Lynda Adams, Ketchikan
Carol Brenckle, Kenai*

*June Burkhart, Willow
Stephanie Madsen, Juneau
Linda Hutchings, Soldotna
Kim Skipper, Eagle River
Robin Phillips, Anchorage*

Jay Ramras, Fairbanks

*Mel Krogseng, Soldotna
Cliff Skillings, Ketchikan
Susan Fischetti, Eagle River
Grace Merkes, Sterling
Paul Axelson, Ketchikan
Eddie Grasser, Wasilla
Nikki Welles, Homer
Randy Frank, Fairbanks
Frank McQueary, Anchorage*

*Errol Champion, Juneau
Susan Stone, Ketchikan
Eleanor Davenport, Skagway*

*Robert Venables, Haines
Stan Welles, Homer
Dick Coose, Ketchikan
Ralph Samuels, Anchorage
Dallas Massie, Wasilla
Holly Kelty, Anchorage
Doug Olerud, Haines
Bob Krogseng, Soldotna
Fred Reeder, Sitka
Dave Hutchings, Soldotna
Kathy Hosford, Dyea
Aaron Downing, Wasilla
John Winther, Petersburg
Rick Solie, Anchorage
Bud Fate, Fairbanks*