

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2011

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**Joint Statement From Dutchess County Independence, Conservative & Republican Party
Committee Chairs**

**CHAIRS CALL ON BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TO REMOVE CANDIDATE
DAN FRENCH FROM PETITION REVIEW PROCESS**

July 10, Poughkeepsie – “In an ethical conflict, Dutchess County Board of Elections Deputy Commissioner and countywide candidate Dan French will be participating in the official review process for designating petitions for District Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Executive and various public offices. And in the case of our three political parties, all four county wide endorsed candidates appear on a single designating petition respectively.

Although New York State Election law does not allow Commissioners to seek public office, there is no prohibition for Deputy Commissioner or staff. In order for the integrity of the electoral process to be kept intact for all of our Democrat, Independence, Conservative, Republican and Working Family Party’s candidates, we ask that the Democrat and Republican Commissioners honor our request and immediately take action to remove any candidate for elected office employed by the board from the official petition review process.

Tomorrow on Monday, July 11th, our committees will begin to submit designating petitions to the Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE) for review by BOE staff for accuracy and validity. We expect our petitions to be reviewed by qualified staff with no other intention than to follow instructions by their respective appointed Democrat and Republican Commissioners and guidelines implemented by Election Law. As an employee of the board, any candidate for public office finds themselves in a dual position, thus creating the perception of an ethical conflict.

We all agree that the present law is lacking in this case and needs to be amended. We commend the Dutchess County Legislature for considering state home rule remedies to prohibit the employment of elected officials and to stop blatant nepotism violations at the BOE. We encourage our Legislators to pass common-sense resolutions to address this further at the State level.”

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French sees no conflicts between his board job and position as Beekman supervisor, a part-time job that pays \$19,700. "I'm very careful to recuse myself with anything that has to do with Beekman," he said. "Insiders rule Dutchess elections board's jobs"; Poughkeepsie Journal, April 11, 2010

"Republican elections commissioner: French faces conflict of interest with county exec campaign"; Poughkeepsie Journal April 8, 2011

"French to quit County Election Post"; Poughkeepsie Journal, April 9, 2011