

For Immediate Release

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Crouse First to Qualify and Receive Clean Elections Funding in LD-17

TEMPE, Ariz. – Angie Crouse, candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives, is the first to qualify as a Clean Elections candidate in Legislative District 17. The Secretary of State has signed a letter of certification and Clean Election funds were dispersed late last week.

Crouse filed 581 signatures, more than double the required 275. She collected and turned in 252 Clean Election \$5 contributions, 120 percent of the required 210 for a legislative candidate.

Clean Elections was approved by voters in 1998, and makes it possible for anyone with a lot of motivation and energy to run for office.

“For almost three months I spent evenings and weekends knocking on doors in the district, collecting the required number of \$5 contributions and signatures and talking with voters about their needs and concerns. Without them I couldn’t have qualified as a Clean Elections candidate. I appreciate their support and their confidence in my candidacy.”

Clean Elections decreases the influence that big-money-special-interest groups has over elections. In 1998, 79 percent of all races were decided by money – the candidates with largest campaign war chests won. In 2002, only 2 percent of races were affected by disparate funding.

“If Arizona didn’t have Clean Elections, I probably wouldn’t have decided to run for office. I am an average citizen, not a millionaire who can spend thousands of dollars on a campaign. With this system in place, I can run a competitive race, and focus on contacting voters and discussing issues of importance to them.”

Angie Crouse, 36, lives in Tempe and works as a researcher who works with authors who write politically-based books.

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