

Candidates support limits on campaign expenditures

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group has continued to receive strong support from candidates for the concept of limiting campaign expenditures — voluntarily or otherwise.

"We've now received 27 responses from around the state," said Jeff Bohman, AKPIRG executive director.

"Although there are still about 63 other candidates who haven't yet replied, we have found unanimity that spending is out of hand — even if there is some disagreement over the causes, the seriousness or the responses that ought to be pursued," he said.

Of particular significance, the candidates for downtown Anchorage House Seat 12-B, Johnny Ellis and Donald Wilcox, have agreed to mutual voluntary limits.

"These two candidates are to be commended for taking what we believe is an unprecedented move toward fair, equitable, accessible and

democratic election spending," said John Suddock, AKPIRG president.

"We hope to be able to follow this agreement with others from other races in the near future in order to demonstrate that candidates can be responsive to the broad concerns of the public and avoid becoming too closely linked to special interests of any variety," he said.

The agreement reached between Wilcox and Ellis includes two features:

- Total campaign spending, as measured on reports filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, will not exceed \$25,000 for the general election.

- The candidates mutually renounce any independent expenditures made by any others on their behalf and further refuse to accept responsibility for such actions by third parties.