



TOM LEWELLEN

FOR CONGRESS

TOM LEWELLEN, CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS CHALLENGES COMPETITORS TO TAKE A CIVIL CAMPAIGN APPROACH

Tom Lewellen for Congress asks candidates in CD-6 to take the CIVIL\$195 pledge and accept no large campaign donations.

(SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.) November 20, 2019 -This week, congressional candidates for CD-6 received an unprecedented political challenge from Tom Lewellen, congressional candidate for CD-6 who entered the race in November. The challenge simply asked each candidate to take the CIVIL pledge and agree to forgo all large campaign donations and to promote civility in elections and government operations.

Lewellen, a tech executive and student of economics is the founder of CIVIL, a new political party devoted to building a fair and equitable U.S. government.

"Doing right by Arizona voters and the American people shouldn't require 'campaign warfare' and the disenfranchisement of voters, shocking statistics and abysmal voter turnout are a testament to that fact," Lewellen said

"If you have viewed an increasingly dysfunctional political system over the last couple of decades with increasing annoyance, you have plenty of company," Lewellen continues.

Sixty-one percent of voters believe neither party represents them and a whopping 80% of Americans distrust government, according to a recent Pew survey.

"If employees in a business felt this way about their company, it would be out of business. The same is true for your church, a non-profit, for any institution. Without trust, without feeling you have a voice, institutions die," Lewellen said.

So what drives the bad behavior, the yelling and screaming and the Twitter wars in Washington?

"Big money has created two insulated, angry, and power-hungry political parties. The individuals in the parties are good people. The institutions, so focused on accumulating and keeping their immense power have become corrupted and very protective of the monied interests, their source of power. They are like two giant dinosaurs, loaded down with money bags dragging us to the tar pits," Lewellen said.

How big are the donations? The top 100 givers to federal campaigns gave \$790 million in 2016, about 23% of all donations. That's just one hundred people. Seventy percent of all donations are from large donors, about ½ of one percent of eligible voters. These donors are not giving out of the goodness of their hearts. They are buying power and influence. The top one percent givers provided \$2.2 billion or 70% of all donations, and big business, big special interests and union produced another \$3.2 billion for lobbying.

"The rich are buying power and influence and writing laws for their benefit, and the common guy like you and me can't buy a vowel. The rich don't need our help being rich!" Lewellen added.

As there is zero likelihood of legislation to reduce sizable donations, the need for better options is now. The political parties need to regulate themselves, and so do the candidates.

"The vision for this campaign is to lead by example, challenge the status-quo and incite change by doing," Lewellen said. "We look forward to hearing from each candidate with their support for our CIVIL initiative for this election and all upcoming elections, in 2020 and beyond," Lewellen said.

"This is a campaign that will be run entirely by the people for the people. There will be no big money, no corporate contributions and no dark money accepted by this campaign. Our campaign will be fundraised entirely by small donations by individuals at a maximum of \$10 per contribution," Lewellen said.

Employed as a businessman in the technology sector for decades, Lewellen's campaign approach will be equally civil, innovative and entrepreneurial. Notably, the campaign will only accept small donations from independent contributors at a maximum of \$10 per donation.

For more information about Tom4Congress, volunteer for the campaign or make your \$10 contribution today, visit www.tom4congress.org.

About Tom Lewellen

Lewellen is the Founder of CIVIL Governance, an Independent think-tank and FEC-registered political party focused on developing public policy that best serves growth and innovation for the technological age. Lewellen served on Congressman Jim Kolbe's Staff during his first campaign in 1982 and ran for the State Legislature in 1984. Tom4Congress has already received the support of a number of influential business owners, community leaders and corporations in the district.

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