

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Bartlett
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2004 10:47 AM
To: Linda Mathis
Subject: FW: Letter of recommendation for DemNC

Please print on letterhead for my signiture. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Hall [mailto:sprc@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2004 1:46 PM
To: Gary Bartlett
Subject: Letter of recommendation for DemNC

Gary, here's the letter of recommendation, a ringing endorsement... for your slicing, dicing and help! A WORD document attachment is also here if that helps. It would be best if you just gave a copy to me to submit with our proposal early next week, so it all stays together, but you could also send it directly if you desire....

Thanks, Bob

September 24, 2004

Ms. Mary Stake Hawker, Executive Director
Deer Creek Foundation
720 Olive Street, Suite 1975
St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Ms. Hawker,

I understand that Democracy North Carolina is applying for a grant from the Deer Creek Foundation to support the organization's efforts to implement and advance judicial campaign reform in North Carolina. I am pleased to send this letter of recommendation.

While the State Board of Elections does not always agree with the policy choices or strategies that Democracy North Carolina advocates, I have come to rely on them as collaborators in many areas. The quality of their research has earned them a reputation for nonpartisan independence and accuracy. On a number of occasions, the State Board has utilized the findings and expertise of Democracy North Carolina to adopt new policies, such as in the areas of regulating national soft money, drawing the line between genuine and phony "issue" advocacy, and developing meaningful campaign disclosure rules.

Democracy North Carolina has been involved from the beginning in the legislation that led to the state's pioneering judicial public financing program, and they have been involved in every step of the new law's implementation, from the appointment of the Public Campaign Fund's Advisory Council to the promotion of the \$3 check-off that is the chief source of the program's funding.

Most recently, Democracy North Carolina led the effort to make sure the State Board could produce and widely distribute a Judicial Voter Guide, even though the program faced a severe budget shortfall. Through their tenacity and ingenuity, we found ways to cut \$200,000 from the Guide's original cost and are now in the process of printing and mailing 4,000,000 copies to every household in the state. Many others would have just accepted the fact that the Guide would only be available through the Internet and perhaps through newspaper inserts; but it is indicative of the commitment and organizational skill of Democracy North Carolina that they rallied a variety of talent inside and outside government to make the Guide become a reality and begin a new level of voter education for our state.

We have many challenges ahead in the area of judicial reform. This is the first election cycle in which judicial candidates can use the public financing program. We are learning the practical consequences of other aspects of the new law as well. A number of modifications would likely be very helpful, both legislatively and administratively, and I look forward to working with Democracy North Carolina in this important area. Your support of their work will help all of us in North Carolina.

Sincerely,