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Complaint Filed Against Blagojevich Machine and Alderman Schuler in 11th District Statehouse Election

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CHICAGO, Illinois (January 19, 2010) - The 47th Ward Democratic Machine that created Rod Blagojevich is up to the same old dirty tricks in its campaign to elect Dan Farley to the 11th District House seat. A pattern of corruption has emerged in this race, with a candidate spreading lies on campaign literature, stealing yard signs, creating fake community groups, and most recently, holding a senior bingo in the same building where early voting takes place. State law precludes politicking at polling places but only within 100 ft of the polls.

“If this isn’t illegal then it definitely violates the spirit of the law,” said Ann Williams, independent candidate for State Representative in the 11th District. “This is absolutely shameful, but unfortunately not surprising. The machine politicians who forced Rod Blagojevich and Todd Stroger on us are desperately pushing Dan Farley for State Representative, but the voters won’t be fooled.

Alderman Schuler is using his 47th Ward office to organize a senior citizen bingo at Welles Park Field House, 2333 W. Sunnyside on Tuesday at 11 am. This same building is designated as the early voting polling location for the 47th Ward. Seniors will be handled and pushed from bingo tables to the voting booth in the same building, and instructed to vote for Dan Farley.

Staffers from Ann Williams’ campaign will be on hand at the bingo site in an attempt to protect the integrity of the election. Complaints are being filed with Cook County State’s Attorney, Anita Alvarez, as well as the Cook County Clerks Office to guarantee that there will not be electioneering in the early voting polling place. A formal complaint is also being filed with the City of Chicago Inspector General’s Office, alleging the use of city resources to further Alderman Schuler’s political agenda.

“The days of the political machine choosing our elected officials are over for the voters of the 11th district,” said Williams. “Schuler, Mell and Farley are demonstrating their lack of regard for the voters. This shameful episode is just one in a long series of actions designed to deceive the voters and install another machine politician in Springfield.”

The 11th district consists of the communities of Lincoln Park, Roscoe Village, Lincoln Square, North Center, and West Lakeview. Ann Williams is the only candidate in the race endorsed by the Sierra Club, the Brady Campaign to End Handgun Violence, AFL-CIO, and the Illinois Federation of Teachers.

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