September 14, 1999

SUPPLEMENT to AOR 1999-25
Via email to OGC

---------------------- Forwarded by Jonathan Levin/FEC/US on 09/14/99 01:25 PM ----------------------

To: JLevin@FEC.com
cc: TWeste@cgs.org, JMildner@lwv.org (bcc: Jonathan Levin/FEC/US)
Subject: Answer to question about differences between site currently available on the internet and proposed site

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Mr. Levin:

You asked what changes from the current public, D-Net site the new site will
contain with respect to materials. In both sites, candidates themselves will
upload their own issue statements, biographies and other materials. But the
new site will have several improvements with respect to issue coverage.

(1) VIEWING CANDIDATE POSITIONS

CURRENT SITE: In the current site, candidates can upload an initial
statement on an issue and then add subsequent rebuttals to other candidates
positions. Users clicking the "checkmark" in the Issue Grid, however, view all
the candidates statements on that issue in reverse chronological order, with
the most recent statement at the top. Viewers clicking the "issue" itself
view all the statements of all the candidates in that race, linked together in
reverse chronological order. Although this has worked relatively well,
viewers have sometimes had difficulty finding the candidates basic positions
amidst the stream of statements and rebuttals.

NEW SITE: In the new site, candidate statements on issues will appear
separately from their rebuttals to other candidates on those issues.
First, candidates will be able to post a position on an issue, edit that
position at any time, and have that issue appear separately for viewer review.
Second, candidates will be able to comment on their opponents positions, and
these comments will appear in a separate "digital debate" section. Thus,
viewers will always be able to review a candidate's basic position on an
issue, as well as separately view a debate between candidates on those issues.

(2) CANDIDATE COMPARISONS

CURRENT SITE: In the current site, viewers have to click on individual
candidates positions sequentially to compare them.

NEW SITE: In the new site, viewers will be able to compare any two
candidates of their choosing side by side on the same screen. Viewers can
click a pull-down menu, select the names of two candidates; select an issue,
and click "enter." They will see photos of both candidates on the same screen,
with their positions and commentary on each others positions displayed on
the screen.

(3) ISSUE RANKINGS

CURRENT SITE: Issues in the Issue Grid are displayed in alphabetical order.

NEW SITE: Viewers can choose to view the issues in the Issue Grid in several ways: alphabetically, according to their own preferences, or according to the aggregate preferences of all prior viewers. (Viewers can vote which issues are most important to them, and their votes are all tallied and averaged together. Viewers and candidates can then see the issues in the order of ranking by all those indicating their preference.)

(4) VOTER QUESTIONS

CURRENT SITE: In the current site, users can click a form, fill in a question, and email it to candidates. Other viewers, however, do not see these questions or communications.

NEW SITE: In the new site, users will also be able to submit questions to candidates publicly. Viewers will submit their questions to a nonpublic portion of the site. The questions will be reviewed and screened by a League of Women Voters administrator, just as debate moderators screen questions from the audience. Those questions will then appear in a public portion of the DNet site for all candidates and users to view. Candidates wishing to answer them can do so by entering their positions in the Issue Grid.

There are, of course, other features in the new site, but the ones described pertain to the issues discussions between candidates.

Please call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Trevor Potter