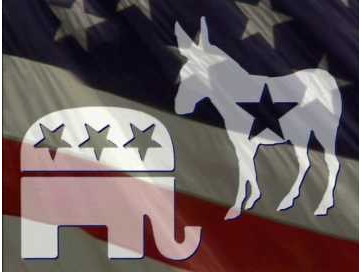


Cleaning out the closet helps a campaign



Candidate's supporters use a garage sale to fund a contribution

Oct. 13, 2006 12:00 AM

The November elections are just around the corner and things are heating up in the political arena. Even some garage sale lovers are doing their part.

"All our proceeds from this sale are going to help fund a political campaign," said Kay Grams of Tempe. She and Mesa resident Bob Keiser are turning their profits over to Herb Paine, the Democratic candidate for 3rd District for U.S. Congress.

"Well, we needed to get rid of some stuff so we thought, why not help Herb's campaign at the same time?" Bob said. Paine, who runs a business-consulting firm, is hoping to unseat incumbent Republican John Shadegg, who has been in office since 1994.

Ken Spain, a Shadegg spokesman in Washington, D.C., told me he doesn't know of anyone holding garage sales to raise money for the Shadegg camp.

Paine was happy to find out he had some supporters raising money for his campaign and was especially impressed by how they were doing it.

"I love garage sales. At least twice a year, holding a garage sale is my way of sanitizing my home," Paine said.

Bob was able to turn over \$300 to Paine's campaign.

"I was incredibly gratified by it. This is a grass-roots campaign and so every dollar counts. It really speaks to the commitment these folks have to making a change in Congress," Paine said.

Paine was so thrilled with the garage sale fund-raiser that he sent out a special e-mail to his supporters. Here's part of what Paine said in his newsletter on ways to raise money: "BE INNOVATIVE. Follow the example of Bob Keiser, who last weekend held a garage sale for Paine for Congress and raised \$300. WAY TO GO! Perhaps we ought to clean out our closets and mobilize garage sales around the district and have a little fun and clean up at the same time."

Whether you're inspired to hold a garage sale to raise money for his campaign or not, Paine may be right. Politicians have been promising to clean up America for years. So maybe we can do our part by holding a garage sale but . . . put the money in our own pocket!

Lynda Hammond runs the www.GarageSaleGal.com Web site where you can list and look for garage sales on-line and read past columns. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.