

Allison: Quinn misled voters on accepting money

The 143rd District candidate claimed Quinn accepted larger PAC donations than she admitted.

BY AMANDA CREGAN
STAFF WRITER

Challenger Diane Allison is questioning state Rep. Marguerite Quinn's decision to accept special interest campaign money and says Quinn has misled voters on how much she accepts.

The Democratic candidate said the Republican incumbent deceived audience members at an Oct. 2 debate in Plumstead for the seat in the 143rd District

by suggesting individual political action committees gave her no more than between \$150 and \$200 apiece.

According to state campaign finance reports, Quinn's individual PAC donations total as much as \$2,500, a donation she received from a Pennsylvania realty group.

"I guess the question for me was the honestly level of it, saying she received \$150 to \$200 from each PAC and that wasn't the truth of it," said Allison, referring to Quinn's answer to a debate question.

Quinn says Allison has it wrong.

"I did not say I only accepted \$150 to \$200," said Quinn, who points to that amount as her average donation and price of a fundraiser ticket.

"I said if you think \$150 to \$200 would buy my vote than you have seriously underestimated my integrity."

But Allison, who does not accept special interest funding, says it's a matter of character.

"My view of the PACs is that they influence things," said

Allison. "The money influences votes and that's why I've chosen not to take them, for the actual influences or perceived influences."

Allison, who accepts campaign contributions from individual donors, said she would continue to refuse any corporate or special interest group funding if elected.

Besides PPL, Pennsylvania Realtors and several divisions of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Quinn accepted support from the Pennsylvania State Education Association, Comcast, Merck, First Energy and the Pennsylvania Insurance Federation.

Allison says Quinn's choice to accept the money can lead residents to wonder how her vote may be influenced.

"PPL wants to put a transmission line through Upper



Diane Allison



Marguerite Quinn

Bucks County and people are protesting that, and yet she's receiving money from PPL People for Good Government and that could really leave people wondering," said Allison, referring to the \$700 Quinn received from PPL.

Quinn stands on her character and says she's offended at Allison's implication that her integrity could be compromised.

"I was speaking in general in a 60 second snapshot in time," said Quinn, who has served two years in office. "I was speaking from my heart and my gut that my vote's not for sale, period."

Quinn says she accepts endorsements and contributions from groups that often conflict with each other on issues.

"I'm happy for the support but if someone feels I don't vote the way they want me to, I've told them I could return their

money or they can choose to not support me next time around," she said.

Quinn says her record proves that her vote cannot be bought. She said she's received money from health insurance company PACs but has voted against legislation they support.

"I think the money comes because they recognize that I am a hardworking bipartisan legislator," said Quinn.

For Allison, she says she doesn't want any of the perks or the PACs. She said she's happy to take endorsements without campaign checks.

"I want to be able to look at an issue and make a decision based on what is right and with the input of my constituents and not be worrying about getting money from that special interest group based on how I'm going to vote," said Allison.

According to reported cam-

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■ For a detailed list of each candidate's campaign contributors and donations visit www.campaignfinance.state.pa.us

■ Marguerite Quinn: www.quinnforstaterep.com

■ Diane Allison: www.dianeallison.org

paign finance data, Allison has raised \$7,110 and Quinn has raised \$43,981.

The 143rd District represents Bedminster, Bridgeton, Buckingham, Doylestown Township, Durham, Nockamixon, Plumstead, Riegelsville and Tinicum.

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