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## Candidates talk of trust at 143rd forum

By: **EDWARD LEVENSON** (Wed, Oct/25/2006)

While members of the audience asked more than two dozen questions at a forum for candidates in the 143rd state House District, not one dealt specifically with last year's infamous legislative pay raise.

However, the candidates said Tuesday night they would work to restore trust in state government if elected Nov. 7.

Republican Marguerite Quinn, Democrat Larry Glick and independent Tom Lingenfelter appeared at a candidates' night sponsored by the Bucks County League of Women Voters. More than 100 people attended the 90-minute event at the Plumstead Township building.

"We need reform in Harrisburg," said Quinn, a real estate agent. She said she supports a lobbyist disclosure law, a prohibition on legislative votes during "lame duck" sessions and a three-day review period before votes on legislation.

Glick, training director for the Abington Police Department, said campaign finance reform is essential to "level the playing field. We need to get more citizen representatives running for public office."

Lingenfelter, who has unsuccessfully sought various public offices as a Republican and a Democrat during the past 15 years, said he is challenging the two-party stranglehold on power. "Harrisburg is not playing by the rules because they don't have to. If you want to get rid of corruption, replace them," he said.

Lingenfelter arrived unexpectedly halfway through the evening, but moderator Tam St. Claire permitted him to join the other two candidates. She said afterward the league had not excluded Lingenfelter, but it was not aware of his candidacy when invitations went out in August.

Before Lingenfelter showed up, Quinn and Glick expressed differences on some issues.

Quinn said property tax reform is the biggest challenge facing the state, while Glick said health care is a "man-made disaster." Glick said he is pro-abortion rights, while Quinn said she opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest and endangering the mother's life. Quinn said she is against same-sex marriage but for civil unions, while Glick said same-sex marriage should be permitted. Glick said he favors limiting state representatives to three terms, while Quinn said voters can limit incumbents by voting them out of office.

Glick raised Quinn's hackles when he mentioned she had been a top salesperson for developer Toll Brothers and had received the endorsement and contributions from the Pennsylvania Realtors Legislative Alliance, which he said opposes giving municipalities more power over development.

"The last thing we need is another developers' friend, a Realtors' friend in Harrisburg," Glick said.

Quinn retorted that just because an organization endorsed her doesn't mean she agrees with all its positions. "I feel it's an attack on my character," she said.

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