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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 182ND DISTRICT

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## MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2011

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Rep. Babette Josephs

**SUBJECT:** Co-Sponsorship of Legislation to forbid the use of public funds or public resources to conduct campaign polling.

In the near future I will introduce legislation to prohibit knowingly expending public funds or knowingly using public resources for campaign polling which is defined as organized preparing, compiling, and gathering of information, including focus groups and surveys that reflects public opinion as to any elected official, any candidate, political body, organization or party intended to be used for support of or opposition to the election or reelection of a candidate.

Penalties assessed against those found to have engaged in these activities will be graded according to the aggregate value of public funds spent in violating the prohibition: an individual found to be in violation would be guilty of a second degree misdemeanor unless the aggregate value of the public funds spent or the public resources used for campaign polling exceeds \$2,000, in which case the individual would be guilty of a felony in the third degree. The violator also would be required to pay restitution to the governmental body in an amount equal to three times the cost or three times the market value of the campaign polling, whichever is greater.

The bill clarifies that it is not a violation of the law if a public employee engages in an activity related to campaign polling on the public employee's own time.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation please contact Jenn Belz in my office at 787-8529 or by email at [jbelz@pahouse.net](mailto:jbelz@pahouse.net).

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