

**GOP Committee Members Begin to Express Concerns Regarding Mennen's Residency**  
*Spadea Team Continues Positive Message Despite Attacks from Mennen Attorney*

**Readington, NJ (December 19, 2011)**- Republican County Committee members are expressing their concerns and disappointment with the legal maneuverings of lawyers on behalf of Will Mennen who is running for the Assembly in a district in which he does not reside. Mennen is a resident of Tewksbury located in NJ's 24<sup>th</sup> district, and will soon become a resident of NJ's 23<sup>rd</sup> district due to redistricting when the new Legislature is sworn in on January 10<sup>th</sup>. His candidacy in the 16<sup>th</sup> district has many Republican Committee members, who are charged with filling the vacancy, very concerned and upset.

Morris County attorney, Alan Zakin defended Mennen's position of running in the 16<sup>th</sup> district while living in the 23<sup>rd</sup> by referencing *Robertson v. Bartels* in recent public statements. This was the same argument used by the Democrats in the case against Carl Lewis, in which Republicans successfully challenged the eligibility of the Democrat candidate to remain on the ballot based on the residency requirements under the New Jersey Constitution.

"Like many other Hunterdon County Republicans, I am concerned that Hunterdon County should be well-represented in this newly-created legislative district," said Betty Ann Fort, Republican Committeewoman from the 16<sup>th</sup> district town of Readington. "I am certain that there are many highly qualified candidates who already live in the district, and am uncomfortable that the residency rules might be broken or bent to enable someone from outside the district to run."

Another Republican committeewoman, Tonia Kulberda, from the 16<sup>th</sup> district municipality of South Brunswick commented, "It's surprising and disappointing to already have received two communications from a candidate who doesn't live in the district, and still hasn't proven his eligibility to run in this district. No matter how you try to excuse it, he simply doesn't live here."

Susan Rodriguez, a grassroots leader and Republican voter in Hillsborough, Somerset County voiced her concerns stating that, "The New Jersey Constitution has had Article IV Section 1 Paragraph 2 since 1947, and a person must simply live in district for one year. The law is the law; we just can't change the rules to suit our personal ambition."

"Our campaign is focused on Bill Spadea personally presenting his positive message to the Republican Committee members as to why he's the best and most qualified candidate for the job," said Leigh-Ann Bellew, who is managing Spadea's campaign for the open seat. "While we're not at all surprised by the reaction of the county committee members who are upset over the residency issue, we're going to remain above the fray."

Spadea, a former U.S. Marine Corps reservist, community leader and New Jersey business executive, has been hard at work over the past week speaking directly with delegates. His campaign will begin knocking on doors right after the New Year.

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