

News Release
For Immediate Release



Roy Schmidt Announces for 76th Seat

Grand Rapids --- After months of speculation former City Commissioner **Roy Schmidt will announce his candidacy as a Democrat for the 76th State House Seat at a news conference to be held at 5:00PM Tuesday, January 22, 2008** at his new campaign headquarters at **415 Leonard NW just west of Brann's Restaurant**. The event will kick off what Schmidt describes as the “most important campaign I’ve ever been involved in”.

Schmidt will stress his proven ability to work with people at every level of government to bring results and good policy to the people of Grand Rapids. He has often been touted as the most effective commissioner based on his easy going demeanor and willingness to work with City Staff in assuring things get done. For year’s Schmidt campaigns have featured the slogan, “I called Roy and Roy called back” referring to his exceptional constituent response record. Schmidt has enjoyed a career as a customer relations specialist his entire adult life. When he became a City Commissioner he simply applied those principles to his work and actually introduced procedures and policies to city government that few are aware he was responsible for. But for Schmidt customer service is just what a politician should do. In this race there is more at stake.

In a prepared statement Schmidt will emphasize the need to end partisan division and ideological stagnation.

“IN LANSING POLITICS RULES. PARTISANSHIP IS THE UNDERLYING VALUE SYSTEM AND DEADLOCK AND LOGJAM ARE ALL THAT RESULT. I BELIEVE SO STRONGLY THAT WE

NEED A BIG CHANGE IN LANSING THAT I AM DEDICATING THIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN TO CHANGING LANSING FROM A GOVERNMENT LED BY PARTY BOSSES TO A GOVERNMENT BASED ON CUSTOMER SERVICE.”

“TO SET A TONE OF COOPERATION I AM MAKING A PROMISE TO THE VOTERS OF THE 76TH DISTRICT. I PROMISE THAT I WILL USE MY ENERGY AND CONNECTIONS TO HOST A UNITY BREAKFAST FOR ALL OF THE 44 NEW LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES TO SET OUT A STRATEGY OF COOPERATION. I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS SEEK TO DO THE RIGHT THING. IT’S JUST THAT IN LANSING POILITICS GETS IN THE WAY. I KNOW THAT I HAVE THE SKILLS AND PERSONALITY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER AND FIND COMMON GROUND.”

Schmidt will speak about the need to find solutions to our faltering economy on a bi-partisan basis. He sees families being torn apart by loved ones leaving the state to find decent employment. Schmidt has been a compassionate spokesperson for cities and municipalities around the state crippled by the cuts in state revenue sharing over the past ten years. He is deeply concerned with the erosion of basic services like police and fire that are so profoundly affected by those cuts. “Local government is the front line. That is where we need to focus our efforts to make sure the people are cared for in the best way” he said.

Prepared statement:

I PLEDGE MY HEART AND SOUL TO WORKING TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE STATE GOVERNMENT. I PLEDGE MYSELF TO WORKING WITH ALL MEMEBRS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO FIND THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WE FACE AS A STATE. I PLEDGE MYSELF TO FOCUSING ON THE NEEDS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE OF THIS STATE AND MY DISTRICT SO WE CAN RESTORE OUR JOB MARKETS, ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION, BRING REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO OUR HEALTH CARE CRISIS AND REUNITE FAMILIES BY CREATING A STATE ECONOMIC PICTURE THAT IS INVITING TO EMPLOYERS AND ENTRPRENEAURS. I ASK THAT YOU ALL JOIN ME IN THIS EFFORT. IT IS A CAUSE THAT IS JUST, TIMELY AND DESPERATELY NEEDED. IT IS TIME FOR CHANGE IN LANSING. IT IS TIME TO LAY DOWN OUR PARTISAN SHIELDS AND TAKE UP THE BANNER OF COOPERATION AND THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

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For more information or a personal interview with Roy please contact:

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