

*For immediate release.*

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## **Morris Township Committee Passes Citizen Service Act**

*--Act Part of Grayzel's Efforts to Open Government--*

*--Municipal "Pay-to-Play" Next on Open Government Agenda--*

October 22, 2009—Morris Township Committee member Jeff Grayzel today announced that The Citizen Service Act has been passed by the Morris Township Committee. The Act, which was introduced by Grayzel and co-sponsored by Township Committee member Ron Goldberg, was passed by a vote of 5 to 0 at the Morris Township Committee meeting on October 21.

The Act calls for the establishment of open notification and application procedures for Township residents interested in municipal position appointments.

“I’m pleased that the Committee has passed this Act, and am proud to have spearheaded this effort toward a more open and participatory government,” commented Grayzel. “Now volunteer positions with the Township will be openly available to all residents, providing the mayor with the opportunity to open his appointments to a wider spectrum of Township residents,” he added.

### **Grayzel Introduces Local Pay-to-Play Act**

“To continue my quest for open and responsible government, I have introduced a municipal-level pay-to-play act, The Public Contracting Reform Act, that would place limits on political contributions by those doing business with the Township,” said Grayzel. “This Act will expand on state regulations and sever the links between political donations and government contracts, and ensure that contracts will instead be driven by merit and cost-effectiveness,” he added.

The Public Contracting Reform Act was introduced by Grayzel and seconded by Goldberg. Even though the legislation had been vetted by the Township's Legislative Committee of Ray Snyder and Grayzel, introduction was achieved only after an initial objection, lead by Scott Rosenbush, who refused to put this item on the meeting agenda. The newly introduced ordinance would, if adopted, set limits on contributions from professionals—such as attorneys, auditors and engineers—and ban contributions by contractors. The municipal-level Act, which is scheduled for final adoption at the December Township Committee meeting, will expand on

regulations already required by the state of New Jersey. It will close loopholes in state law that would allow municipal political candidates to evade political contribution limits and accept post-contract contributions, and that permit contractor contributions to be funneled from a county political party to municipal candidates.

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