

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

Letters to the Editor, Oct. 2, 2017

Candidates should disclose contributions, expenditures

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

The recent debate between Ralph Northam and Ed Gillespie touched on a number of policy issues important to Virginia voters. Those who tuned in learned where the candidates stand on health care reform and taxes, for example, but were left guessing as to what ethical standards each candidate would uphold and promote from the governor's mansion.

As candidates for the highest statewide office in Virginia, Northam and Gillespie should lead by example. Fortunately, there is an easy way for them to do so. The Coalition for Integrity — a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes transparency and integrity in the public and private sectors — has asked candidates to speak out on integrity issues. Specifically, we have challenged all candidates for statewide office, including candidates Northam and Gillespie, to endorse the Virginia Integrity Challenge and pledge to disclose on their campaign websites contributions received and expenditures made by their campaign committees, their financial disclosure forms and most recent tax returns, and gifts received while running for office, including gifts given to their immediate family members.

By making integrity part of their campaign platforms and by making these disclosures easily available and accessible, the candidates would send a powerful message to voters who want to elect leaders they can trust to represent their interests.

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