

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Tompkins County Democratic Committee Chair Linda Hoffmann on Race for County Legislature District 7

Ithaca, NY - Last week, John Dennis announced his intention to suspend his campaign for the Tompkins County Legislature (District 7), noting his wife's health issues as a factor in his decision. Dennis has since endorsed incumbent Deborah Dawson, who, in early September, launched a write-in campaign for reelection for a third term on the County Legislature. In his statement, Dennis cited the need for Dawson's experience and leadership on the legislature as the county faces budget constraints stemming from cuts in Washington.

Said Tompkins County Democratic Committee Chair Linda Hoffmann, "A write-in campaign is an unusual circumstance for our local elections. John exemplifies a depth of grace in his having stepped away from this race and endorsed his write-in opponent, Deborah Dawson. I offer my sincere thanks to John for putting himself forward to serve our community in the County Legislature. Though he has ended his campaign, I know that John will continue his important work as one of the founders of Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) to protect our lake and the quality of our water."

"Due to the late date of John Dennis's campaign suspension, it is not possible to remove his name from the ballot," **explained Hoffmann**. "It is important that voters residing in District 7 understand that though John's name will be on their ballot, he has decided not to continue his campaign. I encourage voters in District 7 to write in Democrat and long-serving legislator Deborah Dawson's name on their ballots."

Hoffmann noted that voters must follow the instructions for their write-in vote to be counted. "To "Write-In" Deborah Dawson on the ballot, **she said**, "the updated voting machines require the voter to fill-in the bubble and write in the name in the indicated section."

The new Legislative District 7 consists of the Village of Lansing, a southern strip of the Town of Lansing and District 5, in the Town of Ithaca.

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