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## CASTEEL RESPONDS TO NEGATIVE “PUSH POLL”

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS – State Representative Carter Casteel (R-New Braunfels) responded today to a “push poll” being conducted in House District 73, which includes Bandera, Comal, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties. The polling questions misrepresented Casteel’s conservative values and voting record as a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

“I have had many calls about the ‘push poll’ conducted last week,” Casteel said. “‘Push polls’ are political telemarketing, not public opinion surveys. The ‘poll’ questions were designed to misrepresent my conservative values and voting record as your state representative.”

“I have always had an ‘open door’ policy. If you want to know where I stand, just ask,” Casteel added. “Despite the efforts of political opponents, I have never participated in negative campaigning and will not start now.”

According to voters who received telephone calls, a Houston-based telemarketing operation conducted the “push poll” for a potential political candidate. The funding source for the survey remains a mystery.

A “push poll” is a political campaign technique used to influence or alter the view of respondents under the guise of conducting a public opinion survey and generally viewed as a form of negative campaigning. The American Association of Public Opinion Research, American Association of Political Consultants and Council of Marketing and Opinion Research have long condemned “push polling,” as these illegitimate surveys often contain false information and damaging innuendo.

Casteel officially filed paperwork last week with the Republican Party of Texas seeking a third term. An attorney and former public school teacher, Casteel was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in November 2002. She previously served eight years as Comal County Judge (1990-98) and six years on the Comal Independent School District Board of Trustees (1984-90).