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## Nozzolio opponent presents campaign reform outline

By CRAIG FOX / Finger Lakes Times

SENECA FALLS - Democrat Paloma Capanna has outlined her ideas for campaign finance reform - by challenging her opponent, Sen. Michael Nozzolio, to limit their campaign donations from individuals to \$1,000.

Capanna also said during a campaign stop at the National Women's Hall of Fame Tuesday that she'll limit contributions to her campaign from political action committees to \$2,000. She signed a pledge that will follow those stipulations.

In her bid for the 54th district seat, she would be the first major party opponent that Nozzolio, of Fayette, has had since 1990.

During her visit, Capanna also gave a Nozzolio aide a form for him to sign agreeing to the promises for campaign contributions. So far, she hasn't heard back from him.

Currently, individuals can contribute up to \$15,500 for state senatorial candidates.

"We'll have to wait to see his response," Capanna said, adding that he has until Tuesday to turn it in, the same day when candidates must submit a fundraising report to the Board of Elections.

Capanna also said she supports personal financial disclosure of candidates, something that's not required by candidates in the state.

She said that she plans to work for public financing of campaigns for state office. Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who's also a Democrat, has been a strong advocate of campaign reform, but, so far, he hasn't been able to get state lawmakers to move on the issue.

Capanna wouldn't say how much money she's raised so far, but said that her campaign has a goal of getting 300 donors before Tuesday's fundraising report is due.

"It demonstrates that we truly have a grassroots campaign," she said.

Nozzolio spokesman Justin McCarthy questioned Capanna's plan for campaign reform.

"I find it hypocritical of Ms. Capanna to call for a limit on political contributions when she herself, as a candidate for office, received a single campaign donation of \$15,000 from one political union," he said in a prepared statement received this morning, adding the senator also opposes Capanna's plan requiring taxpayers to pay the cost of political campaigns.

"Senator Nozzolio believes that funding would be much better used to reduce property taxes, preserve health care services and improve local schools," he said.

With 186,000 enrolled voters in the district, Republicans outnumber Democrats 75,986 to 55,312, with about 43,000 registered voters not affiliated with a political party.