

# MISSOULA COUNTY DEMOCRATS

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## Media Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Councilman John Hendrickson Deceives about Mayoral Endorsement in Radio Ad**

Today, Missoula County Democrats will file a complaint with the Montana state Office of Political Practices alleging that Ward 2 Councilman John Hendrickson aired a deliberately deceptive radio advertisement. In the ad, Hendrickson, a member of the Missoula County Republican Central Committee, claims word-for-word the endorsement Mayor John Engen wrote for a mailer by his Democrat-endorsed challenger Roy Houseman.

"John Hendrickson's campaign ad is deliberately deceptive," said Missoula County Democrats vice-chair Emily Brock. "He's trying to put one over on voters who value Mayor John Engen's judgment that Roy Houseman would be a better public servant than John Hendrickson."

On October 19, 2009, Roy Houseman sent the attached mailer to voters in ward 2. The mailer contains the following endorsement from Mayor John Engen: "The Missoula City Council should be comprised of leaders willing to offer solutions, work together and represent this great city as we meet the challenges of this remarkable place. Roy Houseman has demonstrated that brand of leadership. He listens and learns and acts to serve the best interests of his community. You can't ask for more and you shouldn't settle for less."

As early as October 23, 2009, John Hendrickson began airing the attached radio ad, voice by Gap West Broadcasting News Director Pete Deneault. The radio ad begins as follows: "Mayor John Engen says the Missoula City Council should be comprised of leaders willing to offer solutions, work together and represent this great city as we meet the challenges of this remarkable place. City councilor John Hendrickson fits these qualifications..."

"I fell out of my chair when I heard John Hendrickson's ad," says Missoula County Democrats chair and Ward 1 councilman Jason Wiener. "I work with both the mayor and Councilman Hendrickson and nothing could be more misleading about their working relationship than the ad John Hendrickson is paying to run. Trying to grab the coattails of someone Hendrickson antagonizes shows real desperation."

"Roy Houseman earned Missoula County Democrats' endorsement by truthfully presenting a positive vision for Missoula's future," says Brock, "and he's shored it up with the tremendous work ethic he's shown on the campaign trail. Roy hasn't had to fabricate support, and it's disappointing Hendrickson would stoop to deceit to do so. Ward 2 should elect Roy Houseman and put this sort of bad behavior behind them."

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