

LOCAL POLITICAL CONTESTS BRING FORTH HANDSOME & QUALIFIED CANDIDATES 09/21/99

I awoke this morning around 3am with a splitting headache. After a bathroom run and a couple of aspirin, I lay in bed trying to get back to sleep. You older readers will relate to that and the rest of you will too, soon enough.

At first my thoughts were on the usual things, such as a wasted youth, but I soon drifted back to the present. As they did, I began to focus on the *Express* and how impressed I was with it. The proliferation of campaign ads and accompanying photos in particular. Then it dawned on me just how lucky we are to have so many well-qualified people willing to serve the community.

The more I dwelled on the thought, I began to realize it might be a good topic for this column. Hieing myself out of bed, I began the day with that in mind while the idea was fresh in my head. I explored the possibilities further as I started the coffee and filled the hummingbird feeder with fresh syrup for the coming day.

I repeat, we are lucky to have so many qualified individuals willing to serve. Someone has to do it and most of us do not have the inclination, ambition, spirit or are unwilling to take the time. I, for the most part, fit the later mold and because of it, try to be fair about my perception of the job the incumbents are doing. Any negative thoughts I may have are expressed directly to the persons involved or in the sanctum of the voting booth. Win, lose or draw, I try to respect and understand the opinions and actions expressed by everyone.

Most of us do not view the implications involved in local politics in the same light we do state and national politics. You will hopefully note I said **most** of us, since fortunately, for all of us, there are many who do. They display the same fervor and dedication on all three levels. This, of course, is how it should be since like all things in life, it all starts at home.

One thing in particular differentiates most local politicians from their elevated counterparts – they started out as community volunteers in some capacity. You will note in the present slate of prospective legislators their resumes list a wide assortment of roles in volunteer organizations.

As a general rule, most state and national politicians move directly from law school into the political arena. Naturally, they are unanimously motivated by the same principles as their local counterparts – an overwhelming desire to make life better for everyone. Their results are nearly always the same: Simple everyday common sense becomes hopelessly complicated. Hence, the display of a sign in many businesses places proclaiming, “I am from the government and here to help you.” Most business owners, including small community Supervisors, would rather be greeted by Mike Wallace than a state or federal government snoop.

I submit that persons who live in their own bailiwick rather than Albany or Washington are apt to be more responsive to their constituents. They are also more likely to be replaced if they stray too far afield.

Finally, I reiterate, I was impressed in particular by the campaign photos of all the aspiring candidates. Besides being a handsome lot, they exuded that quality Wilson’s Jewelers looked for in the ads. Remember their slogan? “Just bring an honest face.”

To make a long story short, I extend my thanks to all the candidates of both parties and wish them the best of luck. I harbor none of the apprehension and anxiety I get when I view those in either party in state or national government.