



Thoughts

Representing all of the People and Pig in a Poke

I have heard some speeches, looked at some mailings and reviewed the websites of the City Commission Candidates. It is interesting that many of the candidates talk and write in generalities. At least one has shied away from the first two public forums. Even some of the candidates that attended the forums failed to really provide any solid answers to relevant questions.

We are a month away from the election and what we are getting from most of the candidates is a lot of fluff. Their campaign literature and stump speeches are filled with phrases like civil discussion, build consensus, listen to a variety of perspectives, will represent all of the people, will do what is good for the entire community, quality of life and my favorite - *adequately funded*. It appears as though these candidates think they can be everything for everyone, or maybe they are just being disingenuous?

"You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." – attributed to a number of famous individuals Abraham Lincoln, P. T. Barnum, poet John Lydgate and Mark Twain (no hard evidence that any of these individuals actually coined the term).

Anyone running for public office should keep a copy of the quote handy. Voter's should also remember the quote and be very wary of those that promise to please all of the people.

Can any public figure represent all of the people? I think the answer is **no** because not all of the people agree on the key issues. So the task of a candidate is to make crystal clear their stance on key public policy issues. Public figures cannot represent all of the people, they can only represent a philosophy, establish direction, and enact specific government regulations/ordinances. The voters need to become educated as to the candidates general philosophy of government, the direction they intend to push/guide the government and most important the **specific** action they will take on regulation, spending and ordinance enactment.

As an old country boy I have always been familiar with the term '**pig in a poke**'. Everyone knows what a pig is, but a poke may not be as familiar. A poke is a sack, pouch, pocket or bag. In medieval times market goers would purchase a pig in a poke. The pigs were in the poke to prevent them running amuck around the market. Merchants would describe the contents of the poke to potential buyers and with display space limited, a crowded market and little time - the buyer would purchase the pig; sight unseen, without inspection; taking the word of the seller. Sometimes the buyer got home and was sorely disappointed with the contents of the poke, as it might contain a less desirable piggy or maybe even something other than a pig.

A word to the wise, learn the philosophy and exact intent of the candidates. Do not vote for a '**pig in a poke**'. **Mr. K**

