

\$ Thoughts

The Non Partisan Race – City Commission an Examination

The Robin Hood, Commons Sense and The Un-committed Party

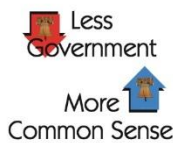
The Manhattan City Commission elections are billed as nonpartisan. This means that the Republican and Democrat parties and maybe the Libertarians cannot formally get involved in the process. Calling an election nonpartisan does not necessarily make it so. The seven candidates cannot be grouped under the “*traditional party*” labels, but in the interest of voter clarity, maybe some new party monikers should be developed to cover the candidates general outlook on the key issues. A laundry list of specific topics can be produced from revoking old ordinances to support for the library expansion. No matter the size of the list of topics, they can be grouped into four major categories – Taxes, Social Issues, Governmental Reach and Spending.

The seven candidates for the City Commission fit into three categories and maybe can be labeled with the following party monikers.



The Robin Hood Party (RH). Sometimes called the FEE – Free Entitlements for Everyone Party. Members of the RH party are all about feeling good, with OPM (other people’s money). Candidates from this party are big on spending, especially if tax dollars can be funneled to special interest groups. Fixed route bus service provided by aTa, expanded social services, government rental inspection programs and spending for a better quality of life are all part of the RH party agenda. The RH party will make certain that government grows, that spending continues to increase and that the rich “*pay their fair share.*” These guys are all about social equality and making certain that anyone that is successful is penalized through higher taxes. For the RH party paying higher taxes is an obligation, core services include MAC, aTa, bike paths, day care services, and any identifiable charitable organization. After all the government needs to ensure your quality of life and what better way to do that than with tax dollars? The RH party knows that the government can best manage your money and property. Rental inspection and additional government regulation

are in order to include a living wage. High on the priority list is to control property use through historical preservation regulations. Totally in favor of property tax to support local government the RH party members hate sales tax – too regressive and it hurts the needy. The Robin Hood Party is all about taking from one group and giving to another. These are the folks that start petitions to donate 2% of the general fund for social services, but will not donate their own money to those agencies through the City supported water bill donation program. 1800 RH members signed the SOS petition, but only 102 citizens donated to the agencies. Hold on to your wallet if the Robin Hood Party gains control of the Commission. RH party candidates include Debbie Nuss and Karen McCulloh.



The Common Sense Party (CS). Candidates from this party tend to look at individual issues from a rational rather than emotional approach. They understand that the difference between core government functions and the wants of special interest groups. The CS party is focused on reduction of government regulation and taxes. Individual responsibility to support social services is valued over forced government contributions. CS party candidates will work to provide a balanced approach, ensuring core services are provided, while cutting the fluff. The CS party understands business. Your wallet will be safe with the CS party as they will only buy what the city can afford. CS party candidates include Bob Strawn, John Ball and Daniel Hogan.



The Un-committed Party (UC). Sometimes called the Waffle Party because the voter can never really figure out what these guys are going to do. On occasion this group is also just called the Unknowns as they keep silent on hot button issues. UC candidates will state one policy view point, but then vote totally different. UC candidates do their best to follow a system of appeasement. They tell individual groups of voters what they want to hear, so they always have multiple positions on government policy. You need a wind gage to figure out the direction that these candidates are actually heading. UC candidates obfuscate data to keep you guessing or just flat do not provide any detailed information. Election of the UC candidates is like the old Forest Gump line – a box of chocolates, you just never know what you are going to get. Rich Jankovich is the leader of the UC/Waffle Party and Usha Reddi is a disciple.

Mr. K