

Your Vote...

Have you voted yet?

by Kat Rowoldt



Your vote is **SO POWERFUL** in this election!

Most people do not understand the power of their vote in local elections. The greater turnout is always for the Presidential race. Our individual votes in those elections are important, but they do not have the impact that they have in city and school board elections.

The people we put into office to rule over our communities, are the ones who set our property tax rates, local fees, and how much debt we will have. They end up having the most impact on us personally, so you'd think that more people would take an interest in who has this kind of power over us.

The last mayoral race only had 5500 people vote. That means each vote represented 18 citizens. That's a lot of power. Currently our local vote totals are: Monday 272, Tuesday 406, Wednesday 297, Thursday 400, Friday 400 for a total of 1775. Typically 50-60% of votes are cast early. Voting continues today and tomorrow from 7am - 7pm, with election day being this Saturday, May 6th, 7am - 7pm.

So, who do you want to have voting on your behalf? You, or who? If you fail to vote, you just gave someone else a lot of power.

Add to that, the fact that most San Angeloans tend to vote for NICE people. As I mentioned in last week's article, NICE people have all types of viewpoints and voting records. If you care whether the council has a conservative or liberal tilt, then you need to understand who you are voting for and where they stand.

The lack of understanding where people stand on issues is serious - or - it can even be funny. A posting on Facebook by someone who has been a solid supporter of Chris Giroux, then added Tommy Hiebert to his list of who he'd like to see on Council. Giroux is a solid conservative, Hiebert tends to be liberal. If they both win in their respective races, they will cancel out one another's

vote. This person heard the stances that Giroux has taken on issues and supports them, while he personally LIKES Hiebert. That just won't work.

Then you see signs in yards of friends who are known conservatives, who would like to see property taxes rolled back, but the sign in their yard is someone who is Democrat - like Billie DeWitt. It's another example of "LIKE" them votes. Folks, come on, please take local politics seriously.

City Council may be a non-partisan race, which means the candidates do not declare their party in order to run, but partisan is important. The reason they do not run on either party's ticket is simple. It would require two elections; a primary by each party, then a general election, like we do for all the county, state, and national races. It is "assumed" that you would know on the local level where your neighbor stands on issues, how they vote, and therefore only one non-partisan race is needed. NOPE! That just isn't true.

I believe it is important to know where they stand. In the future, I plan to make their party affiliation known up front. I heard that Villarreal was upset that Joe Hyde had pointed out that he had strong Democratic ties. Well yes! It was rather obvious, regardless of how hard he is trying to make everyone think he is Republican.

The strong Republicans in these races are: Brenda Gunter for Mayor, Anna Bartosh for SMD 1, Chris Giroux for SMD 4, and Steve Hampton for SMD 6. If you're looking for candidates who will look at ways to cut city's overhead, who wants fiscal responsibility and accountability, that believes in living within our means, and will work to eliminate our city's debt, these are the best choices in my opinion.

The known Democrats are: Tony Villarreal, mayoral race; Tommy Hiebert, SMD 1, has a past history of supporting Obama (reports of Obama yard sign in his yard); Lucy Gonzales, SMD 4; and Billie DeWitt, SMD 6. Democrats are not conservative. They like to spend OTM - other people's money.

Tonight at 6pm will be a live broadcast of the Mayoral Forum that the San Angelo Association of Realtors is be hosting, in partnership with KLST. This will preempt their regular broadcasting schedule and will last for one hour. If you have not decided on who to vote for, for Mayor, tune in. I understand one of the Mayoral candidates has chosen not to participate, Zack Taylor.

Let's get out the vote and have a solid conservative win this Saturday so we do not have to have any runoff elections. We need our new City Council seated and hard at work immediately.

Until next time....

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