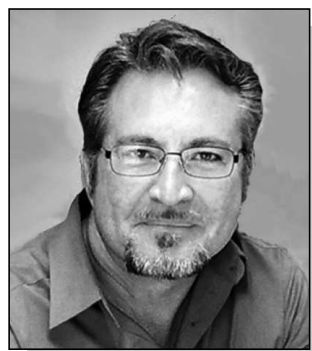


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

Opinion



This time, voting is more than just a privilege

people who have told me that their distaste for these two candidates has soured them to the point that they will not be voting this year. In each case, they felt that voting “just for the sake of voting” was wrong, and that they didn’t want to be a part of electing either candidate into the presidency.

I understand this.

Admittedly, the same thought passed through my mind during each of the three presidential debates. But just like that late-night slice of chocolate cake before bed, the thought was a fleeting one.

That’s because I have always believed that our right to vote is both a privilege and an obligation. Most years, it has simply been a privilege I enjoy as an American. I have gone to the voting booth or

mailed in my ballot in support of candidates for different reasons.

Sometimes it was because I connected with the ideals of one candidate over another. Other times it was because I

privilege I enjoyed because, no matter who won, I still felt our country would be in capable hands.

This time, I’m not so sure.

For that reason, this time it’s not about enjoying the

I have to roll up my sleeves, dig in and do the work so that, come election day, I can do the right thing instead of the easy thing.

I realize it still means voting for one of these candidates. It still means feeling as if I’m being made to compromise the level of expectation I would normally have for someone who is supposed to represent my highest ideals as an American.

And it still means I will have to accept — and live with — the results, no matter who is elected.

However, to *not* vote would mean compromising my own ideals as an American, as well as the expectation our forefathers had for each of us when they fought for our right to vote in a democracy protected by the Constitution.

As I said, there have been moments where the thought of casting my vote in this election has left me shaking my head. But come Nov. 8, when the votes are tallied and our next president is elected, knowing that I took the time to cast a truly informed vote in the spirit our forefathers intended will keep me from hanging my head instead.

Please take the time to cast an informed vote. No matter who it is, I support your choice — not as a Democrat, Republican or Independent.

I will support your choice as an American.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com or P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439.

There have been moments over the last several weeks where the thought of casting my vote for president in either direction has left me shaking my head.

If I’m being honest, neither candidate would be my first choice under normal circumstances. However, I think we can all agree that these are not “normal” circumstances — for our election process, our country or what will follow in the four years after Nov. 8.

I’ve spoken with several

From the Editor’s Desk

NED HICKSON

felt their vision for our country was better defined and suited the temperament of our changing world politically, economically or socially.

Over the years, I have voted for Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

I even voted for Ross Perot, whatever he was.

In each case, voting was a

privilege of voting as much as it is about accepting the obligation I have, as an American, to educate myself and make an informed decision. I can’t rely on spoon-fed rhetoric, headlines, carefully staged interviews, rants on social media or even many of the news sources that claim to be unbiased.

LETTERS

He is there for you

Woody Woodbury is running for Lane County Justice of the Peace. I have known Woody for nearly 10 years. His honesty and integrity are beyond reproach.

I have always found him visible in the community, approachable in all settings, and accessible — if you need Woody, he is there for you. This is exactly what he brings to the people of Lane County.

As a retired law enforcement officer, it is critically important to have a magistrate with those three qualities not only for the community he serves, but for local law enforcement who need an approachable and accessible magistrate to do their jobs effectively.

Please join me in voting for Woody Woodbury for Lane County Justice of the Peace.

Maurice K. Sanders

Retired Florence Chief of Police

If it’s not broken

As election time draws near, I would like to remind readers that Florence and all Lane County residents will be voting for a Lane County Justice of the Peace, serving here in Florence.

I would also like to remind others that we have an excellent candidate already fulfilling

the Lane County Justice of the Peace position.

Judge Rick Brissenden has been Florence’s Municipal Court Judge for the past 18 years. Due to a vacancy, Judge Brissenden was appointed Justice of the Peace beginning March 1, 2016, where he has been handling all of the JP duties, as well as the Municipal Court.

He will serve out that appointment as JP until Dec. 31, 2016, no matter who wins this election.

There is no reason to remove an expert who is doing his job, and replace him with a however well-meaning citizen who will have to be trained for the position at tax-payer expense.

Plus there would no doubt be a learning curve, to bring another candidate up to the speed and expertise of an 18-year Judge.

Judge Brissenden has concrete ideas for helping bring services to more people in other parts of Lane County, not just to serve Florence. And he has the network and know-how to get the job done.

If it’s not broken, why pay to fix it? Please join me in voting for Judge Rick Brissenden for Lane County Justice of the Peace, and help all of us have access to a just, experienced, knowledgeable Judge.

Mary Beth Rawlins

Florence

Apples and oranges

The writer of the letter “That \$17,175” (*Siuslaw News*, Oct. 22) seems slightly confused. Measure 97 does not address gross profits.

All levels of imposed taxation are geared to “sales” as reported on a tax form. The 2.5 percent levy is imposed upon corporations reporting sales in excess of \$25 million.

They are taxed \$30,001 plus 2.5 percent of reported sales in excess of \$25 million. If the writer’s calculations are accurate, and he would have to pay \$17,175 on a 2.5 percent tax imposed upon his gross profit, that means that his gross profit is \$687,000 — in which case he surely wouldn’t need help paying for his granddaughters’ college or his employees’ bonuses.

Equating his business to a corporation with sales in excess of \$25 million is clearly a case of comparing apples to oranges.

Bill Durst

Florence

Strong statement

Florence Area Democrats Endorse Measures 97 and 98.

Measure 97 is not a consumer sales tax. It is

a tax that large corporations such as Comcast and Koch Industries will pay on sales in Oregon above \$25 million. That tax can be absorbed by their nationwide pricing system.

These companies benefit from Oregon’s public services while profiting from doing business in our state.

As for Measure 98, a “yes” vote will send a strong statement to our legislators that vocational and career-technical programs are important to keep students engaged and increase the state’s high school graduation rate.

Karin Radtke

*Florence Area Democratic Club
Chairwoman*

Small price to pay

I am urging support for Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and Measure 20-266. Having personally required emergency medical attention in my home following recent surgery, I experienced first hand the expert and fine care that was administered to me.

The two EMTs that responded provided excellent care at a very precarious time during my recovery. These two men skillfully assessed my situation, stabilized me and, more importantly (to me anyway) were able to assure my wife that I was in good hands prior to transporting me to the hospital.

Measure 20-266 asks voters to extend the current levy, due to expire in 2017, in order to provide this essential service to the residents in the Western Lane County Ambulance District.

Based on current median household values it is estimated that the measure would cost the average household approximately \$7 a month to maintain this valuable service.

In my opinion, \$7 a month is a small price to pay to assure this vital service is available should you or a loved one need critical medical attention.

Please vote “yes” on Measure 20-266.

J. Kevin Leverton

Dunes City

Make a difference

Mark Brennan’s Oct. 19 article highlighted one of Lane County’s finest nonprofit organizations and a great opportunity for volunteers to help kids in need.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) pairs volunteers (after careful training) with children who have been abused or neglected. A volunteer advocate helps a child to navigate the court system and speaks on behalf of the child so that he or she can be placed in the best possible long-term care setting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer’s full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous and anonymous letters or poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$71; 10-weeks subscription, \$18; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$94; 10-weeks subscription, \$24; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$120; Out of United States — 1-year subscription, \$200; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: www.TheSiuslawNews.com

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