

Earlier this year, during a County Commission meeting, a young man stood up and asked why the Commissioners never debate or question each other in their public meetings. He also asked why they "rubber stamp" everything. After the meeting, I approached this young man and told him who I was. I asked him if he would next time consider voting for a Democrat. With a concerned look on his face, he admitted that he has always voted Republican, but now he worries our local leaders do not care. From his observation, it is evident that our elected leaders are indeed a "one-party" form of rubber stamp government.

In December of 2002, hundreds of concerned Davis County citizens attended a public hearing on what is now known as the "138% tax day".

Consequently, one of the commissioners lost in a closed primary election and the voters went on to elect another Republican. The irony is that the commission has once again raised our taxes, even though our newly elected commissioner had promised to not follow in the steps of his predecessor.

Since the topic here is about weak Democratic candidates versus strong Republican candidates, there are many questions about Davis County politics that need to be answered by voters as the 2006 election year approaches.

I would like to present some fitting questions:

- Why do Davis County voters complain about our local government, yet perpetuate the problem by electing a "fill-in-the-blank" Republican with a "rubber stamp" behavior once he or she is in office?
- Why don't Democrats win with stronger candidates and why do Republicans win with weaker candidates? (These are the Republican candidates who hide and do not campaign or debate.)
- Why don't more voters take the time to study the candidates and/or the issues and hold them accountable once they are elected?
- Why do some voters constantly link the national parties to local problems?
- Why are Republicans afraid to defend their record and feel it necessary to attack Democrats when there are no Democrats elected in Davis County?
- Why are there so many voters in the county who claim to be Independent and yet never vote for the stronger Democratic Candidates?

It should be noted that the fundamental difference between the Democrats and Republicans of Davis County is simple: Democrats care about every child, every senior citizen, every veteran and every working class family. As a society, we have a moral obligation to take care of these people who live in this county. We don't believe in handouts, we believe in giving a hand. We don't believe in helping those who want to satisfy their greed, we believe in helping those who are in need. We don't believe in helping the lazy, we believe in helping those searching for an opportunity.

As a final note and in the true spirit of Roosevelt Democrats, I would like to encourage everyone, Democrats and Republicans alike, to please donate to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Richard Watson

Chair, Davis County Democrats