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KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)
This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

I'm taking the upcoming election real personal. We all should! All of the rhetoric and the back and forth between political groups isn't confusing at all. There is a real difference between what sounds good, and reality. My Mom used to tell me "talk is cheap real life isn't."

In 2008 I could gas up my car for about \$2.00 per gallon. During a trip to Europe that year, I remember gassing up at the equivalent of over \$4.50 per gallon. Today I put gas in my car in Eureka and it runs about \$4.50 per gallon. My Italian friend now pays the equivalent of over \$9.00 per gallon. Four more years of "more of the same political agenda," and continued depressed economy... and we too will see our fuel prices double again. Yeah, I'm taking the election real personal.... every time I'm at the gas pump.

I also take the election real personal when I open my utility bills I see the ever-increasing costs hit my checkbook harder and harder every month. No amount of energy conservation or cost of living adjustment will stabilize this death by a thousand cuts to daily living costs. Add to the inflationary trends, the additional fees and assessment added to the bottom dollar of most of my bills since 2008, leads me to think about ways to get off the grid and start collecting rain water in a barrel. Four more years of the same nonsense at the state and federal level could put most families on the ever-increasing food stamp rolls. You bet, I'm taking this election personal.

The most significant element that I'm taking personal, ... is my medical care. Carrying around a Red-white and blue Medicare card is a real personal thing and that program is taking a \$760 billion dollar cut. In a rural area like Eureka, we are fast becoming an area of no health care providers and limited health care. Especially providers who will take Medicare. Don't take my word for it. Try and make a doctor's appointment. Forget the specialized care, most people I know go out of the area because the specialist have long-since pulled up stakes and there are no replacement specialists to meet the needs of the community. There is a real difference between healthcare coverage, the "so called" affordable insurance programs.... and actual treatment of a medical condition by a doctor. The exodus and retirement of area

doctors, coupled with increased health care costs are indeed very "real life" and personal. You bet I'm making this election personal. We all have skin in the life and death health care game.

I don't care much what you may tell people about your voting intentions in a poll. I care about the reality of the ballot, and if we are forced into four more years of the same slow-growth progressive political nonsense. Pencil it out for yourself. Make a list of your personal financial factors. Project your costs over the next four years using increasing baseline numbers that have taken us from 2008 to 2012. Plug in additional taxes, fees, and living costs. Plug in all the elements that it takes to live every day..... You bet I'm taking this election real personal... Are you?

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