

October 22, 2018

Politics in Humboldt county and the State of California is getting interesting for a change. The City of Eureka, for example, has a number of people running for both Mayor and a couple of the Ward seats. The Harbor District has a few also running for seats on that board, one of the candidates is actually termed out as a councilperson for the city of Eureka and is now running for the Harbor commission.

Local elections are very important to the residents of the county and cities within Humboldt, so it is important that you exercise your right to vote. The local issues are important and these decisions have lasting effects on our economy, well-being and way of life.

One of the most interesting races I am watching is the one for governor of California. We have two to chose from, Gavin Newsome, who is our current Lieutenant Governor and John Cox a California Business man.

Gavin Newsome is a very liberal Democrat and John Cox a conservative Republican. The most recent polls I have seen have John Cox within 5 percentage points of Gavin Newsome. Impressive considering that Newsome had a double digit lead over Cox a month or so ago.

So how did we get to this point in a that state has become very liberal leaning over the past few elections and considered a very blue state. One reason is what they call the jungle primary

here in California. In that type of primary the top two candidates with the highest number of votes, regardless of party affiliation would go on to the runoff in the general election in November.

Most believed the two candidates for Governor would be Gavin Newsome and Antonio Villaraigosa former mayor of Los Angeles and California state assemblyman, who is also a liberal Democrat. But many were surprised to see that John Cox beat Antonio Villaraigosa in the primary. This means that there is a possibility that the Governor's office could become conservative if John Cox were to win in November.

It is possible that many California voters are tired of the direction the state has been going under our current Governor Jerry Brown. The sweeping prison reform that has released many felons back onto the streets, sanctuary state status, the billions of dollars spent on high speed rail that is well over budget but far from completion, the excessive tax placed on fuel with the intent of repairing roads which we have not seen here in Humboldt.

We also continue to see a mass exodus from California by those who wish to experience a better life and not be burdened by excessive government programs and high taxation. I have been told that the U-Haul business is booming in California and that the cost of renting a U-Haul truck to leave California is expensive but renting one to come to California is very reasonable, this goes back to supply and demand.

So you see there could be winds of change coming to our state and it will be a very important election cycle coming up so make sure you are a part of it and vote this November. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.