

November 5, 2018

The general election for 2018 has finally arrived, many will be heading to the polls tomorrow, or have already voted by mail. This election is being promoted as one of the most important and most watched mid term elections in many years. By the polling and hype it appears as though voter turn out will be extremely high, which is a very good thing due to the important issues to be decided and offices to be filled.

Normally turnout for mid term elections is very low with very little interest in the issues or candidates seeking office. It is disheartening to see issues of vital interest being decided on by 15, 20 or 25 percent of the electorate, which is common.

But this mid term is different and the anticipation is that a record number of voters will go to the polls and cast their vote. There could be many reasons for the large turnout, the democrats will say it is because of President Trump and that their vote is a referendum against his policies and the direction the country is going. Republicans also agree that their enthusiasm in the midterms is also because of President Trump and their support of his policies and the direction the country is going.

So you see there is much motivating people to go out and vote but it is hard to believe that the person occupying the White House has become the single most important motivator in this election cycle. I believe people should be more motivated to go to the polls due to issues that have control over their day to day

lives, such as higher taxes, expensive bond measures, local elected offices and new regulations that require voter approval.

The local issues can greatly influence our lives much more than who occupies the White House. Granted national politics do influence state and local policies but they do not rule the outcome of the voters will. By voting we the people have an opportunity to dictate the outcome of those issues that influence our daily lives.

I have also heard the word civility thrown around lately, due to the shenanigans by both the democrats and republicans.

Visions of politicians being confronted in restaurants and other political figures calling for such confrontations to continue by challenging a persons right to go out have dinner with their significant other. It has become rather threatening and I hope someone dosent take it to far.

It is fine to disagree but we do need to respect the rights of others. If you notice those in the senate and the congress address their colleague's respectfully when in session. Always referring to each other with dignity and not with distain. This is because they realize that they work together and by treating each other with respect they are able to avoid violent confrontations. This does not mean that they do not have huge disagreements rather it is a way to temper each others response. It works well and I notice that each representative is diligent in their adherence to this simple ideal.

So get out and vote and lets hope that we can return to a more united front for the next 2 years. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.