

June 2018 Leg-report

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Politics – versus – weather !! Both are heated at the moment! There is one major difference in the degree of control we have individually. There is nothing that you or I can do about the extreme heat and drought condition – beyond fuss, sweat and gripe. We CAN however - have a positive degree of influence on political outcomes - if we become informed and “productively” pro-active. This will more often than not come through proposal of positive ideas and thoughts. Bring a viable solution to the table on your issue - or you are probably better served not to go to the table at all. Simply being “against” actions and proposals will never win – without proposing a solution. The “wheel that squeals the loudest” – often wears their welcome and acceptance out – while a cool headed sane approach does not.

This last election cycle – I actually heard several persons say that they didn’t vote – adding that what a single person said or did made no difference. I would argue that point. Susan B Anthony – proved the influence that one informed – proactive person can have – as she promoted the right for women to vote. Even though it took years to accomplish – in August 1920 – women were finally given the opportunity to vote. An interesting fact – in Coleman County – a lady became their first female county wide elected official – prior to 1920 - even though women were not permitted to vote at the time. This cherished right – nor any other similar one – did not come about because one person had a great thought – BUT – did not get off their seat – on their feet – and become a proactive player.

Believe me – we can do the same today. But – not by sitting idly by – moaning when the wrong person is elected – or the wrong outcome takes place. I have found – after years of experience – that often the most effective practices may be the quiet – behind the scenes persuasive efforts. The loudest – rebel rousing activist does win sometimes – but more often I have seen the quiet and educated political practice accomplish far more. BUT- either way you approach an issue – it is not effective until you become a player – not a spectator.

The above comments lead up to the real issue at hand. We must help our state leaders and legislators focus on the real issues currently facing Texas. It is important that we visit not only with our own Senator and Representative – but with as many of them as you possibly can. It is important that we ask them what their positions are on the REAL issues facing our state in the areas of: public and higher education - - water and natural resources - - highway and transportation concerns – - along with taxes and state budget. We need to be about sharing our concerns and stressing what we feel to be the most pressing issues. Proof positive of our lack of action and complacency is when our elected officials are able to respond (and that honestly) that “you never told me what your needs and concerns were”. As a voting population- we seldom tell our elected official what we are FOR – OR – what we are AGAINST. When we offer a criticism to our senator or representative – we should always present some possibly viable solution – or possibly a different approach to a solution. After years as an elected representative – I know just how few constituents tell you their concerns prior to a legislative session – or made positive suggestions concerning the issues I was working on. Their opposition – (after the fact - even though they were never involved) – was often quite vociferous and loud. Some of my strongest election opponents -

became my most staunch allies – as I listened and acted upon their proposals. Once elected - candidates become the voice of all – not just their supporters.

In today's atmosphere of big money PACs – (which tend to finance the election of candidates who will carry out their special concerns) – lesser financed candidates stand little possibility. These groups are then capable of insuring that the candidate whom they finance - - is a positive voice for those specific interests. The interests of these groups are often not in the favorable/best interest of their constituency - as a whole.

Again I say - as you well know – government and politics affects everyone. Keep in mind – however - that only those who are participants will have had any possibility in influencing in the final outcome.