

## Elections vs ELECTIONS

There are elections and then there are ELECTIONS!

To the degree that we even pay attention to an election is definitely a result of how we feel it affects us. If we don't anticipate having to go to court then we never care which candidate wins a particular judicial contest. It's a fact that elections involving primarily judges are the lowest in turnout (people taking time to go and vote) than any other offices that might be contested. Yet a Judge can often make a ruling that allows changes to how we can live our individual and collective lives. Issues involving everything from taxation to freedom of speech and religion with the initial rulings beginning at the local level courts.

There are national elections where we have the "opportunity" to help select those who will exercise power over us in ways often unimaginable. Ways not unlike the royal commands of kings and queens over their subjects without regard for their opinions. Ways that either enhance or destroys our nation's ability to protect us from enemies, both foreign & domestic, who seek to literally destroy us and our way of life. A real concern indeed, if not for you, then for your children and grandchildren. Dictates and executive orders that force upon communities how they will or will not educate their children and what they will be taught. Whether or not your personal privacy is dependent on the authorities having "probable cause to intrude" or merely their dictatorial whim. This year, for certain, the presidential race is definitely an ELECTION!

Further down the scale we often consider local elections to be just that "an election" with emphasis on a small "e." Who becomes, or remains, Sheriff. Who will be Constable or Justice of the Peace or even School Board member. They all have a significant degree of importance attached to justify checking out the type of person we choose to place there. But then, there are local races that should awaken the interest of every citizen and compel them to take the time to vote.

This would include the City Council who are holding in their hands the challenge of finding ways to perform billions of dollars in repairs and upgrades to a city on the brink of blowing its future potential. Their decisions could "break-the-bank" of many homeowners who just cannot afford to be taxed much more, especially in a stagnant economy.

Another ELECTION is the District Attorney's contest where the powers behind the scene (read that "trial lawyers") have unleashed a blatant attempt to control who will or will not be prosecuted. Still another ELECTION on the local level, the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, that is not only dominated by one political party (there is only one seat, now being contested, that is not) who have a historical record of upholding every major lawsuit award brought by certain trial lawyers. What a way to drive business and industry with their jobs out of our region.

It would be great if we participated in all elections, and in record numbers, since the Founders created this as a representative republic where the politicians rule or govern with the CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED which is you and me. But alas' it's not to be. However, at least select those public offices that you know to be critical and consider them more than just another election. Make them an ELECTION and do your duty.