

Letter to the Editor

Dirty Politics hits home

Submitted by George "Jody" Sweeney

It happens time and time again. A campaign for office starts to falter. The candidate and their campaign leaders feels that their opponent is moving ahead of them in the polls, gaining the support of more people, or working harder. They must make a decision whether they should revert to dirty politics or not. All it takes are a few unfounded statements, outright lies, inappropriate comments to a reporter, half-truths, anonymous calls to a policing agency, or a threatening letter from a lawyer, and all of a sudden, they think they are back in the game.

No, I am not talking about the Presidential Election. I am talking about the campaign for 5th Levy Court District Commissioner. I have been accused of using State computer resources to further my political campaign. This is one of the most outrageous attempts at diverting attention away from the issues that I have ever witnessed. It is a blatant lie. It was submitted to the State Auditor as an ANONYMOUS phone call. And it is sad that I have to waste time to respond to my opponent's campaign strategy to discredit my run for this office.

It is apparent he has lost sight of what is the best for the 5th District. I have had more than a few residents call and ask to replace their WG sign for one of mine, based on my position on the issues as opposed to his. I have had more than a few calls and ask for my assistance on resolving issues from street dedication and potholes to waste treatment and stormwater drainage. My opponent is aware of these issues, and recently submitted a letter to the Editor trying to defend his lack of attention to an issue in Rodney Village. I have become immersed in my community through volunteer work, community work, church work, and communication with the residents, which he only started a few weeks ago. Where has he been the 19 months he has been in office?

I have been involved with computers for more than 32 years. The last 12 years have been in a management role with the State, and 7 of those with DelDOT. Yes, I was with DelDOT during the Internet purge of 2003 when many employees were inaccurately accused of inappropriate use of computers, were terminated but ultimately got their jobs back. I understand completely the ability to track usage on a computer and the perception of using computer time for a political campaign. In no way would I jeopardize my campaign, let alone my job and livelihood by campaigning on State time or using State resources. I am completely within my right to use a computer from home when on vacation or sick leave, which is not on State time. Beyond that, on just a few occasions, my Campaign Manager (my wife) used my name to respond to issues and she has no restrictions on her use of computers during the day.

The residents of the 5th District deserve better representation than we currently have. We need a Commissioner who will focus on the issues, not on playing whatever dirty trick they can in order to win an election.