

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fred's the man for America

As this Presidential campaign cycle gears up, there has already been much hype, much unfounded speculation, and unfortunately too much dirty politics. The thing there hasn't been enough of is honest in-depth debate on each candidate's plans and principles, not just positions. Conservative principles are the very core of our American spirit. They are what the Republican Party is supposed to be based on, right?

Fred Thompson has what America needs to take her back to the principles that made her great, the principles our forefathers based our Constitution on. Fred is the respected man he is because he stands solid on his principles, never swaying with the winds of political correctness. He is a man who stands rock-solid on his principles; a man who will look you straight in the eye and tell you how it really is, good or bad, straightup; a man who speaks with substance; the only one who can be trusted to stand tall and have the resolve to do what is necessary to protect America.

I'm writing this to reach out to more people and let them know America had a strong conservative candidate within her reach. Unfortunately though, with Fred Thompson dropping out of the race, it is truly a dark day for America. Do not despair though, there is still hope, the fight will and must go on; there is a plan. If we are all truly committed to Fred's principles, and hope to see these principles have some bearing on the future of America, we all must vote for Fred in every primary, even if we have to "write in" his name. If we can keep the vote split enough, maybe a brokered convention could happen. At the very least, it will send a very clear message to Fred and the American people he actually had more support than they thought. This in itself may reinforce the possibility of Fred being selected to run as VP, which would not only bring some integrity into the White House in January of '09, but would garner him the exposure needed for a presidential run in 2012 or 2016. It would also send a message to the Republican party there are still many true conservatives left who will not stand idly by and watch our party be hijacked by moderate, liberal-leaning Republicans. Last but certainly not least, it would educate the MSM to the fact that even though they may be able to influence a campaign's decision, it is truly we the people who will exercise our God given right guaranteed by the Constitution to make the final decision, to select who we feel is the best leader for our great country

Charles T. Purvis
Jackson, Ga.



WRITE

A LETTER, AN OP-ED OR DRAW A CARTOON.

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My Write

Bill Bauer

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More politics in Bill's crystal ball

THIS IS GOING TO BE A BIG YEAR FOR local politics.

There will probably be a proposition on the local ballot in November that would limit commercial development in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City is collecting signatures from Santa Monica residents to place "The Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic" (RIFT) before voters in November.

SMCLC's Web site, www.smclc.net states, "Commercial development typically generates three to four times the amount of traffic as residential projects. "RIFT" will place limits on the amount of annual commercial growth in Santa Monica, cutting roughly in half the rate of new commercial development."

Just looking around at all the development underway is why many residents feel powerless to slow or influence the impacts of many new, larger and more pricey commercial and condo projects including those on the drawing board. Numerous fairly large commercial/mixed-use developments, especially in the mid-city area, are on the planning department's docket for development agreements or construction permits.

Many developers are anticipating more stringent development standards that may be implemented when a revised Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) is finally approved. So, they're pushing through their projects now to beat any unfavorable changes.

It appears that SMCLC is fearful that many of these larger projects will be approved in the interim before an updated LUCE is finalized by City Council about two years from now and that any revisions to LUCE capping or restricting development size will be too little and way too late.

SMCLC states, "By limiting annual commercial development to a level that allows a reasonable rate of growth, this measure will ensure that our city has the time to develop the infrastructure to keep pace with future growth. It will prevent the massive overdevelopment of our neighborhoods and ensure that residents have a say in the future of our city."

Due to the fact that the city hasn't adequately responded to citizen's calls for limiting development and mitigating traffic now, RIFT deserves your signature to qualify it for a citywide referendum this fall. Power to the people. Yeah!

As I predicted in last Monday's "My Write," the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District parcel tax renewal, Measure "R," won handily at the polls with a 73-percent "yes" vote against a 27-percent "no" vote.

I, along with 8,445 other people, opposed the measure not because I don't believe in a good education for all of our kids, but for other reasons. I hate being lied to and felt the proponent's campaign materials badly misrepresented the facts and deliberately avoided providing factual information about the measure — like its real cost to property owners and renters.

The measure itself is deeply flawed and loaded with tax breaks for the wealthy. For example, it continues tax waivers (which cost

the district nearly a million bucks in lost revenue, annually) granted to over 3,000 "senior" property owners, but not "senior" renters.

I also resent that the big business interests and large landowners that supported the measure (after threatening to oppose previous parcel tax measures if they had to pay more) are getting off cheap — \$346 per parcel, this year — considering the value of their properties are worth up to hundreds of millions of dollars.

LEST ANYONE THINK THAT THE PASSAGE OF MEASURE 'R' WILL SOLVE THE DISTRICT'S FISCAL PROBLEMS — ANOTHER MISREPRESENTATION STATED BY THE MEASURE'S PROPONENTS — THINK AGAIN.

"R" opponent, Matthew Millen said there's plenty of city money available to pay for public schools without resorting to more taxes. The undeniable truth is that if the millions of dollars now going to various social engineering pork, such as services for the homeless and public housing for out-of-towners and loans to nonprofits to build more mental health facilities were redirected to basic resident needs like our schools, there'd be no need for any parcel taxes.

Lest anyone think that the passage of Measure "R" will solve the district's fiscal problems — another misrepresentation stated by the measure's proponents — think again. School debt will increase because spending is still out of balance with revenues.

The big win should increase the "stock value" of Shari Davis (who chaired the victorious "Yes on R" committee), if she were to run for City Council, this fall. I'm sure business- and hotel-backed political activists are salivating at the thought of a Davis, Herb Katz, Bobby Shriver, Terry O'Day ticket to run against the Renter's Right slate in the upcoming elections — assuming both Katz and Shriver seek fifth and second terms respectively on the dais.

In November, we'll all also get to vote on open seats for school board, rent control board and the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees. Those who are displeased with the performance of our politicians will have an opportunity to bring about "Change we can believe in," to quote Democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama.

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