

Defending Crossover Voting

Dan of the Community – 3.13.2015

Even though I consider myself a faithful and loyal Democrat and would like to see many more get elected, I do want my vote to count for something. It is too important to me. Therefore, like many other folks, if given a choice I vote where my vote will matter most and always vote for who I think would be the best and most qualified elected official, regardless of party. I've seen too many elected officials up close to vote for the supposed weaker candidate and then somehow hope fate will eventually help the better candidate to win. For me, I approach each election as is it's "for all the marbles" and in Kootenai County, the Republican Primary is just that.

Given the relatively recent and quite unpopular decision to have closed primaries forced upon the majority of us, it is now a matter of public record of who votes on which party ballot for the Primary election. I hate to break it to you, but people have always voted across party lines but in the past people were accorded our Idaho Constitutional right to a private ballot. Many Democrats and Independents voted for Republicans and I know quite a few Republicans must have voted for me or I wouldn't have lasted as long as I did as the last elected Democrat at the county.

I know I sound like a broken record on this, but it is your election, my election, it is an election totally paid for with public funds. If the parties want to control their own elections, fine, just be intellectually and morally consistent enough to admit that means the parties should pay for them. But until then, please don't criticize those of us who exercise our legal right to vote even though we don't like the current closed process.