

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I am very concerned and distressed at another example of a candidate for the non-partisan city council race injecting partisan identification into their campaign literature. One of my opponents, Steve Adams, has listed as one of his accomplishments, “Former Precinct 40 Committeeman for Republican Central Committee.” On another line he stated he is a “Former District 4 Chair” which again relates to a strictly partisan position and activity.

As the former Kootenai County chief election official for over 15 years I can attest first hand that one of the constant complaints from voters is when party politics get mixed in to non-partisan races. Idaho state law and long tradition has deemed city council to be one of these non-partisan races.

This trend seems to only have gotten worse in recent years and I am calling on Steve Adams and any other candidate tempted to include outward partisan labels in non-partisan races and campaign activities to stop doing so immediately.

Idaho voters and the Idaho legislature have wisely chosen to make a distinction that not all races are intended to be partisan. While there have been efforts to try and morph non-partisan races into partisan elections thankfully the Legislature has resisted these efforts.

While I and other non-partisan candidates may be members of a political party and of course hope to have the support of our friends within our party, we want just as much for those of other parties and independents to vote and support us.

But in order to honor the desires of the voters and intent of state statutes we make very deliberate efforts to keep any partisan labels out of our campaigns. This is an opportunity for unity with our neighbors not a time for partisan divisions.

I've heard the argument that we need to have a party label on the ballot so that voters can know where someone "stands on the issues" to determine how they will vote if they get into office. I totally reject the theory that you tell about someone's competence, experience, or even how to predict how they will vote on future issues, especially local government issues, based on one letter of the alphabet being next to their name on the ballot.

I also reject the premise that the voter is too ignorant or lazy to research candidates without the "help" of a party label.

Dan English

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