

Let's Keep It Positive

Q1 2012
C. Count

Hi, this is Gregg Foster with a Community Comment

Well, I hope you are enjoying the beginning of spring. It is spring, right? I'm merely noting, not complaining about the rain. It's a pointless exercise to complain about weather and I'm astounded about how many people do so. As the saying goes, everyone complains about the weather, but no one does anything about it.

Of course, this is true in a broader context as well. ^{Complaining} It become especially acute during this time of year. I don't mean the rainy spring season. I'm talking about election season. Now is the time of year that passions can become especially enflamed. Positions become hardened. Rhetoric more heated. The American democratic process and elections are a particularly messy way to do business. As Winston Churchill said, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those others that have been tried."

I was a political science student at U.C. Davis and while there was quite active in volunteering for and running local campaigns. We ran pretty sophisticated campaigns for the times, this was 25 years ago, and generally kept our messages pretty positive. I believed then, and still believe, that it's better for people to flock toward your candidate, not away from the others. After all, who wants to win the title of "Least Unpopular."

Unfortunately, it seems that brand of electioneering is going by the wayside. It's unfortunate that we tolerate behavior and speech in electioneering that we would not tolerate from our kids on the playground. I wish that the candidates would talk more about specific solutions and approaches and less about their opponents' shortcomings. It cheapens the process and the participants in it.

Of course, that's a dated quaint notion and I think it's been shown that negative campaigning works. ^{and} And for that we have no one to blame but ourselves. But enough of that.

So, I've officially been replaced at the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission. My successor, Don Ehnebuske, is a great guy with lots of private sector experience. He's also been involved in local economic development efforts over the years. I know he'll do a great job and congratulate him on getting the job. One of Don's first tasks is working with the County, the Headwaters Fund, and the RREDC board to put the finishing touches on the contract with American Eagle. By the way, they start on June 14th. I know we'll be having a big party to send off the first flight and I hope that you'll come out to welcome them. More importantly, I hope you'll book a flight.

Thanks again to everyone who worked with me at RREDC. I look forward to continuing our good work in my new role at Redwood Capital Bank.

This has been Gregg Foster with a Community Comment.