

Community Comment  
June 8, 2012  
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## After the Primary Election

If you didn't notice, and many in our state didn't, we had an election this week. The low voter turnout should be of concern to all of us. Less and less of us are deciding how our future will be. But I am hesitant to muck around with how we vote. We have new districts. We have a new system that allows the top two primary winners to compete in November; even if they are from the same party. This is insane. We don't need to make these idiotic technical changes, we need to pay attention and participate. Or, as they say, quit your bellyaching.

Having been in elective office, I know the chore of running for office. It can be a grulling and emotional experience. To have the guts to throw your hat in the ring is an act of courage and faith in our system. I want to thank everyone who ran for the variety of offices in Humboldt County and the State. A special thanks to those who lost. By joining in the race, you added to the conversation about the direction we should go in our public policy decisions. By getting a significant number of votes, you tell the winners that there is more than one way of seeing things. If they are smart, they will listen.

I want to say a special thanks to Karen Brooks for her input about the business sector. I hope Mark is listening. He did well and is to be congratulated. But we need to think way outside our usual boxes to grow our stability. The private sector is not our enemy; they are the heart of our society. I will miss Congressman Thompson as our representative. I choose a candidate of the many running but she did not make the final two to compete in November. Susan Adams was a gift we missed. I still am convinced that her style of problem solving is what we need in Washington. This us against them has got to stop. Some one has to remember we are Americans first, and members of a political party second. And it was a pleasure to see a smart, experienced woman run in our district. I hope we see more of her.

To Cliff Clendenen, thanks for your service. To Estell Fennel, good luck on your new job. In a close election it's important to remember all your constituents and it's not easy.

To Rex Bohn, you had a great show of support. Congratulation and good luck. Continue to talk to people and to listen and enjoy the work of

governing.

To all who enter the arena Let me quote Teddy Roosevelt:

“ The credit belongs to ~~to~~ the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, and spends himself in a worthy cause: and if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that he'll never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

This has been sam pennisi for community comment.