

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



141 An Election With Question Marks

The primary election of 2018 has come and gone and unless something extraordinary happens in the recount, we're going to come down to choosing our next governor from a former nurse and a former cop. I'm Jerry Roberts and let's talk a bit about the primary, and some of the curiosities in the numbers, on today's Extra Point.

Let me first say that I conduct employee surveys for companies, so I'm always interested in the numbers that come out of elections. If you dig into them you can learn things that may be useful in trying to interpret the outcome.

The Team of Lou and Josh prevailed over Frank and Alicia by a scant 260 votes, if the margin holds up in the required recount which will now take place.

The victory, while historic in the sense that it places a woman one step from the governor's office, is anything but a mandate. In fact, it's a razor-thin margin.

How about those who hunger for real change? Can either Ray Tenorio or Lou Leon Guerrero really bring that? Years ago these two finalists in the race for Guam's top job served the public on the front lines in a very direct and personal way. Today I think both can fairly be described as political insiders. Can either be the change agent so many people say they want?

Three percent of the votes were crossovers. How does that happen, especially after having been given precise instructions not to do so just a couple of minutes before voting?

Now, one of those curiosities. Over 23,000 registered voters did not show up. With such a hotly contested race among the Democrats, should I assume that the four gubernatorial teams were successful in getting almost all of

their people to the polls? If that's a reasonable assumption, then does it make sense to figure that most of those 23,000-plus, almost 44% of those registered, are therefore Republicans?

On top of that, here's a question that I heard tossed around a fair amount over the past few days: how many Republicans would cross over and try to influence the Democratic election? The thought there is obvious. The Republicans flood in and vote for the candidates they figure will be easiest to beat in November. Did that happen? A lot of people think so but don't expect anyone to admit to it.

If Republicans did cross over to vote for Democrats, and consider those who just stayed home, did it otherwise matter? I think the person who can answer that best is candidate Ryan Calvo. He ended up with 1,435 votes and finished 16th and out of the running, just 33 votes behind Jenei Aguon. I'll bet he wishes more people had voted.

And what is the future for Madeleine Bordallo and Carl Gutierrez? Both have been part of Guam's political landscape for almost 50 years and still have strong support. Will either or both again seek elected office?

So the story lines are plentiful. When you look at the numbers behind the numbers, you get question marks, the answers for which we won't get for another nine weeks, and some things we may never know.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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For information on training and consulting services from Jerry Roberts, please click this link: guamtraining.com

