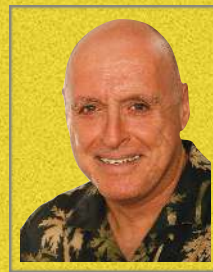


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



189 Random Thoughts on the 2018 Election

We're 24 hours out from when Guam's citizens head for the polls to elect a new slate of public officials. I'm Jerry Roberts and I've accumulated a few thoughts on the 2018 election, which are coming next, on The Extra Point.

How does an election that features 30 candidates and will result in 15 people taking office, go nearly unnoticed? Is it just me, or has the noise from the gubernatorial race pretty much drowned out senatorial hopefuls?

I've heard a number of people say it and have seen it posted in Facebook, the average voter knows very little, if anything, about the majority of the people competing for those seats.

And there are people who worry that the 35th Guam Legislature, with a majority of new faces, may be one that causes mass indigestion in the coming two years. Hopefully, somebody in there will recognize that perception and work hard to see that it doesn't happen.

Does an endorsement from a former opponent really matter to that opponent's supporters? Could that endorsement deliver a majority of those votes? Half? Or, since those supporters originally chose against the one you now endorse, are those votes now mostly up for grabs? I suppose we'll get a sense of all that tomorrow.

Are political parties out of touch with voters and losing influence? Has the concept of party loyalty oaths between candidates and a growing perception of no loyalty to the public finally caught up with them?

In the face of possibly more and possibly uglier negative campaign ads than any time I can recall, was anybody else waiting for any of the candidates to stand up and repudiate them, saying they didn't believe the trashy things said about their competitor, and urging people to ignore them? Why didn't that happen?

Why are we so willing to let candidates get away with lathering us up with the same kind of campaign promises we've heard for years, and claim we don't believe, instead of forcing them to come up with comprehensive plans to back up what they say they're going to do?

Will we make history tomorrow by one, setting up a runoff election for governor; and two, will one of those who qualifies for the runoff be a write-in team?

Some political pundits have said Frank Aguon and Alicia Limtiaco will only receive 5-10% of the vote, and relatively few people will bother or remember to write them in. I wonder. That would see them getting less than 4,000 votes, less than half who supported them in the primary. And further, they'll get zero votes from the 9,400 former Gutierrez and Rodriguez backers? Does that make any sense? Some others who know politics pretty well think they'll pick up 20% or more. Which will it be?

And how about Doris Brooks or Mike San Nicolas giving Madeleine Bordallo a 90-day contract to walk around Congress and the rest of DC, introducing them to all the key people she's built relationships with over 16 years, giving them a jump start in their efforts on our behalf? Hey, it's just a thought.

Tomorrow could well be the most interesting day in Guam's political history. Sleep well tonight. We're all probably going to need it.

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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