

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



190 More Random Thoughts on the 2018 Election

Today is the day when we go to the polls to elect a new governor (maybe), a congressional delegate, and the 15 members of the 35th Guam Legislature. I'm Jerry Roberts, I've witnessed nearly 25 Guam elections and if you'll indulge me I have some more thoughts on all of it, next, on The Extra Point.

There shouldn't be any disagreement on this one. If you're short on cash you and your family will definitely not go hungry during election year. All you need is a calendar of who is going to be where, and go eat. Take ziplock bags, fill 'em up, and you'll eat tomorrow, too.

Right now the election process is owned and controlled by Democrats and Republicans. We need to pass a law that makes it easy for people to run as independents. Set reasonable criteria so they can be added to the ballots. The two-party system needs competition.

Clean up the mess about invalid ballots. In example, if the voter makes a mistake and votes for more than one gubernatorial choice, those votes are scratched. However, if their votes for the delegate and senators are made correctly, those should count. Honor their intent. The law needs changing.

Mathematical calculations, recounts, runoffs, write-ins — we need to look at every inch of our election laws and rewrite them so they are a better fit as we move forward.

Candidates should all be required to sign a loyalty oath. Not with a political party, but with the people of Guam. I like what Frank Aguon said, that his loyalty to the party ends when his loyalty to the people begins. That means, right from the very beginning.

We need a non-partisan web site that checks the facts behind statements and claims made

by the candidates. A lot of stuff gets tossed out there that may be partially true and even completely untrue. This site would offer some clarity. By the way, factcheckguam.com is available as of this moment, if you want it. Then again, what if it's built by one of the guys doing the negative ads? Would we then need a site to fact check factcheckguam?

Until that site is up, once something a candidate claims is proved to be false — they need to stop claiming it. If they don't, they're selling out their own ethics.

Massive campaign rallies and waves. You want to do them, tying up traffic and forcing people to burn \$5.00 a gallon gas and maybe be late for where they need to go? No problem. Pass a law authorizing a \$100 tax credit for everyone filing a return, give advance notice to all media where you'll be no later than 24 hours before the event so people can choose possible alternate routes — and then go wave all you want.

And we should all be required to stand in front of our children and grandchildren, and explain to them how we arrived at the decision to vote for who we voted for, to make the best choices for their benefit.

You got ideas to add to these? Tell Mr. Gibson. He wants to know. We all do. Let's make it a great day, have fun, no dirty tricks, nothing to dishonor the process. May God bless you and may He bless our island of Guam. Go vote.

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.

###

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

