

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



192 The Other Side of Making History

We heard a lot about the 2018 Guam election and the potential for it leading to historical change. It did that in several ways, but there's another side to it. We'll chat about that, next, on The Extra Point.

Guam made history at the polls. One way was the election of Lou Leon Guerrero as our first woman governor.

Another was the Guam Legislature having a super majority of women, 10 out of 15 seats. The Democrats also have a 10-5 majority, and seven of those 10 are women.

A lot of people are celebrating these victories as breakthroughs, and I understand that. For years it's been suggested that if women ever ran the store, they'd get things done and everybody would be better off for it.

Okay. You've got it. You have Adelup and the legislature. You control everything. If there was ever a time when things were set up for success, this is it. But you will be judged in ways the guys never were. Is that fair? No, but if you wish to be celebrated for your gender, you run the risk of being judged for your gender.

To the winners, I wish you success to the wildest extremes. Personally, I don't care that Lou's a woman. I just want her to be the best governor Guam's ever had. The same goes for the next legislature. I've always supported the ones who take the oath of office, because they're the ones who can help Guam's people right now. I'll support you as well.

There was more history. The general election had the worst voter turnout ever, 66 percent. How is it possible that a campaign with three strong gubernatorial candidates resulted in one of three registered voters staying away?

Do you think all the dirty ads and tactics had

anything to do with it? Do you think a growing segment of Guam's population has become tired of politics as usual?

It would be interesting if the Guam Election Commission could mine the data and figure out who didn't show up, and if nothing else we could determine which generations basically turned their backs on the process. My guess would be a whole bunch of Millennials and the newer voters from Generation Z — many who had likely registered for their first ever election — were turned off by what they saw.

We'll always have no-shows for many reasons. But this year was different. There were almost 20,000 of them and a huge chunk said, "NO, I won't be a part of this. I don't like your actions and I don't believe your promises." And this should scare Democrats and Republicans alike.

There's one more element to consider. Over 1,000 voters who filled out a ballot, refused to select any of the three candidates for governor. Was it because they were undecided? Or was it because they were sending a message of protest which they wanted heard loud and clear?

My guess is that party leadership and the candidates on both sides will not acknowledge any faults, missteps, or responsibility for the low turnout. Each will blame the other, and Democrats will simply celebrate their enviable position of power, while their opponents plan their comeback. The 2020 campaign is already in motion.

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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