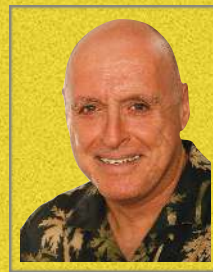


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 195 One Way Lou Can Signal We're IN for Real Change

For a year we saw it on signs and in social media, and heard it in radio and TV ads...I'm IN With Lou & Josh. It was everywhere. They spoke of change. Real change. But was that just politics talking, or did they mean it? Today, I have a suggestion for Governor-Elect Lou, if she really wants to get the message across that serious change is coming. That's next on The Extra Point.

I've said it before and I'll say it again. I want this incoming administration to be the most successful in Guam's history. The same goes for the legislature. You might know that I say the same thing with every election. I always support those who win because they have the power to make decisions that can help us to get further and do better.

Lou promised change, but that has to quickly get beyond this historical business of her being Guam's first woman governor. If we're still talking about that a year from now, the first 12 months of her administration are not going to yield the results anyone wants, Lou included.

Somewhere in her inauguration speech I'd love to hear these words, "Yes, I am Guam's first woman governor and, as of this moment, that is no longer significant. As of this moment I'm just the governor and there's a lot of work to do. If it doesn't get done and Guam doesn't see the progress we all want, then nobody's going to be celebrating my gender."

Those would be lovely words to hear and I suspect we will hear something along those lines. We'll also hear a lot about change, but there's one way I think Lou can send a signal to everybody in Guam that it is definitely NOT business as usual, government as usual, and politics as usual — and that message can be sent well before she takes the oath of office. It's in her choices for who runs key positions in her administration.

Every incoming governor cleans house and replaces GovGuam directors with who they want in those positions. Some people claim these are political payoffs for campaign support. Every governor always denies that.

So will Lou shake things up and bring real change to that process? Will she recruit people from the private sector for some of those jobs? Will she retain some of the existing directors who are delivering results? I've always thought it counter-productive to push out people who are getting things done, just because the last governor appointed them.

He didn't ask me to say this and I don't even know if he wants to stay on, but I think of Jon Fernandez, the director at Guam's Department of Education. He gets almost universal approval for the work he's done there. Would it serve the students and parents of those students for him to be replaced, just because that's the way we've always done it? That makes zero sense to me. And the list wouldn't end with Jon. There are others who do their job well and it would serve the peoples' interests to retain them.

So, if the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio administration really wants to send a message that things are going to be different, they'll start with how they handle filling those key positions within the Government of Guam. They'll show all of us, in no uncertain terms, that change is truly IN with Lou and Josh.

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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