

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1196 My Wish For Guam's Election Winners

We've got a new group of election winners who will soon take office, or continue in office, and will have a serious challenge in helping our people navigate through what is going to be a turbulent time ahead. I'm Jerry Roberts, and I'll share a few thoughts about that, next, on The Extra Point.

Lou and Josh get their legacy term, the one people will most remember them for; Jim Moylan heads for DC, the Democrats extended their advantage over the Republicans from 8-7 to 9-6; and — at least for now — Doug Moylan returns to the attorney general's office. I congratulate all of you.

First up, to Lou Leon Guerrero, I'll say the exact same thing I said when you were elected four years ago. My hope is that you will be the most successful governor in Guam's history, and that our island will prosper at a level that is unimaginable today.

During the next four years, I hope you're able to attract investment here that will result in thousands of good jobs. It's needed, because federal dollars are not going to be flowing at the same rate as the last two years.

To Jim Moylan, I'm glad to see the passing of the baton from Mike to you is already running smoothly, as it always should be when it comes to the Washington delegate. The delegate's office is the people's office, and the occupant is temporary. There should always be cooperation in the transition. Enjoy your East Coast winter, Jim.

To Doug Moylan, now ahead in the AG's race, but also to Leevin Camacho, if things change and you're re-elected...the people are counting on you to help fix a broken system of justice.

My wish for you is that you'll huddle often with politicians, the judiciary, the police, and the prison, to do whatever it takes to end the horrendous practice of releasing repeat criminals back into the community to again

prey upon the public. Crime has increased at an alarming rate over the past few years, and whichever one of you becomes Guam's top law enforcement official, clean it up and make this island safe again.

To the incoming 37th Guam Legislature, my hope is that you'll actually become an official branch of government again, and not a rubber stamp for the governor — this governor or any governor in the future.

A friend who was a senator once told me that the system tries to get you to conform to their ways, and it's easy to get caught up in that. To the new legislators-to-be, I hope you'll repel efforts to get you to forget who you are, and why you were elected.

To Therese Terlaje and Chris Barnett, you both led the pack by a wide margin, over 3,500 votes to the third-place finisher. Take that to mean that this island expects you to lead a serious change at the legislature. Start fast.

To the Democratic and Republican parties of Guam, and to everyone who ran for office, and to all of their dedicated supporters, I have a message.

45% of people who registered just told you they didn't think enough of you to follow through with a vote. 45% of Guam's registered voters just said that they don't particularly like what you do and how you do it. 45% of those who could have voted just screamed that you are irrelevant! 45% just said what you can do with your politics.

I've been connected to Guam for five decades and my mainland friends have always been incredibly impressed when I told them that Guam turns out 85% of registered voters at the polls. In some places, mainland turnout may be half of that or less. Now, here we are, facing the reality that 45% stayed away. What on Earth has happened to us? (Con't.)

I'd hate to think that one day we'll view this election as a high-water mark in voter interest.

It's time for those in politics to clean up our political system, and get rid of the kind of politics that instead of attracting people — it drives them away.

In closing, I wish all of you every measure of success, and that all of Guam's citizens will look back upon the 2022 election as the beginning of a golden era in politics when elected representatives earned the right to have the label of "leader" next to their name.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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