

ELECTION LETTERS - The Denton Record-Chronicle - Denton Record-Chronicle (TX) - October 29, 2014 - page EDIT01

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ELECTION LETTERS

The **Denton Record-Chronicle** welcomes letters to the editor pertaining to the Nov. 4 general election. All regular submission rules apply. The deadline for letters concerning statewide races and local propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot to be received in this office was 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. None will be published after Friday, Oct. 31.

Vote with our conscience

The **Denton Record-Chronicle's** Oct. 18 editorial, "Vote no on fracking ban," states the fracking ban debate has resulted in an unnecessary and damaging battle pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Not only is this line arguing against the very fabric of the democratic system, in which neighbors with differing opinions cast votes to determine which idea shall prevail, it is untrue.

We citizens pit ourselves not against each other but against a specific method of drilling within city limits, and never before have we felt such strong ties to our neighbors.

I look around and see courage, strength, compassion. I see passionate volunteers working for a cause in which they strongly believe.

I see party lines blurred and citizens of all ages, races and economic backgrounds working side by side. Many of us now have common ground on which to build lasting friendships, and our love for **Denton** runs to a depth no drill can reach.

Whatever the results of this election, we shall come out of it a community, not torn but drawn together, for we have risen to a new awareness. Let us not be wasteful, or careless, or mean-spirited.

Remember that it is far easier to change the mind of a friend than it is an enemy. Let not your vote be swayed by the barking of a billboard, but only by the whispers of your heart - if we vote with our conscience, we cannot go wrong. We are citizens of **Denton**, and neighbors we shall remain. Let no man divide us.

A. Hastings,

Denton

Forums excellent avenues

I attended the forum sponsored by the NAACP and LULAC. There is a clear distinction between Democrats and Republicans.

I was astonished as to the cluelessness of Myra Crownover, a state representative for years. Her answers were basic talking points with no critical thinking.

Emy Lyons, Crownover's opponent and a nurse, was impressive in that she personalized each question and understood the ramifications of the policies. Lyons provided solutions.

Alex Mendoza said that Ron Simmons was one of 21 representatives who voted against a bill to benefit veterans. Simmons almost fell out of his seat. Simmons based his answers on Republican talking points.

I cannot recall a thing Margaret Barnes said; she rambled aimlessly. David Heiman projected his views clearly.

Dan Moran, young and energetic, was knowledgeable. His Republican opponent, Tan Parker, was not present.

Lisa Osterholt, a young energetic candidate, is very down to earth and knowledgeable about issues. Her opponent was not present.

Mike Kolls' (Libertarian for U.S. representative) responses were a variation of cut government by 70 percent and let the market take care of it. I would have loved to ask him why the market did not take care of health care, prior to the Affordable Care Act. Kenny Marchant, Republican, was a no show.

Patrick McGeheraty's response on why the minimum wage was so important was extremely intelligent.

Democrats were clear winners. A couple of Republicans commented that they would change their vote. Forums, unlike three-second commercials, are excellent avenues to know candidates and their views.

Alfred Sanchez,

Denton

Bounty of evidence

Recently citizens of **Denton** have found themselves squinting in the spotlight of a national debate. Influential people with interests in unconventional drilling have turned their persuasive efforts to **Denton**.

A hand has passed over us, casting a shadow of confusion and a rainstorm of leaflets, warning us of the dire consequences of prohibiting access to hydraulic fracturing in city limits.

A common talking point on which the opponents of the ban dwell is the supposed lack of scientific research concerning hydraulic fracturing.

I spent a few hours searching various academic databases through the University of North Texas library and uncovered hundreds of recent studies on the impacts to the environment and human health. Editorial limitations prohibit their review within this text, but most of this information is available to the public for free through libraries or universities.

Citizens have a responsibility to research these issues, but many lead very busy lives. I encourage you to find some time to explore the literature on your own.

If you do, you will find a bounty of evidence supporting the ban on fracking. So to answer the oft-bellowed question of, "Where's the science?" - it tends to be where you look for it.

Jen Bailey-Simpson,

Denton

Vote no on ban

One myth of a recent **Frack Free Denton** mailer is that fracking contributes to our community and schools only 25 percent of the tax revenue generated by single-family homes.

The facts dispute this bogus claim. An average property tax bill for a \$200,000 home in **Denton** is \$4,700 per year. An average well in the Barnett Shale will consistently produce 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas and \$108,000 in severance tax on a well.

However, the entire time the well is in place the operator is also paying yearly property tax on the equipment. Equipment with the same value as a home would generate the same property tax as the home.

Each one of our 200-plus oil and gas jobs, averaging \$99,975 per year, creates nearly 17 additional jobs in **Denton**. For each dollar spent on oil and gas purchases, six additional dollars in commerce stimulate **Denton's** economy, a great multiplier for us.

The truth behind this scare tactic is that this campaign really is about eliminating fossil fuels.

The "Stop the Frack Attack" website declares: "We battle a persistent myth that gas is a 'clean' energy - but keeps us from ... ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Such a goal is totally irrational and the **Denton** voters shouldn't fall for these radical falsehoods.

Vote smart - vote no on the ban.

Jack. O. Faegre,

Denton

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