

Milestones

By Miles H Barber

Congratulations to the Republican Party who followed historic trends and recaptured the House.

This will guarantee a more balanced approach to Federal legislation or create absolute gridlock. (That could be a good thing).

Congratulations are also in order to our local candidates, Jamie Matthews, who won handily the race for Mayor of Santa Clara, Patty Mahan who will begin her 17th year on the Council and Pat Kolstad who returns for another four year stretch.

Santa Clara opted for the known as opposed to the new.

What this election decided was not who was right or wrong and more who the voters thought would represent their point of view.

Mayor Mahan made an interesting observation in this election; Santa Clara ethics took a front seat during the campaign. We did not see the mud slinging attack pieces or ads locally that permeated so many state wide races this year. Candidates focused on issues as opposed to personalities.

City Clerk Rod Diridon, Jr. is to be commended for setting the trend in establishing a prototype for ethics in Santa Clara that has been adopted by many Cities throughout California. Perhaps in time we will live to see this program embraced by the State and the major candidates for statewide and National office.

We also need to thank our candidates who offered their services as an optional choice for Santa Clara.

Teresa O'Neill proved to be a worthy opponent for Pat Mahan, garnering over 40 percent of the vote in her first attempt at Council. She is a strong contender in the "to be elected" category. With her business background and experience she will be heard from again.

Mohammed Nadeem also made a strong showing in his bid for Council against long time resident and former Councilman Pat Kolstad.

To our knowledge, Nadeem is the first Muslim to ever run for office in Santa Clara and one of the few PhD's to make an attempt at local office.

There will be additional opportunities for these very capable candidates to offer their skills and services to our City.

While our winners are always appreciative of their victories, they also recognize that a large percentage of our residents did not vote for them.

It does not eliminate the minority in having a voice and it does suggest they will be asked to proceed with a more cautious approach to City business.

There are now difficult and necessary cuts Santa Clara has to make. This will affect many of us with regards to services.

It is clear, our new Council will have greater responsibility and accountability than we have seen in recent years.

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