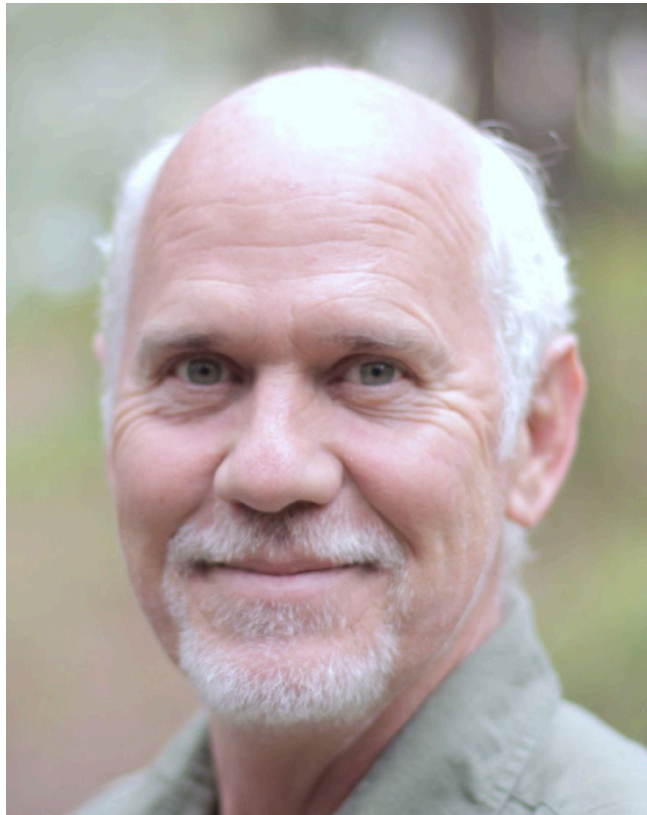

View from the left: Voting is your patriotic duty

June 17, 2022



Is your glass half empty or half full? Are you a pessimist or an optimist? Do you want to be a critical skeptic or a utopian idealist? You can decide how you see the world.

Some people only talk about what is wrong with our county, state, and country. It is easy to be critical of someone else trying to make a difference. It's harder to pitch in and work to make things better.

I lose patience with people who say, "Someone ought to do this or that..." Too many people think that if they have a good idea that someone else should follow through to make it happen.

If you are an optimist or a utopian idealist, you may be more inclined to get involved. Many good endeavors in our county only exist because of the volunteers who commit their time to make our community better. These are people that have hope for our future and are willing to step up to help.

I am generally optimistic, so I prefer to highlight the good things that are happening in our community rather than focusing on the things that are not yet right. I will not add to the cacophony of complaints and dire warnings that others are willing to emphasize.

In the recent election fewer than 40 percent of local voters took the time to return their ballot. Rather than bemoan the 60 percent who did not vote, I want to thank the 40 percent who did vote. I prefer to see the glass as 40 percent full.

There is an old saying, “The world is run by the people who show up.” I believe this is true. The 40 percent of people who voted helped determine who will be our next County Supervisors.

I want to congratulate Chris Howard for his reelection. He has been an intelligent voice of reason in these challenging times. Despite attempts to paint him as some type of aberration, the voters in his district made the right choice. Yes, Chris is a Republican, but nobody is perfect.

The voters in Districts 4 and 5 also decided who will be in the runoff for County Supervisor representing their districts. My hope is that more voters become engaged and vote in the November election. We are not guaranteed to get the government that we deserve, but if we don’t vote we deserve the government we get.

If you choose not to vote, then you are allowing someone else to decide who will represent your interests. For me voting is all about policy. I ask myself two questions. Which candidate will best represent my interests? Do they have the skills and experience to follow through on their campaign promises?

Be wary of candidates who complain about the size of government and simultaneously promise expanded government services. They can’t have it both ways. Remember there is no law against lying during a political campaign.

Our system of government has been described as a democratic republic. This means we democratically elect our representatives. Then after they are elected, in most cases, they are empowered to do whatever they want. This is why we must make good choices when we have a chance to vote.

Our right to vote should not be squandered. Voting is our patriotic duty.

Kevin Hendrick is the Chair of the Del Norte County Democratic Central Committee - dndems@gmail.com