

from our viewpoint...

Sherman citizens get chance to decide

After three years of effort to get the issue through the State Legislature in Topeka, Sherman County voters will have their chance on Tuesday, Nov. 2, to vote on the at-large election of county commissioners.

Two years ago the issue of at-large election of commissioners was debated and discussed plus people were asked their opinion on the question. Three times the people indicated overwhelming support for the at-large election of our county commissioners.

It took an extra year to get the issue out of Topeka. The issue was attached to a last minute bill that got it through the legislative process and was signed by Governor Mark Parkinson.

The state law says Sherman County voters have the right to decide in this election if the county commissioners will remain in districts or be elected at-large.

The law says to approve the at-large voting Sherman County voters both in Goodland and the rural portions of Sherman County will have to pass it by a majority vote.

The State Legislature put this dual majority provision as a “protection” for the rural people. Similar dual majorities have been included in consolidation votes in Greeley and Shawnee Counties. In Greeley County both the city and rural voters approve the consolidation. In Shawnee County the city voted in favor, but the rural area narrowly defeated the consolidation.

Recent events dealing with the residency of a Sherman County commissioner gives an example of why we believe the at-large voting on commissioners is a good choice for all of the county.

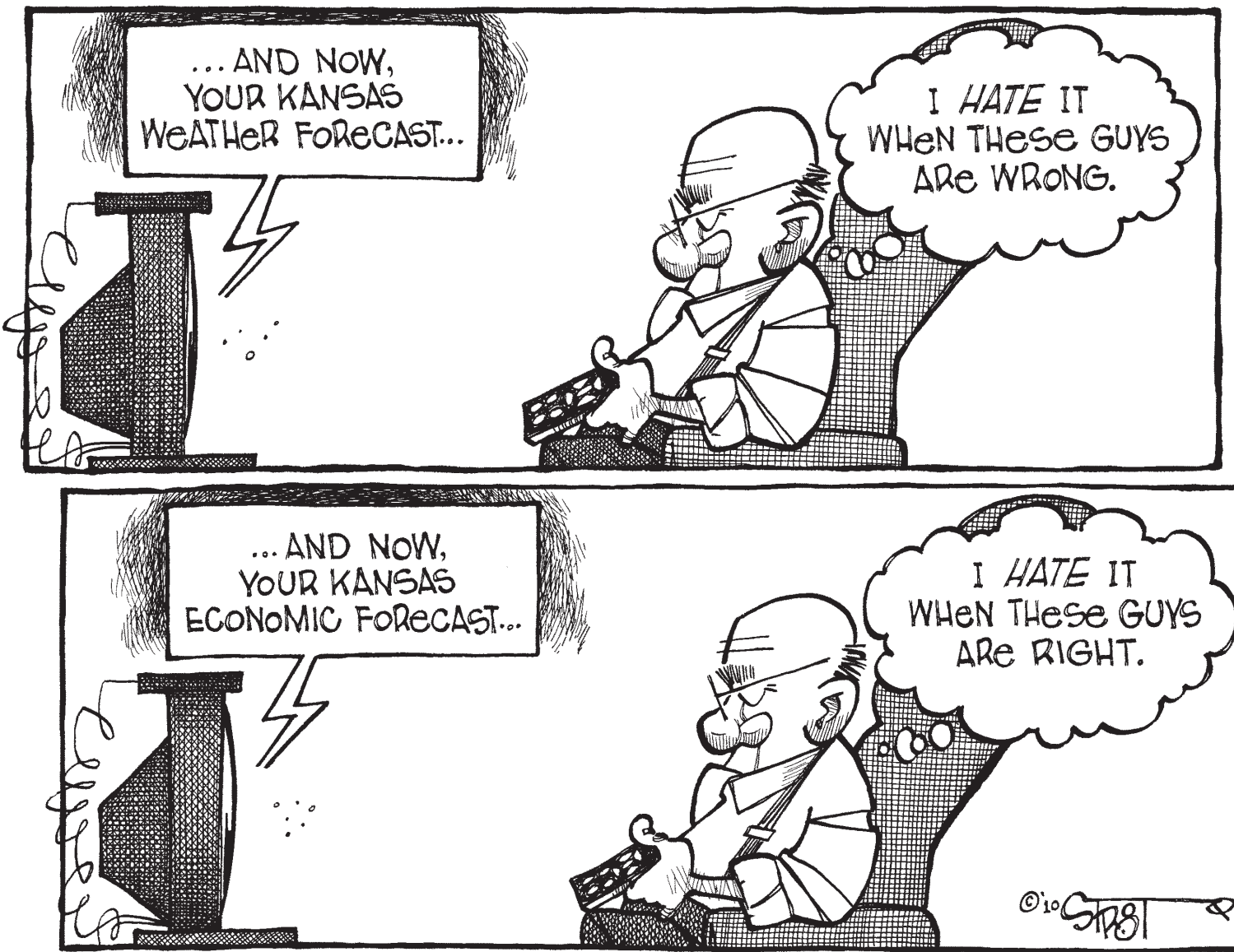
Many people will say if we do away with districts all of the commissioners will come from the city. Actually with the districts in the county as they exist all three commissioners could come from a six block area of the city. That is an extreme example, and historic examination of the commissioners who have served this county show at most times all three commissioners have come from the rural areas with an occasional person from the city.

When a commissioner swears the oath of office they swear to represent Sherman County, not a certain district. When people go to the polls to vote they are usually surprised to find they do not get to vote on all the county commissioners, and many have asked why not. In November the voters have the chance to make that change so everyone gets to vote on all of the commissioners.

Sherman County will have to redistrict after the census figures are released. With a favorable vote on the at-large issue the county will not have to pay any redistricting cost, and election ballots in the future will be simpler as everyone would get to vote for all commissioners.

In Sherman County the city commissioners and school board are all elected on an at-large basis, and every other county office is elected at-large including the county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney and sheriff.

This is the best chance Sherman County voters have to give themselves the right to elect the people who sit as county commissioners to represent us all. To win the people of both the city and rural area have to support the at-large issue. We feel it is not important where the commissioner lives, but that they represent all of us and we have the right to vote for all the commissioners. — Tom Betz



Annual pennant race seems to be in a fog

If this editor seems to be in a fog these days, it might be because it's September, and September means a pennant race.

Sure, the beloved Colorado Rockies always seem hapless in July, but something seems to come over them in the fall.

Games they couldn't win on a bet in July, they put away with runs to spare. Come-from-behind victories that were out of reach all year fall in place one after another. Pitchers throw a little harder, hit their targets a little more often.

Todd Helton begins to hit again. Troy Tulowitzki sets a new standard – two home runs per game – after something like 52 days on the injured reserve list.

Ubaldo Jimenez finally wins 18, and 19, and the rest of the staff start to look like pitchers once more. The team plays like you know it could all along.

Fans turn out by the thousands. And at Coors Field, all it right once more.

For the Rockies really are the Boys of September.

From the 2007 season, when they won 21 of 22 in September, came from behind to win the wild card and swept the division and league



steve
haynes
• along the sappa

series, to 2009, when they did almost the same thing, only to falter in the playoffs, the Rocks thrive in September.

Now, with the month half over, they threaten again. From as much as eight games behind the San Diego Padres, they've come up to, at one point, just a game out of first place, and 2 1/2 games behind Atlanta for the fourth (wild card) spot in the playoffs.

Another September miracle? After losing Sunday, though, they were 3 1/2 out in both races, so who knows?

The Rockies have 13 games left, and they'll have to win nearly all of them to snare a spot in the October dance. But the way they have been playing, taking two of three over the weekend in Los Angeles (where they normally can't buy a win), anything is possible.

They would be better off if, after sweeping

the Padres on the Coast, they hadn't lost a home series with the division leaders in Denver 2-1. But as Yogi Berra famously said, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Now it's down to playing the division – three games in Arizona, three at home with the second-place Giants, three with the out-of-the-running Dodgers. And four in St. Louis in October to close the season.

Every game will count, and any of the three teams could wind up on top. There could even be a play-in game to decide the division.

If so, the Rockies might be hot enough to win their first division pennant. Then they'd be tested in the post season fires. Like other teams that build to this point, they'll have to win a World Series to really prove themselves.

It happened in Kansas City when they had an owner with money to burn and a sharp front office. It could happen in Denver. Let's say it will happen, if not this year, then some September soon.

Enough for now. The game is about to start. If you need me, I'll be by the radio the next three or four hours.

Work can wait.

Is it left or right?

Tuesday night Goodland hosted yet another successful Constitutional Academy meeting with more folks in attendance than the one prior. For those who weren't able to attend, I offer a brief summary of the principles taught and the discussions had.

Today it is popular to view the political spectrum in a left vs. right fashion, whereby the far left is represented by the Communist's and the far right by the Fascist's. The center is where the moderates are placed – folks who are neither a communist nor a fascist.



guest
columnist
• ken klemm

ruler's law, whereby the ruler, or class of rulers, made laws for virtually every aspect of their subjects life. The far right was anarchy, or no law, where only might and strength prevailed. With this scale, Communism and Fascism are

Tyranny	Constitutional or People's Law	Anarchy
<100%	-----Balanced Center-----	0%>

Perhaps you've heard folks describe themselves as "just to the right of center." Does that mean that they are just a little Fascist?

Or, maybe you've heard some describe themselves as a moderate – somewhere right in the middle. One can guess that means they are neither a Fascist or a Communist, but what then are they?

We learned this view of the political spectrum is not helpful to describe governments or political systems.

The Founder's had a better way. They viewed the political spectrum much differently, even though these two forms of rule were part of their world (albeit with different names). Since the Founder's believed our rights were granted to us by God, and it was government's duty to preserve these rights, they used a different measure of the political spectrum.

In their view, the far left was tyranny, or

both placed on the far left near to tyranny, as logic would dictate.

Extensive study revealed to them a pendulum pattern among nations whereby nations swung from being oppressed under a tyrant to the opposite end of suffering in anarchy and often even greater misery.

We still see this pattern today. Think of Iraq. From Saddam Hussein (the tyrant), to after the "liberation," a near total anarchy, whereby no one and nothing was safe.

The Founder's goal was to form a government that broke this cycle. They were searching for a form of government that was in the balanced center, whereby the people would enjoy the maximum amount of liberty and yet have their rights protected from those who would harm them. They called this People's Law.

The Founder's felt if they were successful

in establishing such a form of government the creative spirit of a free people would be unleashed and would then usher in a great era of wealth, peace, prosperity and innovation.

Of course, we now know they were indeed successful in their endeavor. The American people have enjoyed the great blessings of the Constitution and People's Law for well over 200 years.

In no period in history has mankind advanced greater and this can be directly attributed to the Founder's ideas and the exportation and voluntary use of these ideas worldwide. The Founder's experiment with a balanced government, ruled by the people, and for the people, has been an undeniable success.

However, our nation is never more than one generation away from losing it all. Our nation's continued success is wholly dependent on our success of passing the principles of people's law from one generation to the next.

Thomas Jefferson said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Our study group is dedicated to the advancement of the teaching and understanding of the principles found in our Constitution. We then attempt to apply these principles to current events and issues.

To that end, our meeting wrapped up with an interesting case study of the recent decision by the county and city officials to continue the neighborhood revitalization tax rebate program. The time was used to discuss whether this program measured up to the principles of liberty that undergirds our nation and benefit mankind. Many well thought-out and articulated viewpoints were expressed. The discussion, conducted under similar format as was the Constitutional Convention, was enlightening to all – your humble writer as well.

If you'd like to know the consensus on this issue we invite you to attend our next meeting on at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5, in the basement of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Goodland. Call me for more details. Ken Klemm (785) 899-9274.

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