

Press Release
From
Dwight S. Wood, Clerk
Superior and State Court
Hall County, Ga.
July 29th, 2008

In Response to Jennifer Gibbs latest campaign flyer:

1. The Superior and State Court Clerk's Budget has NOT been over budget in the last 5 fiscal years; information received from the Hall County Finance Department. I would have checked further back, but I didn't want to burden the Finance Dept. any more than necessary.
2. There are NO missing funds nor have there ever been any missing funds in the clerk's office; information received from the Hall County Finance Department. This office has been audited every year since I have been employed with Hall County.
3. No one in County Administration has ever accused this office of "out of control" spending. In fact, two of the last five years, the finance department has used excess funds from the clerk's budget to help balance other offices budgets.
4. And as far as the question, "Who Will Clean up the Hall County Clerk of Courts Office", the question should be "Who will clean up the slanderous remarks and dirty politics of candidates who refuse to run a clean race and stick to the issues."

I have remained silent during this race until now, but I have heard enough of a campaign that is slanted towards me instead of the issues of who is the best candidate to steer the clerks office into the next phase of technology, and who knows the laws governing the office and one who has the trust of the majority of the current staff.

I also have heard that Ms. Gibbs has said that the clerk's office has low morale and has thus been "going down hill..."

My response to that remark is that if there is low morale in some of the employees, it's because they are afraid of who their next boss could be.

It could be someone who runs a dirty campaign and will tell anything to get your vote or it could be someone who has run a clean campaign and has the experience and knowledge to step in and take the clerks office to the next level in technology with e-filing and online payments of fines and fees; and would know how to get it done without wasting months and maybe years attempting to learn the laws that govern this office.

I've seen lots of dirty campaigns in my tenure in office and if there is one thing I have learned, it is, "If a candidate is willing to slander and tell untruths during their campaign, all while asking for your vote, they will do the same thing AFTER they get your vote.

The purpose of campaigns like Ms. Gibbs, is that the candidate doesn't know enough about the office for which they are running, to campaign on the issues. This is her way of attempting to get you to vote for her, when she campaigns on her perceived problems in the office.

I was shocked to hear the low turnout of voters in a county the size of Hall. The low turnout of voters in a county with 80,000 registered voters seems to tell the community and state that the voters don't care who their elected officials are. But this can be turned around when you vote in this race on August 5th.

Please exercise your voting privileges, during the early voting, or on August 5th. The Clerk's office is a very important and Constitutional Office.

Remember, you CAN vote in the runoff even if you did not vote in the primary.

Dwight S. Wood

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