

## What Should We Expect from Government?

That's a reasonable question that generates a lot of unreasonable responses. As your chairman, I hear plenty of them. Some (thankfully few) express blatantly selfish visions, catering to their own needs. Others spell out a perfect world. That would be nice, but the world's best-selling book tells us that will not be in place until this world's Creator returns and establishes His government. So, what should we strive to create in the interim? I believe our founding fathers had it correct: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed,..."

Our founding fathers knew there would never be an "ideal candidate." Therefore, they set up our government of checks and balances. Sure, the president gets to stand at a podium and speak for the nation, but Congress tells him whether he can have the money to pursue his vision. Whether we like it or not, we are always voting for the lesser of two evils. "Let God be true, and every human being a liar." (Romans 3:4, NIV) Did you catch that? None of us is perfect, whether voter or candidate, and thus none is perfect in our execution of those duties. Am I really the only one who has ever regretted a vote I made?

Here we are less than six months into my tenure as your chairman, and the municipal elections in Pickens County are upon us. Among them are the elections that will determine the government of our largest city, Easley. The sitting government is everything our founding fathers did not want: a demanding mayor who has squashed dissent and hidden government dealings from the citizens with a city council that allows him to do so by a 2:1 margin. In response, three candidates have stood up to overturn the city's model of government that allows this: Lisa Talbert (mayor), Donna Rainey (3<sup>rd</sup> ward), and Justin Alexander (5<sup>th</sup> ward).

Because each of these candidates has expressed a desire to govern Constitutionally and to reform the government to not allow the current type of abuse, I have gladly endorsed all three of them. This may come as a bit of a surprise to those who have seen me disagree with Justin Alexander on party issues. I would never pretend that we have always seen eye to eye. We have not. If you know your history, I think our differences have been like those had between Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. But like those men, I believe we've been respectful of each other and ultimately on the right side of defining issues.

None of these candidates is perfect, but they have all shown a humble desire to make Easley a better place for every citizen, not just their supporters or interests. That is why I support each of them. We will go through a similar process next year when we look for the best possible candidates for county, state, and federal offices. We will not find an ideal candidate, but we should be encouraging the best ones. To expect someone to agree with us every time on every issue is either egomaniacal or utopian fantasy.

I hope every member, no matter how much we agree or disagree on details, can join me in pursuing the security of the rights of the individual, just as our founding fathers said they desired.

Towards better government,

Bob Fetterly

PCRP Chairman, 2023-2025