

## Standard online reader survey



**Q: Do you plan to take advantage of early voting which begins this Wednesday?**

**YES or NO**

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Border security must remain top priority

The president of the United States has a responsibility to secure the borders of the country. Additionally, our country's sovereignty must not ebb and flow with the cultural and political machinations of the day.

Tuesday, President Trump explained to reporters that he was taking a new tack on securing the U.S.-Mexico border. "We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military."

We should applaud the Commander in Chief's willingness to mobilize every resource at his disposal, (in this instance, the National Guard) to defend our borders. Their role would likely be supplemental as federal law prohibits the use of active-duty military for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless they get the go-ahead from Congress.

Though critics of the president are tossing terms like "authoritarian" all over social media, deploying our military assets to the border is not a maneuver unique to Trump.

In 2006, President George W. Bush sent the National Guard to the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas for operation "Jump Start." They conducted surveillance and constructed roads

### The Boston Herald

and fences, among other things.

Similarly, in 2010 President Obama sent over a thousand troops to the border in response to increased drug smuggling and the murder of a prominent Arizona rancher.

Border security is crucial to preserve any civilization and not so long ago this was the consensus among our elected leaders of all political stripes.

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama emphasized the need for border security. "Real reform means strong border security, and we can build on the progress my administration has already made — putting more boots on the Southern border than at any time in our history and reducing illegal crossings to their lowest levels in 40 years."

In 2009, Sen. Chuck Schumer's resolve was on display. "First, illegal immigration is wrong," he stated, "and a primary goal of comprehensive immigration reform must be to dramatically curtail future illegal immigration."

We must put our feelings for the current president aside and endeavor the return to common sense on border security.



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JEFF STAHL

## Local debate impressive

Young Democrat and Young Republican Clubs at WCHS hosted debates for local political candidates Thursday night. The debates started promptly at 6 p.m. and lasted over four hours. Facing a full house, candidates were put through their paces by a student panel which asked pertinent questions about their credentials and goals for office.

The good news is some 50 candidates for the Warren County Commission were invited to the debates. The bad news is 24 of them turned out to be no-shows. The cavalcade of candidates began with 1st District Democrats Sally Brock and David Rhea, followed by 2nd District Democrat Robert Hennessee and Independent Dana Hillis Mullican, 3rd District Democrats Richard Grissom and George M. Smartt, Republican candidates Joseph Stotts, and Michael Shane Wilcher, 4th District Democrat David Dunlap and Republican Blaine Wilcher. 5th District Independent Lori Judkins appeared alone. So did 6th District Democrat Deborah Evans.

Both 7th District incumbents, Gary C. Martin and Tommy Savage, were there. The 8th District contenders present were Democrat William Haslacker and Independent Dalton Pack. The 9th District candidates present were Democrat Bobbie Gilbert Bailey, Independent Carlene Brown and Independent Steven D. Helton.

The 10th District aspirants for office were Republican Jeff Bottoms, Independent Brandon Eldridge and Democrat Cole Taylor. Democrats Steve M. Glenn and Mary Elizabeth Roller were the only two candidates present from the 11th District. Democrat Lisa Kanne was the lone contender from the 12th District.

I've listed the names of the candidates who showed up and spoke up during the debate. I've not mentioned the names of the no-shows for the debates. I think most of us know who they are.

Trustee incumbent Democrat Darlene Bryant and Independent challenger Anita Nunley were followed by Register of Deeds contender Independent Danny Cummings, incumbent Democrat Terry K. Smith and Democrat challenger Wes Williams.

Democrat Casi Powell Cantrell, Independent Chris Cope, Democrat Melanie Milstead and Democrat Duane Sherrill, rivals for the open Circuit Court seat, were all present for the debates.

The contenders for the open office of County Executive engaged in a lively debate, primarily between Independents Terry Bell and Jimmy Haley, on who is best qualified to fill that important position. Republican candidate Ray Hixon focused mostly on how his business credentials qualify him for County Executive.

All seven candidates for Sheriff appeared in force for the debate: Independents Billy Joe Crouch, Bobby Edwards, Marc Martin, John Morgan, Tommy Myers, and Democrats Herb Rowland and Rodney Whiles. I was impressed by the vast experience, expertise and previous public service of all the candidates.

In my view, these local candidate debates exemplify grassroots democracy. Kudos to the WCHS Young Democrat and Young Republican Clubs and their faculty advisors for making this milestone event happen.

*Retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn can be reached at [tbtovmni@blomand.net](mailto:tbtovmni@blomand.net).*

### MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN



## Midterms often not kind

Woodrow Wilson lost 61, Warren Harding 77. Harry Truman lost 54, Lyndon Johnson 47. Ronald Reagan lost 26, Bill Clinton 54. And Barack Obama? He lost 63.

Incumbent presidents almost always watch their party lose substantial numbers of House seats in their first midterm congressional elections. The exceptions are rare — about as rare as Franklin Delano Roosevelt (gained nine in 1934) and George W. Bush (gained eight in 2002) being in the same sentence.

So the question that lingers in every political discussion this year is a perplexing one: Will a president whose campaign broke every rule, and whose presidency breaks every rule, be able to break with tradition and hold the House and Senate, legislative chambers where he does not even command the full confidence and support of his own majority party?

On the answer to that question rests the destiny of the president's wall along the Mexican border, the Trump infrastructure initiative, the status of Obamacare, perhaps the shape of the Supreme Court, almost surely the remainder of Trump's term.

Seldom — perhaps not since 1994, when Clinton watched his party relinquish control of the House for the first time in four decades — has so much ridden on midterm congressional elections. Here are some of the constituencies that may plan an outsized role:

— Women. Supporters of Hillary Clinton remain angry about the election of Trump and are likely to flock to the polls in greater numbers than they

did in 2010 and 2014, when Obama was in the White House.

— Younger voters. Democrats will focus on this group, though perhaps more as an investment toward the 2020 presidential election than toward November's midterms; these voters are notoriously uninterested in voting in non-presidential years.

— Supporters of the Tea Party coalition, particularly gun owners. These voters could form a backlash against the anti-gun rallies that so inspire younger voters (above).

— Hispanics. Trump's aggressive opposition to immigration, his recent remarks about the Dreamers and his devotion to the Mexican wall may make many voters in this diverse group vulnerable to Democratic entreaties.

— Rural voters. The farther a voter lived from a metropolitan area, the more likely he or she was to vote for Trump two years ago. Rural voters have leaned Republican for some time, so this is fertile GOP territory for Republicans.

Then again, there remain many uncertainties. The conservative Ann Coulter recently said that while Trump was "a coarse vulgarian," she was drawn to him in 2016 but is alienated now because "he's totally walked away from his central campaign promises." It's unlikely voters of the Coulter outlook will vote for a Democrat. Maybe they'll stay home and watch "Roseanne."

*David M. Shribman is executive editor of the Post-Gazette ([dshribman@post-gazette.com](mailto:dshribman@post-gazette.com)).*

### JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



## I have reached grand age of 49

Happy birthday, Lisa! Lisa, it's your birthday!

I turned 49 on Saturday, April 7. Because I'm writing this on Friday, I have no idea if I had a wonderful birthday or not. My crystal ball has malfunctioned. However, I can tell you that I woke up Friday morning and was getting my groove on to YouTube while getting ready for work. I'd say I'm doing fairly well at 49.

I do have plans to go to the Southern Women's Show in Nashville with the girls on Sunday. Hopefully, as you read this or when you read it, I'm on my way or already there. It's one of my favorite events.

Each year when I write this column, I always have someone express shock that I'm so forthcoming about my age. Apparently, some women would rather die than have their age printed in an edition of the *Standard* for everyone to see. I don't lie about my age. Ladies, let's face reality. Accept it with grace and dignity.

I read once that lying about one's age is socially acceptable. It stated that lying was acceptable because people shouldn't ask age because it's nobody's business. I guess any excuse will do, but I'm not down with that. What happens if you don't look as young as you think you do? Then, people are looking at you like "she looks so much older than her age?" That's not good at all.

List of reasons I've found for lying about one's age: vanity, competition, ego, aging ungracefully, want more time, fame, and acceptance.

If I did decide to be less-than-truthful, I wouldn't make myself younger. I would make myself older. While I might look good for 40, I'd look awesome for 60. If would appear well preserved, if nothing else. However, I'd rather be truthful.

My son is now 23 and my daughter is 25.

Michael would probably be quick to tell you that he had more to do with aging me than his sister. He was a rollercoaster ride of a child and that has continued into his adulthood. He knows how to keep mom alert and on her toes. I remember always saying, "Be careful, son" as he left the house and he'd reply, "No promises." He was serious and so was I. It was awesome.

Merissa was the opposite of her brother. Between the two, I received the complete package of childrearing. She did little to add to my gray hair. However, she's the spitting image of me. While that isn't bad, we did butt heads on occasion. Nothing ever too bad. She's my haunted house and horror movie buddy now that she's an adult.

As I'm looking back over my life, there's a lot I'd like to go back and change — children excluded. Heck, there's stuff in the last year that I'd like a redo on. Because I'd inadvertently make it worse if I tried to make it better, let's leave well enough alone.

Here's to being 49.  
*Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191.*



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Patricia Zechman, Publisher  
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager  
Dale Stubblefield, Circulation Director



Phone: 473-2191  
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110  
FAX: 473-6823

Email: [standard@blomand.net](mailto:standard@blomand.net)  
Website: [www.southernstandard.com](http://www.southernstandard.com)

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