

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you plan to take advantage of early voting?

YES 71 percent
NO 29 percent

EDITORIAL

There's no excuse not to cast your vote

The first of three elections in 2018 begins Wednesday as early voting gets under way in Warren County.

Races will be decided in the Democratic Primary for key local offices such as Sheriff, Circuit Court Clerk, Register of Deeds, and three districts of the Warren County Commission.

With early voting lasting more than two weeks, and including hours on Saturday, voting remains an ease. Yet thousands of adults in Warren County don't make the five-minute commitment to vote and decide who runs our government. There are TV commercial breaks that last longer than five minutes.

If you examine the numbers, there are 19,394 active voters in Warren County, according to our Election Commission. That's from a county with a population of 40,651 as estimated by the

U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census estimates there are 31,302 Warren County residents 18 or older and of legal voting age. That means we have 11,908 adults who could be voters, but who aren't.

There may be extenuating circumstances why some of those residents don't vote. Some may have been convicted of a felony that prevents them from voting. Some may be homebound and don't vote absentee.

Even with those considerations, there are still likely some 10,000 people living in Warren County right now who could vote but do not.

The *Standard* would like to take this time to encourage everyone to participate in our election process. For democracy to thrive, we need a population that cares enough to vote.

TO THE EDITOR

Sparkman was there

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing to clarify my comments in Sunday's "My Turn," column about "no-shows" among the candidates for County Commissioner. Nothing in my general criticism of those who were absent during the debates was aimed at anyone in particular.

Specifically, I want the record to reflect that 5th District incumbent and can-

didate for re-election, Tyrone Sparkman, was indeed present for the debates. However, he arrived too late to participate, due to a doctor's appointment in Nashville, and another previous commitment earlier that day.

I thank Tyrone for bringing these facts to my attention.

Thomas B. Vaughn
Dee Lusk Road
Rock Island



PARTY LINE 1968...



PARTY LINE 2018...



Americans used to care

Once upon a time, we cared about the welfare of our fellow Americans. Farmers in the Midwest devastated by tornadoes, trailer parks washed away in a Florida hurricane, our country's ranking on various international comparisons -- we all rooted for our fellow Americans. Like all countries, we would squabble, but we were family. We were all Americans.

Not anymore! Now, no one cares about anything but getting rich, the better to separate oneself from the lives and concerns of poorer Americans.

Businessmen, Wall Street bankers, ethnic activists, Democrats and Republicans (including the president, apparently) -- all of them have a stronger fellow feeling toward Saudi princes and German bankers than toward Iowa farmers. Everybody's looking out for No. 1.

It wasn't always this way. Politicians, liberal activists and journalists used to care about even non-fashionable Americans.

One doesn't have to go back to the Garfield administration to find a time when everyone wanted to protect the nation from dysfunctional immigration -- the crime, the drugs, the poverty, the wage-depressing effect, the burden on our social services. Positions that are today considered hateful used to be called "common sense."

A 1995 news article in *The New York Times* calmly described preparations the Immigration and Naturalization Service was making in case a "vast flood of illegal immigrants" surged across the Mexican border, "inundating entire communities as it washes north into the American heartland."

Under the Clinton administration, the illegals would face either "immediate voluntary deportation" or "emergency detention."

No indignant denunciations followed.

Just a few years ago, Charles Lane, an editorial writer at *The Washington Post*, called for "prompt exclusion of unaccompanied Central American minors" during the border surge under Obama. Far-left Democrats used to openly proclaim ideas that would get them banned from Twitter today:

"When push comes to shove, there is only one realistic way that you can stop illegal immigration into this country, and that is by making it illegal and being tough enough that

illegal immigrants cannot work in this country." -- Democratic Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, 1985

"No sane country would (reward illegal immigrants), right? Guess again. If you break our laws by entering this country without permission, and give birth to a child, we reward that child with U.S. citizenship and guarantee full access to all public and social services this society provides -- and that's a lot of services. Is it any wonder that two-thirds of the babies born at taxpayer expense in county-run hospitals in Los Angeles are born to illegal alien mothers?" -- Democratic Sen. Harry Reid, 1993

Have well-heeled Americans really decided to abandon their fellow citizens? These merchants of compassion have none to spare for our own people? I'm not a steelworker, a waitress or a black teenager looking for an entry-level job, either. But I still care about other Americans.

COLUMNIST

ANN
COULTER



A New York state of mind

According to a recent *Financial Times* article, the apartment prices in Manhattan have plunged. Last year, you needed to fork over \$2.21 million for the average apartment, but now, you can scoop one up for the low, low price of only \$2 million.

Why are you still reading this? What are you waiting for?!

Leave me out of the apartment hunt. For one thing, you couldn't pay me to live there again. And then there's the little matter of not having anywhere near \$2 million, nor being likely to get it in the future. Even if the price really plunged -- to, say, \$1 million -- I still couldn't afford it. There are probably very few people who work at the *Financial Times* who could afford it, either.

According to the Kander and Ebb song, "New York, New York," if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. But let's be honest: "Making it" is a very squishy term. There are high-profile surgeons who live in tiny Manhattan lofts with IKEA furniture. Married lawyers have to share a bathroom with their kids. Successful CPAs have tiny galley kitchens and panoramic views of dirty airshafts.

Have they all "made it"? Divorces, children, college loans, rent, maintenance charges and mortgages eat up money like sharks going through chum. Not to mention, you also have to furnish that \$2 million apartment. And who's going to clean it? Not that they really get that dirty. The whole point of living in Manhattan is you can eat out seven nights a week for 20 years and never

visit the same restaurant twice. The chef's kitchen you just had to have in your \$2 million apartment will sit there unused.

"If the Russians had won the Cold War and forced people live in apartments like mine," said my work friend Marie at a long-ago brunch, "we'd rise against our oppressors and slaughter them with glee. But when we do it to ourselves, we think it's wonderful. It's Manhattan!"

"What makes it even worse," she said, "is that I'm second-homeless." Marie was talking about the plight of many worker bees in Manhattan, who

VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM
MULLEN

were so poor they couldn't afford second homes in the Hamptons or the Catskills. The people who are buying those \$2 million apartments also have second, and sometimes third, homes far away from the city center.

I called Marie this week to make sure she'd heard the news about all the bargain apartments that she could be buying now.

"Yeah, thanks for telling me," she said. "I'll call a real estate broker as soon as I get off the phone with you. What's the down payment on that, like, \$200,000? Yeah, I can make that work. And then 30 years of paying \$24,000 for the monthly mortgage? Sure. Let me just call my boss and see if I can get her to give me a 1,000 percent raise. And a big bonus."

You just can't make some people happy.

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.

LIVIN' LA VIDA LACY

LACY
GARRISON



Decision time for my 10th reunion

Ten years, that's how long I've been out of high school. You know what that means -- a good ol' Warren County High School reunion!

Class of '08, was it "It will be great in 2008" or "We'll be out the gate in 2008?" I can't remember, but either way both ring true.

Now don't get me wrong, I didn't have a terrible high school experience. I got voted into homecoming court my sophomore year. I ran track and field and participated in my fair share of clubs and activities. I had a great circle of friends whom I knew would be my best friends forever.

When I reflect on my senior year specifically, I remember the highlights. I had my first serious boyfriend. I got voted Prom Queen (total shocker) and when senior superlatives rolled around, I was voted "Most Studious" (eh, I was nerdy and type A then too).

However, as popular '90s singer Britney Spears once sang, I was "not a girl, not yet a woman." You know that weird transitional phase of life that I'm referring to. I felt the stress of making so many important decisions I knew would impact my life and my future.

Where should I apply for college? Will I get the scholarships I need? What am I going to do with my newfound independence? I remember the moment I realized that my BFFs and I were going in different directions and I cried. As a teen, that part about growing up stung the most.

Anyway, what I'm getting at is I've spent time weighing the pros and cons of going to my reunion. My best friend Callie and I have discussed it over the phone. I've been added to the private Facebook group receiving updates occasionally of the preparations being made. I received a notification that tickets are available for purchase for \$40 if I get them now.

Recently, I read a blog on Huffington Post called "5 Reasons To Attend Your High School Reunion," which was entertaining to say the least. According to Elaine Ambrose, here are the five reasons to go:

1. It's nice to see the popular people living ordinary lives.
2. The 10th reunion is High School Part II.
3. The 20th reunion encourages interesting liaisons.
4. The 30th reunion is why Spanx was invented.
5. The 40th reunion brings the Memory Wall.

Although I'm interested and innately curious about the lives of those I graduated with, Facebook will have to suffice because I've decided to skip the reunion entirely. I've already had a nostalgic visit to WCHS while covering a student-led debate. I walked down the same hallway I previously walked so many times before while on the yearbook staff. Then, after the interview, senior Logan Kell called me "Mrs. Garrison" causing me to cringe on the inside.

So yep, my mind is made up and my decision is final this go-around. Maybe I'll go to my 20th reunion... I'll keep you posted.

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