

Yellowstone County Commissioners Race – A Second Look

Dick Pence – Coordinator, Big Sky Worldview Forum (3-minute read)

This letter is an appeal to you to responsibly consider Commissioner Pitman's write in effort. You can see my fuller analysis [here](#). I will also LINK to other information for the sake of brevity. **My bottom-line question?** Has this election **focused on the real issues** relevant to Yellowstone County? It is also **critical that you not miss** my question below about Don Jones, this will be about losing two commissioners. Find Commissioner Pitman's **reasons for the write in** [here](#).

I **respect** the fact that some of you have not supported Commissioner Pitman. Others have, rightly I believe, criticized Denis for not running a strong campaign. That said, I **believe the course of Yellowstone County's Governance for the next decade** may be at stake and there are **stark differences** between Denis Pitman and Mark Morse. I am asking you to re-consider this race **pushing old friendships and possible misconceptions** aside to focus on **principles and character**. Allow me to ask you a few key questions for your consideration of this race:

- ✚ Could the vast majority of Yellowstone County **voters pick Mark Morse** out of a police-type line-up?
- ✚ Do they have any idea who he is - his **character or relative experience**?
- ✚ Do you believe **County Governance** is important? Do you really believe that *"all politics is local"*?
- ✚ Are you **confident** the election of Mark Morse focused on the **real issues**?
- ✚ **Who are these Candidates** - do you know the public [service record and reputation](#) (P.6) of Denis Pitman and Mark Morse? HUGE differences!
- ✚ What are the [leadership records](#) (p.6) and styles of these two?
- ✚ You may have heard about **the defining moment** after the election - Mark Morse **giving away the plan** at the June 14, 2022 meeting when he shouted ["You're next Don"](#) (at 32 minutes) A clear reference to the John Ostlund's goal to **take down both Commissioners Pitman and Jones**. As I say elsewhere, it [all comes down to one name](#) and it's not Mark or Denis. You should listen and also [read this](#) (p7), see why I and others question Mark Morse's **ability to work respectfully** on a board or with others.
- ✚ [Who instigated](#) (p.4) **the Recall Petition** of Commissioner Don Jones?

- ✚ With the current caustic atmosphere in the Commission, **will Don Jones run again?** From my conversations with Don, the answer is probably NO!
- ✚ Or, will **Commissioner Ostlund have successfully completed his purge?**
- ✚ The Primary election was [cleverly manipulated to be about one issue](#) (p.1) – future **management of Metra Park**. Morse supporters [said so](#) (at 22 minutes). **Ok, so let's chase that rabbit for a minute. Have YOU read** the report of the Venue Solutions Group - [their analysis](#) of the management of this facility? Talk about good-old-boy management! Even on this issue, you **have you been lied to?**
 - **Public record show** that actions to demolish the [Grandstand and barns](#) were done by **unanimous** vote - John Ostlund made the motion. **How did the public** get the idea that this was only done by Jones and Pitman?
 - **Have you really [done your homework](#)** on the questions surrounding MetraPark management?
 - Take 2 minutes, and look at **FAQs [here](#)** (bottom). See how it compares to the **misinformation** from John Ostlund supports.
 - **Again, ask yourself, how did this become thee defining issue?**
- ✚ **Were you at the Debate between Denis and Mark put on by the Farm Bureau?** A glaring difference – Morse showed no **ability to communicate**, no capability to **think on his feet**, and poor **knowledge of the issues**.
- ✚ **Why didn't the Farm Bureau** allow the public to review the debate later?
- ✚ **Have you considered the [Marijuana vote](#)** (p.5)? **"VOTE HIM OUT"** read the signs in the Pot shops by **Pitman's picture**. Follow the LINK above and look at my analysis. Massive numbers - 45,000 votes on the Marijuana issue, 28,000 max on other county issues... **how did this happen?**
- ✚ **So, what ARE the REAL issues in this campaign?** May I suggest that you do the **responsible thing** and [read Commissioner Pitman's](#) write in letter. Pay special attention to paragraph three where he defines the **real issues**.

Elections should be about the candidate's *integrity and character, experience and reputation*, and *qualifications and fitness* for the position. Was that what this election was about or did **it got hi-jacked?** I suggest we [Reframe the Debate](#) (p.3) returning the Narrative to *the mission of the Commission*.