

For June 12, 2007

COMMENTARY:

Lubbockites have been complaining loudly, with good reason, about being fooled in the last major city election by candidate claims that turned out to be lies. I can only hope that in the District 3 runoff race, citizens will not get burned again, and that Klein will hold to his word.

Listeners know that until last week, when new information was uncovered, that I had been generally complimentary of Todd Klein as a person. Here's the problem now: To win the runoff, Klein sold his integrity for votes.

His attack mailings on opponent Glasheen were not, in and of themselves, wrong, even if they included half-truths and implied some very inaccurate things.

The problem is that Klein outright lied about two major things. First he made a big deal about the race not being partisan and how his being a Democrat was of little importance. We then discovered his letter to Democrat Primary voters in which he specifically promised to carry Democratic Party values into city hall if elected.

Second, in his 'nothing to lose' runoff he lied to voters in mailed materials to set up his nasty attack letter on the eve of the election. He said in writing, that his opponent had started a 'negative' campaign when the reality is that his opponent had said nothing negative. Todd played on voter ignorance to setup his election-eve attack mailing so he would not appear to be the 'negative' candidate.

I've no problem with telling voters about your opponent. I think it is a good thing to do, but I do have a problem with doing so while hiding behind a lie. This willingness on the part of Klein to sacrifice integrity for votes sits well with his Democrat background but, it does not bode well for Lubbock citizens.