

I received an e-mail from someone who was sending me a campaign contribution from his last paycheck. He explained he was losing his job; had heard me speak, believed in what I said, and had faith I would do the right thing. I am humbled by his sacrifice.

There were 4,325 mortgage foreclosures in Leon County in the past three years and many businesses have failed. 15,000 real people are out of work and first-time homelessness is on the rise. These are unmistakable signs of a local economic emergency—a reality our out-of-touch, local government leaders are insensitive to as demonstrated by their demand for more in property taxes, fees and utilities.

Preservation of the status quo or it's-all-about-me campaigns offer little comfort to the ignored, taken-for-granted and forgotten people. They are the reasons why I am running and this is what I propose to do.

- Add County representation to the Citizens' Utility Advisory Board so county customers have a say over the costs of utilities.
- Control the budget by limiting its growth to an adjustable index including variables such as population growth, per capita income and unemployment rate.
- Eliminate all permitting fees and utility systems hook-up charges for locally owned start-up, relocations or expansions of existing businesses in the Downtown and Southside/Frenchtown Community Redevelopment Agency Districts (CRA).
- Rebate the increase in property taxes attributable to local business development in the CRA.
- Reduce the time required for permits in the CRA by authorizing staff to make common sense decisions relating to public and private sector projects.
- Develop a nature/recreational based tourism industry promoting hiking, biking, camping, horseback riding, canoeing, historic sites and nature observation using our existing assets.

If you agree, then help me accomplish these things with your confirming vote on August 24.

Semper Fidelis

Rick Malphurs

www.RickMalphurs.com