

Tiger Bay Speech

I was giving a speech the other day, and I was talking about my background, the work that I do, and the obvious fact that I am not a politician, when an elderly gentlemen interrupted me to comment: Mr. Malphurs, you say you are not a politician. But I notice that you are in the septic tank business. Maybe you know more about politics than you realize.

I am new to politics, but this is what I know.

Many of our local government leaders are out-of-touch. The fact that they continue to raise your property taxes, fees and utilities during one of the worst recessions in our history makes this painfully clear.

There is an economic emergency in Leon County.

- Unemployment went up last month.
- There are now 15,000 people unemployed.
- In the past 3 years, there have been 4325 foreclosures.
- Business failures and first-time homelessness are on the rise.

But how has Commissioner Thael responded to this emergency?

When homeowners and business owners pleaded for a break on their property taxes, he opposed the doubling of the Homestead Exemption and the protection given to business owners from huge increases in their property taxes.

While families have drastically cut back on their personal spending he continues to approve of millions of tax dollars on new spending.

The County Budget has doubled since Commissioner Thael has been in office. This is way beyond the growth rate in population and average wages. It is irresponsible, and poor stewardship to allow the budget to grow faster than the taxpayers can afford.

I have heard plenty of talk about controlling spending and job creation. But, I am the only candidate, in any race, that has a real plan to accomplish this. I invite you to read the Malphurs Plan and judge for yourself.

For example, if my budget formula had been adopted 15 years ago, the budget would be about \$200 million instead of the \$250 million it is today. That's \$50 million more in pockets of taxpayers so that they can pay their bills, shop, save or invest.

I know that the work ahead is hard and the challenges are many.

But I did not become a Marine, or take on the responsibilities of my family's business, and the challenges of a political campaign against a 4-term incumbent looking for the easy way out. Hard work is what I know, and hard work is what I will give you as your County Commissioner. Rick Malphurs Semper Fidelis