

As a candidate for the Second Ward City Commission, I have seen firsthand the importance of local television. For many individuals within our community, the local television stations are their primary source of information. The information provided through local television stations help shape individual's ideas, perspectives and opinions. Particularly during election cycles, it is critical for community members to have access to information about various candidates, not only in order to make an educated decision but also to be informed about the election date and other election information, such as the recent changes to ballots.

Over and over we have heard about the amount of apathy that exists regarding the electoral process and politics. Stories that occur the day after elections are quick to point out the lack of voter participation, particularly in local elections. During the August 2nd primary, the voter turnout was 11%. Local television stations have a unique opportunity to reverse this tide of decreasing voter turnout by focusing greater attention and airtime to local races.

It is my hope that the dialogue that is started here tonight will continue and that we will continually challenge the media at all levels to provide much needed information and education to people in the community, with specific attention given to local politics.

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