

In a thriving democracy, the responsibility of holding elected officials accountable rests firmly in the hands of "we the people." The foundation of a democratic society is built upon the trust that citizens place in their chosen representatives. However, this trust should not be blind; it comes with the inherent obligation for citizens to ensure that elected officials act in the best interests of the people.

Elected officials must honor the electoral process, recognizing it as a sacred covenant between them and the citizens they serve. The democratic system is designed to be a safeguard against the concentration of power in the hands of a few. When officials deviate from this principle and engage in unethical or illegal acts, citizens must be empowered to take action.

The essence of democracy lies in checks and balances, preventing the usurpation of absolute power by any single individual or group. It is incumbent upon the citizens to remain vigilant, questioning authority when necessary, and demanding transparency in governance. When elected officials overstep their boundaries, engaging in actions detrimental to the common good, the people have not only the right but the duty to seek their removal from office.

Recalling officials who have breached the public trust is a necessary mechanism to protect the democratic fabric. This process empowers citizens to correct the course when elected representatives fail to uphold the values and principles that form the bedrock of the nation, and in this case Polk County. The ability to recall officials serves as a vital tool for citizens to voice their discontent and rectify the trajectory of governance.

The preservation of democracy requires an engaged and informed citizenry. It is not enough to cast a vote during elections and remain passive spectators thereafter. Citizens must actively participate in the democratic process, holding elected officials accountable throughout their terms. This collective responsibility ensures that the democratic experiment continues to thrive, free from the encroachment of authoritarian tendencies.

In conclusion, the responsibility to hold elected officials accountable even at local levels is not merely a privilege but a duty bestowed upon the citizens of a democracy. Upholding the democratic values of transparency, accountability, and respect for the rule of law is crucial to preserving the essence of a government for the people, by the people. The power to recall officials who deviate from these principles is an essential safeguard, reinforcing the idea that in a true democracy, power ultimately resides with the people.

For these reasons, I have initiated a recall petition against Polk County commissioners Jeremy Gordon and Lyle Mordhorst. Their actions, which involve circumventing the voters' decision and possibly violating the laws of the State of Oregon by seizing the authority of the elected county Treasurer, constitute a deliberate assault on the constitution and the citizens of Polk County. This issue transcends partisanship; all citizens should be willing to hold elected officials accountable for such actions.

When the Polk County administrative officer, Greg Hansen, conveyed in a memo to the commissioners, "In my opinion, the County cannot let the electoral process play out and hope for the best," every commissioner should have promptly defended the people's decision. Upholding their oaths of office to follow the law, defend the constitution, and serve the people should have been their immediate response. However, they chose to align with Hansen and proceed with his plan, thereby undermining the voters' will.

I urge the citizens of Polk County today to rectify an injustice and send a resounding message that we demand accountability from our elected officials. These commissioners are unfit for service.

For more information, or to help us in our efforts, please join us at the meeting this Friday.

Meeting Details:

Date: Friday, January 19th

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: American Outdoors, 468 NE Bovard Ave., Dallas, OR 97338

(Please bring your own chair)

Sincerely,

Micky Garus

Citizens for a Safer Dallas