

The January 18th Board of Supervisor's vote, awarding the Hinds County redistricting contract to Derrick Johnson, is typical of the Board's complete disregard for logic and economic sense when spending your money. Paying twice as much as other Counties (\$40,000 vs., \$20,000 in Rankin/Madison), then lamenting that "we could have negotiated for a better price, but didn't" is a telling statement for the complete negligence of your elected officials. Brilliant!

Another comment attributed to a Board member to justify this waste (and his vote) stated that he supported Mr. Johnson "because of his experience and (he) would be drawing lines for county supervisors, constables, election commissioners and Judges". His comment infers the drawing of four different sets of lines – wrong. All these offices run within the same district boundaries. Drawing the lines for one office draws the line for all of those offices. Therefore, the additional \$20,000 remains unjustified. Brilliant!

Another comment justified the additional money for legal fees. So now, we pay in advance for legal fees - before we know the results of the redistricting and whether or not a lawsuit is filed. Brilliant!

This casual unconcern for the use and trust of spending your tax dollars prudentially is typical of this BOS. The belief that the voter is too dumb to know or care is rampant of this Board as they arrogantly thumb their noses at fiscal responsibility and sound budgeting.

Borrowing money (\$6,000,000) to create a surplus and incurring the obligation to repay that money with interest (this April) – Brilliant! Cutting employees to save budget dollars, and then hiring new employees with those same dollars, then running short again and putting employees on one day per month (involuntary) furlough to save money is laughable but true - Brilliant. Paying companies to do work that goes undone (warning sirens) –Brilliant! All serve as examples of the unconscionable disregard for those that own property and pay for all this.

The one sensible statement made by any member of the Board justified Mr. Johnson's experience by "providing redistricting services to municipal and counties across the state". I hope that Mr. Johnson's experience will lead to a fair redistricting effort, taking into account all the citizens and interest of the County. Not just the four votes that paid him double the going rate.

I agree that to the delay of the deadline for qualification for this election to June 1 - if the population data demonstrates a significant shift. It is wasteful to pay for the same election twice. It is better and more responsible to finalize the district lines, and then hold the election.

I will stand for re-election in the Republican primary this August, continuing to represent those who believe in fiscal responsibility and prudent budgeting. Moreover, I pledge to stand up for that principal, whether the other Board members like it or not. I hope for your continued support.

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