



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

Mayors Newsletter November 2018

November 2018: Another Election Year with Local Impact

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

This time two years ago, my Mayor's Newsletter discussed "A National Campaign about Local Issues." I am writing this newsletter once again on the eve of another important national election with local implications. A record number of early voters have hit the poles to determine the balance of power in the United States Congress. Texans will cast votes for Governor and other statewide officials while voters in Harris County will elect Commissioners, Judges and other County officials. In 2016, I commented that "real change on the local level is affected by dedicated people in the community working with local officials to affect change."

When our Founding Fathers created a Constitution that vested powers in the newly created Federal government, they realized that the state and local governments retained the significant majority of the responsibilities to the people. At the time of the creation of the new Constitution there was a discussion about how much power the new Federal government will have at the expense of the states and local government. James Madison writing in the Federalist Papers said the American Revolution had just been waged not only so "America should enjoy peace, liberty, and safety, but that the government of the individual States [and] municipal establishments [retain] certain dignities and attributes of sovereignty." Madison goes on to say that local governments are far better suited to touch people's daily lives than the new federal government. He writes that "The members of the legislative, executive, and judiciary departments of...the States, the justices of peace, officers of militia, ministerial officers of justice, with all the county, corporation, and town officers...having particular acquaintance with every class and circle of people, must exceed...both in number and influence, [those] employed in the administration of the federal system...The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite...The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which...concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people."

As I have said before, no division of government is as close to the public as local government. Our local government in Jersey Village is impacted by the priorities of Federal, State and County officials. The on-going flood mitigation projects are impacted by Federal and County priorities and budgets. The State will set policy regarding property taxes and education spending. All of these decisions and policies will ultimately affect the quality of life in Jersey Village and other local communities. I am hopeful that regardless of the election outcome that we continue to recognize the importance of local government and the critical role it plays in our day-to-day lives. We must continue to work with Federal, State and County officials in unison to provide responsible public services for the local communities.

All the Best,

Justin Ray
Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas