

Clifton Journal

## A sad day for the voters

The League of Women Voters had agreed to moderate a debate for the three council candidates for the upcoming Nov 3 Council election. Unfortunately, four of our Council members (Gibson, Kolodziej, Murphy and the mayor) voted not to have this debate. It is clear these four council members do not believe we the voters of Clifton have a right to hear from the candidates that seek to govern this city. A very sad day for the people of Clifton as I thought this was a government by the people and for the people.

Thank you to Councilmen Eagler, Hatala and Cupoli for voting to hold this debate.

Why would anyone vote not to have this debate? What harm would have it been to hear from the candidates on questions posed by the citizens and voters of Clifton as they did with the Board of Education candidates and as they have done in previous city council elections? Shouldn't we the voters hear from the candidates on issues before we cast our votes? Don't we the voters have the right to know where the candidates stand on the major issues affecting this city before we cast our votes? What is the purpose of the cable access TV station if not to show this debate? The nonsensical reasons of the four council people who voted "no" ranged from "we had a meet and greet night at Dutch Hill Civic Group;" "this was a last minute request" to "we don't know who this group is."

In this election there was only one small debate held by the Republican Club which was not televised and attended by approximately 50 residents. The Dutch Hill Civic Group's meet and greet night was not a debate but the candidates were reading a prepared speech and no questions from the public were allowed. Wouldn't it have been nice to hear how all three candidates feel about important issues like quality of life issues, the increase in the sewer fee, and zoning issues?

I never remember the League of Women Voters being denied the right to hold a candidates debate in Clifton before. A sad day for the voters of Clifton.

10/23/15

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