

Tom Kavelman's FINAL Letter to the Editor RE Mayoral Race 2025 20250221 TSK

Beth and I attended the Logan County Republican Central Committee's sponsored "Meet and Greet" event held last Thursday, February 13, 2025, at Flossie's and Delzena's Restaurant. Beth was disappointed by the lack of voters attending. I think a public debate – conducted with civility, may have generated greater interest among the voters.

In the upcoming Republican Primary, the voters have a choice of three candidates. Two of the candidates have track records of two entirely different governing systems. Fifteen years ago, the Aldermanic system was arbitrarily discontinued. It was a system that had served the city for over 100 years and that system was discarded without a public referendum. Regardless of how the change was made, the will of the people should have decided such a drastic change in their local government rather than the City Council itself.

The first change that was tried was a city administrator system which was in constant turmoil, linked with incompetent legal representation and unprofessional oversight, and the city was left with huge debts and a city hall with no sense of direction. Presently, the city's governing system is anybody's guess. At first, it looked autocratic. Then we thought it was an oligarchy. That changed when the current mayor assumed supreme power and canceled a unanimous City Council (Alderpersoans') vote that was in opposition to his excessive spending proposal. He exerted dictatorial power to enact his own proposal. The mayor's reckless decision to become an adversary of the City Council was not only political suicide but showed a lack of foresight in managing the city's financial resources. A good manager must be cognizant of future financial obligations. So, are we back to being autocratic or is the present system up for grabs? The Irish would call this a Donnybrook.

I agree, city hall has become a chaotic free-for-all, and I would encourage voters to be retrospective when discerning their choice as to which of the three candidates has the competence to efficiently oversee the management (with the Alderpersoans) of the city's \$23 million budget, and allow the Citizens on a monthly basis to see where every penny is being spent and held in each individual line item account. Please keep in mind that this is our taxpayer money – your money being handled on a day-to-day basis, and there needs to be checks and balances in place.

Thank you for your time, and please be sure to exercise your rights and privilege to vote in this great country and our own city.

May the Lord Bless our city and its citizens and business-owners with peace and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Kavelman
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