

## Election 2011

### Part 3: Do You Have What It Takes?

By Dick Farmer

There is a loaded question if ever there was one. It applies equally to candidate and voter. It is a question I take very seriously. Consider the state of our nation, our economy, our society, even clean, green, little old Boulder City. Things are not looking good and there seems little chance of immediate improvement. I am not entirely sure where the responsibility lies. Did our leaders do this to us, or did we, as voters, do it to ourselves?

Money is the biggest part of the problem. There never seems to be enough of it for any agency of government to function at full efficiency. Worse, if there is any possibility of making it, through the betrayal or manipulation of the public trust, it attracts political types like a dead cow draws flies. It sounded like a good idea when we annexed the Eldorado Valley. In terms of land holdings Boulder City is now the largest municipal corporation in Southern Nevada. The prospect of good land at fire sale prices attracts other vermin too, carpet baggers, developers and speculators. Did Mayor Tobler ring the dinner bell for these scoundrels when he publicly referred to a prime solar lease site as “dirt we can’t even use.”

If money is the problem can it also be regarded as a symptom? The campaign signs are popping up faster than weeds. I am getting slick, professionally printed mailings inviting me to parties for the candidates and offering free candidate t-shirts. I have already gotten my first robo call. All of this costs money and none of it is cheap. I have even had to call the police to rid myself of folks who were so intent on getting me to vote for their candidate that they would not leave my property when I asked them to. As someone who has lived in Boulder City for nearly 30 years I can tell you that this is not how elections used to be. Instead of assuring our future, the annexation of the Eldorado Valley may already have doomed our community and our way of life.

You do not have to take my word for any of this. If you take a moment to look around, and objectively consider what is happening, you will understand what is at stake during this election. I have included a chart that shows the contributions received by the candidates in the 2009 election and the number of votes each received. Most of the donations came in right at the start of that campaign period. It is very revealing when you compare contributions received by donation type, under \$100 and over \$100. I expect that it would be nearly impossible to be elected without spending some money. At the other extreme, should it come as any surprise that the guy who nobody had heard of, who could have paid for his campaign out of

pocket (with that \$1,000,000.00 bonus he got for his work on the monorail), also received the most money (and the most donations over \$100)?

### 2009 BOULDER CITY COUNCIL RACE RESULTS: DONATIONS v. VOTES RECEIVED

#### April 7th, 2009 Primary Election

Candidate	Reporting Period		3/27/09 - 5/21/09		5/22/09 - 7/15/09		1/1/09 - 12/31/09		Dollars Received	Votes Received	Dollars Per Vote
	1/1/09 - 3/26/09 < \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100			
Clifford, Tim	\$ 370.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 11,740.00	42	\$ 279.52
DiTeresa, Matt	\$ 800.00	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 1,070.00	689	\$ 1.55
Gatlin, Chris	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 300.00	258	\$ 1.16
McCoy Duncan	\$ 1,066.00	\$ 13,822.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 15,583.00	2000	\$ 7.79
Pakula, Anthony	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ 33.00	71	\$ 0.46
Reed, Jim	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 75.00	346	\$ 0.22
Roche, Joe	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 3,349.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 4,713.00	977	\$ 4.82
Schleppegrell, John	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 2,050.00	168	\$ 12.20
Smith, William (Bill)	\$ -	\$ 260.00	\$ -	\$ 768.00	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 1,028.00	1252	\$ 0.82
Walker, Cam	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 24,872.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 16,900.00	\$ 293.00	\$ 4,195.00	0	0	\$ 48,105.00	1947	\$ 24.70
Total Per Category	\$ 5,270.00	\$ 46,123.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 18,468.00	\$ 326.00	\$ 4,195.00	0	0			
% Per Period/Type	10.00%	90%	2%	98%	7%	93%					
<b>Grand Total</b>									\$ 84,697.00	7750	\$ 10.93

#### June 2nd, 2009 General Election

Candidate	Reporting Period		3/27/09 - 5/21/09		5/22/09 - 7/15/09		1/1/09 - 12/31/09		Dollars Received	Votes Received	Dollars Per Vote
	1/1/09 - 3/26/09 < \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100	< \$100	> \$100			
Smith, William (Bill)	\$ -	\$ 260.00	\$ -	\$ 768.00	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ 1,028.00	2004	\$ 0.51
Walker, Cam	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 24,872.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 16,900.00	\$ 293.00	\$ 4,195.00	0	0	\$ 48,105.00	2219	\$ 21.68
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 25,132.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 17,668.00	\$ 293.00	\$ 4,195.00			\$ 49,133.00	4223	\$ 11.63

### Author's Footnote:

Not too long ago I was having coffee at one of our fast food restaurants. A group of young women came in after I was seated. They were talking and giggling like girls do. What caught my attention was that one of them was wearing a campaign t-shirt. The letters on the shirt read, "PACINI FOR MAYOR." When the group passed by me again I asked the young woman wearing the t-shirt. "Is Mike running for mayor again?" She answered me without hesitation. "Not with all the trouble he got into last time." -RF