

Future is at stake Tuesday

9:07 PM, Sep. 9, 2011|

Primary elections often don't generate a lot of excitement, especially in local races. Perhaps it's because the "real" election is just a few weeks later. Maybe it's voter apathy over party politics. Whatever the underlying reason, turnout for primary elections is typically pretty low.

I'm seriously hoping Rochester voters buck that trend on Tuesday. That's when registered Democrats in the city can go to the polls and choose their party's slate for the city school board races. Eight candidates are in the primary for four ballot spots in November.

No doubt this is an important race for our community. The new school board will choose the next superintendent, and together, its members will chart a course to deal with challenges of educating the district's 32,000 students.

I'm not going to suggest which candidates you should vote for, even though I believe certain candidates are clearly better choices. They are more focused on meaningful reform to improve learning conditions and educational outcomes, while others are distracted by different interests.

It is incredibly important that city voters get educated about the candidates. Learn as much as you can about their positions on

critical issues. Some of the candidates have websites. Or check out the interviews done for Voice of the Voter, a collaboration of this newspaper, WXXI, 13WHAM-TV and WDKX-FM, that aims to keep the public informed on civic issues.

Then make sure you get out to vote. Don't sit back and just watch this primary, because party enrollment and voting trends tell us that whoever wins on Tuesday will win the November election as well, no matter the opposition.

Some 64 percent of the registered voters in the city are Democrats, outnumbering the nearest party registrants – Republicans – by 5 to 1. Registration aside, voting results from the last four city school board races show that each candidate on the Democratic line received three times as many votes as the other parties' candidates.

To put it simply, the future of the city's schoolchildren is at stake. City voters have an obligation — and a way — to help.

Advertisement



Make it Yours™

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.

Get 15% off with code: **SAVE15**

15% OFF

Browse Designs

skinIt