



Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz

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Hello. My name is Jo Ellen Litz, and I am your Democratic county commissioner. People often ask me, “What are the duties of a commissioner?” Purdon’s Statutes are the documents commissioners turn to for guidance. These Statues outline the duties of commissioners as follows: to **Protect Children, Serve Families, Secure Justice, Manage Emergencies, and Safeguard Elections**. Over the years, the legislature added duties, but the core tenants remain the same.

So here we are, approaching another election. Maybe you have never missed an election. Kudos if you are among this group. On the other hand, if you need encouragement to go to the polls on Election Day, I hope you will allow me the courtesy of sharing a few short stories with you.

If you want your vote to count, listen up. Jonestown lost becoming the Lebanon County seat by one vote. Retired District Judge Catherine Coyle won her seat by seven (7) votes. The list goes on. You took the time to register to vote. **Elections are decided by the people who show up. Show up. Be a Voter.** Know that you did everything in your power to put the best people into office that you possibly can.

How do you know you’re voting for the right person? Do you see them in the community—at the local fire company dinner, at church, school functions....? Are they transparent? Do they take the time to listen to what you have to say? Do they tell the truth? Are they fair? Do they volunteer on projects that benefit everyone? If they disagree with you, do they attack, shun, or condemn you, or can they politely agree to disagree?

I don’t know what motivates you, but will share some of the things that motivate me to vote:

- 1) I want to make a difference,
- 2) I want to be heard,
- 3) Members of my family fought in wars so that I have the privilege to vote,
- 4) Women only won the right to vote in 1920—that’s less than 100 years.

Just as life can be taken from us without notice, our right to vote cannot be taken for granted either. So vote for people who will work to make your community safe, be fiscally responsible, listen respectfully, and respond to issues in a timely manner.

You can surely add to this list. In fact, I’d love to hear from you (Litz@mbcomp.com) about why you vote so that I can continue to encourage participation in the political process, maybe quote you, if that’s ok.

Thanks for your interest in local government. See you at the polls, which are open on Tuesday, Election Day, from 7AM-8PM.

Sincerely and Respectfully,