

Some of the recent letters and advertisements related to the County Commissioner's race have prompted me to write.

Firstly, although opponents of Steve Hambley would like to infer otherwise, we taxpayers need to be aware that it is not one single commissioner, but rather the entire Board that is tasked with placing tax levies on the ballot when county agencies have demonstrated a need and there is no other recourse but to go to the taxpayers for a funding decision. Each commissioner must examine operating budgets and ensure that monies are used responsibly, and Commissioner Steve Hambley does just that. But when a legitimate need is there, it is the Commissioners' combined vote that puts items on the ballot so we can make a decision. It is our right and responsibility to decide what we're willing to fund and support.

The term “grassroots” appears on a lot of current campaign materials. Steve Hambley embodies that term. He is accessible and responsive to residents, returning phone calls promptly and always willing to listen to comments and answer questions. Despite a demanding schedule, Hambley is a man who cares enough to take the time to go to a small community event that has no political “payback”. When the grave of a previously unknown Civil War soldier was recognized at a small ceremony at a Lafayette Township cemetery, Hambley was there. He has not lost touch with the people of the community he serves with such integrity and dedication. That is what “grassroots” is really all about.

Hambley has my vote – we need him to continue to do his good work on our behalf.