

Do Your Research on Richard George

After his unsuccessful County Commissioner campaign two years ago, Richard George wrote a letter to the Powell Tribune editor (Nov. 3, 2016) suggesting that we all research the candidates before voting. I have followed his advice and done some research on Richard, who's once again running for County Commissioner. I reluctantly write this letter not to attack Richard but rather to share my thoughts and to inform the public about some relevant matters that I'm aware of. There may be other concerns.

I myself am a senior and know many others. Richard's repeated reference to people who are middle-aged or older as "old dogs" and "gray hairs" suggests a bias against us. I worry about what effect that may have on his decisions if elected.

Two years ago, Richard criticized the City of Cody for having too many city parks. He must not understand the difference between city and county issues, nor how city parks contribute to the quality of life for the people who live in town. He rails against government subsidies; yet the website <https://farm.ewg.org> shows the George Farms received over \$600,000 and Richard himself received a substantial amount. I don't mind legitimate subsidies; it's the hypocrisy that bothers me.

In 2016 Richard expressed his opinion about the control of public land, i.e. "...county government can do more to wrest control of these lands from other governmental entities." Clearly he does not understand the legalities of this complex issue and the incredible expense the county would incur by controlling public land. The vast majority of Wyoming residents completely disagree with Richard on this issue.

At the Powell candidate forum, Richard boasted about the millions of dollars that have gone through his bank account. However, the Circuit Court records here in Cody show that a judgment was entered against him on February 28, 2018 for failure to pay a farm lease. A judgment of \$4,778 was finally paid after a garnishment and other efforts.

I'm puzzled by Richard calling himself a fiscal conservative and a "farmer with a sharp pencil." I understand that he recently sold all or most of his farm equipment. Given his own personal financial history that is available to the public, I question whether we should trust him to handle a multi-million dollar county budget.

Your vote does matter so please carefully choose your County Commissioner candidates.

George Simonton