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Will Passion Equate to Participation?

No election in recent history has created the spirit and engagement of the first amendment like the 2016 Presidential Election. Supporters and protesters from both sides of the aisle have and continue to make their voices known. I imagine this level of compassion is exactly what our founding fathers envisioned when they crafted the Bill of Rights, and I'm confident they would be applauding these displays as the true spirit of America!

The nearly 75% voter turnout in Pasco County in the 2016 General Election should be a source of pride to all of us; however, given the history of turnout in Pasco County, this high percentage is the exception not the norm. In our last midterm General Election, only 46% of Pasco voters cast their ballots in the important races that directly affect us most. These elections which determine our representation on a local level, e.g. state congressional candidates, local commissioners, etc. are where our passion for engagement and change should begin. It's the very foundation of Government of the people, by the people, for the people. To use the thoughts of another very wise person who addressed the need for a firm foundation, it's inadvisable to build a house on shifting sands.

While I am assured our forefathers are looking favorably upon our engagement, I am not nearly as certain they would be equally enthusiastic about the gridlock of divisiveness that exists in our country today. Although it is American to have differences of opinions and ideologies, change begins with every voter who chooses to cast a ballot. Collectively, the voices of the voters possess power, and I'm hopeful the spirit and engagement we are seeing today will equate to your votes in the very near future.