

Ron Nate: Issues, not Cheesecake

One of the hardest lessons to learn in politics is there is a tendency assume the worst of others, and for others to assume the worst of you. In my short political career, I've worked hard to first see issues and actions from the other's perspective. I always give the benefit of the doubt before I get offended or am tempted accuse anyone of anything.

The "cheesecake" story from East Idaho News is disappointing. In an era of U.S. politics where accusations often matter more than facts, it's unfortunate to see what is probably an innocent prank turned into immediate, unsubstantiated claims of election or campaign misdoings. My thoughts:

1. It's unfortunate someone threw a dessert at someone's vehicle. It is not respectful and it is hurtful. It shouldn't happen in Rexburg or anywhere.
2. It's unfortunate my opponent's campaign immediately made the leap to tie it to the election when there is absolutely no evidence. I understand in the "heat of the battle" how everything seems related to the campaign, but sometimes pranks just happen.
3. I reject any and all claims against the good volunteers on the Nate campaign. We have fantastic, solid volunteers who work hard to remain positive and to focus on the important issues to Idaho. I am proud of every one of them.
4. I am most disappointed in the media for reporting such a minor incident and leaving the impression this was in any way related to a legislative campaign, with absolutely zero evidence. It is especially irresponsible when the fate of an entire election can swing on a few votes tainted by a fake and/or exaggerated news story.

I am committed to returning to Boise and working hard to raise teachers' pay, provide more education options for parents and students, and for removing education mandates like Common Core on schools. I want to reduce regulations, cut taxes, and protect property rights so businesses and our economy can thrive. I want to find individual, low-cost, high-quality solutions to health care.

These are all important issues to everyone in our great state, and voters should have a clear understanding of where their candidates stand. Instead, we have wasted time, effort, and news space talking about a cheesecake smudge on a car door. Let's do better; let's call a prank a prank, and get to the real work of making Idaho even greater.