

PHOENIX REPUBLIC

VP/GENERAL MANAGER:
Michael Ryan, 602-444-5810

OPINIONS EDITOR:
Robert Leger, 602-444-6805

OPINIONS WRITER:
Cindy Hernandez, 602-444-7748

VISIT OUR BLOG: Go to blogs.azcentral.com
and then to Plugged In — Phoenix

Negative, fear-mongering, biased candidates are a joke

Now that we are deeply engaged in another political season, I find it interesting that those who aspire to high office so often take the low road to achieve their goal. Instead of appealing to voters' intelligence, candidates all too often go after negative instincts, fears, insecurities, doubts, prejudices and any other negative approaches to current issues.

Then when they are elected we are supposed to look to them for great leadership. What a joke! Can't we be better than this?

— **Don Brunner**, *Phoenix*

Klein's mud-slinging is last straw

I am so done with political rhetoric and I am not going to take it anymore! In the July 14 Opinion section, Legisla-

YOUR VIEWS

Lori Klein writes:

"He (Sen. David Braswell) was even voted off the Washington school board because of his big-spending ways."

Her article is titled, "Families, state deserve a conservative with guts."

What I want to say in response is: What I deserve is a representative who tells the truth and can back up their position(s) objectively!

I cannot find proof of Klein's statement that Braswell was voted off the Washington school board, nor can I find documentation of big-spending ways. I challenge her statement that "his brief voting record makes it clear that he is no conservative."

tive District 6 Senate candidate

As a constituent, I view Sen. Braswell as quite the Republican conservative.

As a voter, I am not going to tolerate mud-slinging and character assassinations. I don't value wrongful, general statements against an opponent. I don't need you to tell me why not to vote for your opponent. I need solid, objective and value-based reasons to vote for you.

— **Doreen Zannis**, *Phoenix*

Where are our statesmen?

Great leaders are statesmen. People vote for a statesman because he is a good person, worthy of respect; then they respect his decisions, even if they don't always agree.

The statesman does not make deci-

sions based on what will satisfy the whims of the voters on a given day.

The statesman makes decisions based on what is right for all the people of their respective city, county, state, country.

A statesman does not look around for some group of people to blame and then please the ugly side of voters by persecuting that group.

A statesman does not take his minions away from their regular duties and drag them out to the middle of the desert, on the hottest day of the year, for a photo op with a .50-caliber machine gun.

Where are the great leaders when we need them?

— **Matt Herman**, *Phoenix*