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Candidates deserve our profound respect

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With local election campaigns in full battle mode, the usual tactics are being employed to, ostensibly, support one side or another. Candidates are discovering that some of their signs are missing from key locations around the area. Some have even noticed that their bumper stickers have been removed. Charges and counter-charges are being bandied about alleging everything from ethics violations to improper wording on campaign literature. Moreover, if a candidate has his/her sign on a piece of property that has been denied to an opponent, he/she is immediately smeared as "being in the pocket of that property owner." It's interesting that the person doing the complaining has, evidently, endeavored to have his/her sign on that same property. Such rhetoric raises the question: If the complaining candidate had been allowed to put a sign on the disputed land, would it mean that he/she is also in the pocket of the owner?

In fact, people who own property have a right to choose which candidates will use their acreage to advertise. Yes, there are always some shenanigans during the "silly season." It's important for voters to assess, not merely the qualifications of those running, but in addition, we should know their views regarding guilt by association and other smear tactics. Furthermore, anyone who would resort to damaging or stealing campaign signs is committing a criminal act and should be prosecuted for such behavior. We should all be very proud of the many residents brave enough and caring enough to step out of their comfort zones and climb into the political arena to work for their communities. These are honorable and decent people who deserve better than to be victims of overzealous radicals, who probably never had the courage to get into the arena themselves.