

## **BLESSINGS ARE A STATE OF HEART**

### **Participation in Freedom**

Do you remember when folks said, “well it’s a free country; do what you want to do”? I sadly don’t hear that anymore. Few Americans participate in the election process, which is the foundational duty of our Liberty; after turning back to God and praying for our nation. Many don’t see the importance of the political process or have become self-disenfranchised through a cynical complacency. John Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Second President of the United States said, ***“Public business must always be done by somebody. If wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it others will not.”*** We have seen many recent examples of the truth of that statement. Of those who do vote, surveys show that 86% don’t know anything about the candidates or anything about any of the issues on the ballot.

### **Heart felt Gratitude**

John Gay, Texas Auctioneer, wants to thank the Texas Auctioneer’s Association for their early support in his campaign to run for U.S. Representative in the 14<sup>th</sup> District of Texas. At the TAA Convention, in June 2011, John was greatly honored to receive the unanimous endorsement of his mentors, peers and friends. Last election cycle, John Gay ran for the seat held by Congressman Ron Paul. In July, John asked Dr. Paul to endorse him for this seat (since Paul is running for President). Instead of an endorsement, Dr. Paul announced that he would not run again for U.S. Representative. This announcement was followed by approximately 10-12 individuals throwing their names in the hat for this seat. Some of the potential candidates do not even live in the 14<sup>th</sup> District, including a State Representative, who does not live in the district based on any of the proposed maps.

### **A Short History**

***“Back at the ranch”*** The Texas State Legislature has drawn the new District Maps, based on the 2010 Census, as authorized by the U.S. Constitution. A panel of judges in San Antonio has overridden that map and the U.S. Supreme Court has thrown out both maps and will rehear this issue on January 9, 2012.

### **Effective Action Requires Decisiveness**

There is a short window of time allowed by law to file to have one’s name placed on the ballot. That window is normally around December 3<sup>rd</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year the dates were moved back, then changed and we are waiting for those dates to change again; after being suspended. As of Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> all filing was suspended even though the deadline was to be December 15<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, John Gay was the first candidate in his race to successfully file. It is expected that the filing period will reopen for a short period in the future. There is still expected to be an election in March of 2012 for President but the elections for Congress and other important affected seats of power probably will be postponed until late May.

### **The Auction Business**

The auction business is poised to be one of the leading businesses of the future. The auction business is on the front lines of recycling and is a powerful engine of capitalism. John Gay served for seven years as a school district administrator, for Spring I.S.D. In that capacity, John hired Lemons Auctioneers, LLP, to conduct Spring I.S.D.'s auctions. He was very impressed with their professionalism and ability to move surplus material. Jacquelyn Lemons-Shillingburg introduced John to Lisa Brookshire owner of L.L. Auctions, who is now John's wife Lisa Gay. At the end of July 2010, when John resigned from Spring I.S.D., L.L. Auctions was not able to absorb the loss of an administrator's regular paycheck and benefits. John and Lisa stepped out on faith, believing that God has called John to run for Congress. L.L. Auctions has been booked 2-3 months in advance ever since and has been blessed to refer leads to other auction companies during this time.

### **I Want My Future Back**

Running for Congress is a challenge of commitments. There are multiple events daily across at least three counties. This is a large area to cover with signage, block walking, and meetings with business owners, employees, Chambers of Commerce, VFWs, American Legions, Republican Women groups and others. Even though John is still very involved in the auction business, much of his time is and will be even more so in the coming months devoted to his run for Congress.

John's campaign slogan is, "I Want My Future Back!" He says, "My grandchild's future and the future of all our children are too important to sit idly by and do nothing. I feel called to run for this office and the vision of my grandchild's America keeps me going on rough days. If this is no longer the home of the brave; it soon won't be the land of the free."

Even though you may not live in the 14<sup>th</sup> District, each and every vote in Congress counts for you or against you. If you, like John see yourself as a strong Christian with conservative values and would like to help John win, please visit [www.johngay.org](http://www.johngay.org) or [www.iwantmyfutureback.com](http://www.iwantmyfutureback.com) to make a donation or send a note of encouragement. Blessings to you all, in all you put your hand to, in the New Year!