

**Harrison County GOP Women
December 2, 2013**

Thank you for having me. Thanks to Kerry Ryan, Mike, etc.

This is a GOP meeting, but I am going to talk to you about a Democrat, an Independent, and a twice-convicted felon.

This is my "What I did last summer" essay.

It's important to tell you the story.

Afghanistan – don't make our vote be one of the things we have to give up.

Another talk, but 30-50% of military absentee ballots do not count nationally.

Mississippi was first email vote state.

I never wore the uniform, but one thing I can do to serve is remember what that Major told us.

Mississippi's Supreme Court has said that the "integrity of our government can be no greater than the integrity of elections which put our government officials in office."

Let me tell you a few things about this summer's election contests, in Canton and Hattiesburg.

The integrity of our election process was also on trial.

In both cases, the courts ordered new elections because that integrity was found lacking.

First, it matters that good people be willing to serve and help run our elections.

In Canton, the most significant problems were actually the people in charge of running it.

Kimberly Readus literally cussed poll workers, tore up a voted affidavit ballot, and tried to force poll workers to allow people who were not on the poll books to vote on the voting machines anyway.

The court found that her "profanity and loud and boisterous and abusive bullying tactics" amounted to a "breach of the peace" and "intimidated poll workers, voters, and intended voters, such as to severely disrupt the democratic process."

Referred to the grand jury by the judge

Robert Chinn did things his way, as opposed to following election law.

Chinn, during the ballot counting process, shouted down objections and proceeded to follow “the law according to Chinn.” In doing so, Chinn caused at least five affidavit ballots to be counted (in a four-vote race), even though the voters did not live in the Ward.

Removed as Justice Court Judge in the early 1990s for doing the same thing.

Other problems

improper voter assistance

improper handling of absentee ballots

Poll workers were called “monkeys”

The court noted that neither poll workers nor voters, in Canton or anywhere in America, should have to endure what happened on May 7.

It matters who runs elections. That includes poll workers. Hard job, but good people need to do it!

Good segue to Hattiesburg: total failure of the absentee ballot process.

June 4 election: Ware finished 37 votes behind incumbent Johnny DuPree, out of over 9,700 votes cast.

Hundreds of absentee ballots failed to comply with mandatory provisions of Mississippi law. They were counted anyway, giving DuPree well more than his margin of victory.

Poll workers and clerk’s office responsible.

Half of the precincts, they rejected **none**.

600 total; 11 rejected; should have been > 350

Second: Flawed absentee ballot system; prone to abuse

The evidence showed improper influence of absentee voters

Lax security and recordkeeping for absentee ballots.

One ballot cast by a Ware supporter simply disappeared.

J. DuPree absentee ballots: all mailed the same day

Jail ballots by absentee

This is where it gets scandalous

Third: voter fraud happens, and we proved that voter ID can work to help.

RRR: We proved that a 17-year-old voted absentee from the county jail.

Marcus Merritt: We also showed that a “curbside” voter at the Dixie Pine precinct.

He did not vote, but someone else voted in his name.

Disenfranchised felons

What we could prove is less than what we know happened.

Media story about 18-yr-old carried to vote

Finally, corruption is usually not just at the ballot box. In Hattiesburg, it spilled into the trial.

Sammie Lindsey

The jury verdict and closing arguments

NCIC check on our witness by the City Attorney and HPD leadership.

And I want you to remember:

All this is what we showed **in court—backed up by the evidence.**

In a statewide election, these votes cancel out yours and mine.

Ray Rosamond and Dave Ware are two of my heroes because they both stood up to this.

Ray lost his special election.

Dave also lost his, by 200 votes.

Turnout went up in both elections, way up in Hattiesburg.

But what they did is already a big win for the integrity of the vote.

Questions?