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Letter to the Editor

Re: Poor Voter Turnout

Dear Sir:

Addressing the embarrassingly poor voter turnout to fill a vacancy on Temple's City Council (a mere 303 voters out of 9,231 registered voters went to the polls), Mayor Bill Jones lamented that it was "a sad commentary of our process" (Temple Telegram, 20 Jan 08). Mayor Jones, it seems, would blame ordinary citizens for the poor showing. In his words, "Too few people take seriously what it is that many people have fought and died for, to give us the right to vote." I would suggest that, at least here in Bell County, another reason might explain this voter apathy? Let's not forget – when thousands of voters turned out twice to vote in the exciting and contentious bond election related to the now infamous Jail-Court Complex, those election results were summarily dismissed by the current crop of political leaders! Query - just where was the outspoken Mayor when that disastrous chapter in Bell County's civic history was being written? Sadly, its message to many was crystal clear – your vote doesn't always count!

Sincerely,

John P. Galligan