

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Election Editorial Policy

The Northumberland Echo will publish as many letters as possible concerning matters pertaining to the upcoming general election. Preference will be given to letters concerning local races effective with the first issue of October. We will publish election-related letters up to October 28 issue. However, the last issue in which we will publish letters that contain negative information about particular candidates will be October 21 to give candidates and/or their supporters an opportunity for a rebuttal.

Both Left and Right denounce vandalism

The chairpersons of both the Northumberland Democrats and Republicans are as one in denouncing the recent vandalism of our respective parties' campaign signs.

Our Democracy is built on many individual freedoms, first and foremost is freedom of speech. The destruction of campaign material, including signs, is not only against the law, it is a violation of all citizens' right to freedom of

speech, as guaranteed to us in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The polarization of our political life has reached a point where civil discourse, dialog, and respect for other's views are practically non-existent.

We should take a lesson from British Parliamentary procedures and always refer to the opposition as "the loyal opposition." We should never forget we are all Americans.

As the heads of the Northumberland Republicans and Northumberland Democrats, we call for an end to criminal vandalism and a return to civil discourse.

Marian Cockrell, Chairperson,
Northumberland Republican Party
Dr. Frank Kober, Chairperson,
Northumberland Democratic Party