

READERS' FORUM

Rethinking elections

I just e-mailed Congressman Ed Whitfield (my representative in the 1st District), Sen. Mitch McConnell and Sen. Rand Paul regarding the following:

School is closed in Kentucky for elections because some schools are used for voting precincts. After this election, how about all of the Kentucky senators and congressmen get a bill passed to move elections to the first Monday in November from the current first Tuesday in November? Isn't it crazy for students and faculty to return to school after a weekend for one day before having another day off on the first Tuesday in November during election years? Primaries should also be moved from a Tuesday in May to a Monday in May. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Labor Day are all done on a Monday — not a Tuesday.

Also, I would like to see all elections from local to national be done every five years. Thus, a person serving on a local city council to Congress to Senate to president is voted on every five years. This way, everyone knows when it is going to be an election year and not have some positions that are voted on every two years and some every six years. Counties may also save money on five-year cycles compared to four-year cycles. 2015 would be a good year to start this. If it is done in 2015, then, everyone knows that a year that ends in a 5 or a 0 will be an election year.

BILL BELL

Sturgis, Ky. 42459

Test scores and teachers

Do you think that teacher evaluations should be tied to their students' state test scores?

Should teachers be rewarded monetarily for high scores? Should they face consequences that could possibly lead to their dismissal for low scores?

It was very informative to look at the release of the 2012 state test score results of JCPS students. The top scoring schools were Greathouse/Shyrock Traditional elementary school, Jefferson County Traditional Middle School, and DuPont Manual High School. The lowest scoring schools were Semple Elementary, Stuart Middle School, and The Academy @ Shawnee high school.

Are the teachers at the top scoring schools exceptional while the teachers at the lowest scoring schools abysmal?

What do the top schools have in common? All three choose the students who enter their schools. All three can exit students who get poor grades. All three can exit students who exhibit behavioral problems.

What do the lowest scoring schools have in common? All three accept the students that are assigned to them. All three

instruct academically struggling students. All three work with students with behavioral issues.

There are a myriad of other variables involved with comparing, "Schools of Distinction/Highest Performing Schools" with, "Focus/Priority Schools." However, I can assure you that many teachers, at every single school in this district, are incredibly talented and gifted professionals. Some are less effective. Unless the playing field can somehow be leveled, it is patently wrong to compare and evaluate teachers by their students' state test scores.

ERIK EADES

Fisherville, Ky. 40023

JCPS and Solyndra

As taxpayers we deserve better results from the annual expenditure of over \$1 billion by JCPS. For our money we get dismal results, a huge herd of yellow buses (that are a great peril to the occupants), a top-heavy administration, and students who are not learning. Makes the Obama administration's investment in Solyndra and other solar companies seem a bargain!

PETE DOOLEY

Louisville 40207

Old sports?

My Saturday mornings are spent at Panera Bread reading about the high school sports scene from Friday night. To my amazement on Saturday (Nov. 3) there was nothing in the *CJ* about the football play-offs or scores from local games. Have we cut back so far as to stop covering high school sports? Has it become a newspaper that reports local games and scores like they were played on the West Coast — two days after the contest!

I for one am not interested in reading two-day-old news stories from a newspaper that chooses to go to press without "trying" to cover the local sports scene. Come on, *CJ*. Either get on board or jump ship!

STEVE KINNEY

La Grange, Ky. 40031

HOW TO SUBMIT LETTERS

Letters to the editor are welcomed.

They should be addressed to:

Readers' Forum

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Our e-mail address is:

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Letters can also be faxed to us at:

(502) 582-4155.

Best-read letters are under 200 words and on topics of general interest. A letter must be original and contain the signature, address and daytime telephone number of its writer. The editors reserve the right to condense or reject any letter and to limit frequent writers.

Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns, and articles submitted to The Courier-Journal may be distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

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