Change is one of the constants in life. No matter if you’re ready or not things will change. On the other hand no matter how hard you try, some things always stay the same. Platte County is in for some changes this election season, we have eight local elected offices up this year. Of those eight, four incumbents will not be seeking re-election. Sheriff Steve Keigley has served Platte County for sixteen years and will retire. County Attorney Eric Jones will have served almost eight years and will not run again. Susan Artery in the Clerk of Court’s office will also retire after twenty seven years. After serving eight years, I have no plans to seek another term as County Commissioner. I would like to thank all of these good people for their years of service and dedication.

A lot of knowledge and experience will be leaving public service, so it is very important that the good people of Platte County step up and throw their hat in the election ring. Now is your chance, no matter if you approve or disagree with the way things are going in Platte County. If you don't get involved now then you can't complain later. Platte County is full of civic minded people, so there should be plenty of candidates. After multiple candidates have stepped up for each office, it is just as important that as voters you take the time to get to know the candidates. Ask them the hard questions. Make sure they are capable of doing the job you will hire them for. Remember that some races will be decided in the primary not the general election. Change is coming to the government of Platte County. Make sure you do your part to make sure the change will be a good one.

Some things never change, as long as I have been a Commissioner we have been a poor county. We don't have oil, coal or much industry other than the power plant. We don't have many jobs to hold our young people. We are dependent on the State for a large portion of our county budget. County Commissioners spend a lot of time talking to Legislators trying to get the State to direct more money to counties for basic things like roads and bridges. I had a conversation with a member of the State Senate not too long ago. His question to me was how can the State help a County that won't help its self? Why would a business that would create thirty new jobs not be allowed into Wheatland? Good question!

It's not the first time. I can remember thirty years ago the Budweiser plant was interested in Platte County. It didn't happen. Recently, the possibility of a horse processing plant was explored, only explored, and the naysayers yelled “NO”. Wind energy? “NO”. Pig farm? No, but we got that in spite of the naysayers, and a lot of people that work at the pig farm are glad to have a job. Rock plant? “NO”. What can we not have next?

The point is we want jobs to keep our young people here, and to keep our County alive. But when we have the opportunity to welcome something new to Platte County, we have a history of shooting ourselves in the foot. In the future maybe our community can find a way to say, “Yes” to an opportunity instead of no. There will always be concerns, but can we find a way to address the concerns and still welcome new business? Instead of saying no, or asking local Government to say no, make a list of solutions for your concerns and bring them forward. Then maybe we can start making the change from being dependent on the state to helping ourselves. That’s all from me for now. Everyone enjoy the nicer weather that is bound to show up sooner or later. As always stop by a Commissioners meeting or give us a call if you have any thoughts or concerns.

Tim Millikin