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I think that this is going to be a common occurrence; the Gainesville Times is going to bash me because the publisher is friends (possibly even a relative) with the Chairman. The good news is that I am a big boy and I can handle it. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

The worst part about the [editorial](#), is how the Times slandered our democracy by comparing us to a central American coup. They describe the election process as a "grab for power". They act like it is totally unheard of for an incoming elected representative to make plans for their tenure. The fact is, Hall County citizens turned out in vast numbers and selected me to represent them and it is a great honor. It is a disservice to their votes to call my actions this past week as a grab for power.

The Chairman made our best compelling case for the change in staff this weekend when he told the Hall County conservative forum that when faced with revenue declines if you liked the current level of services; ["You're going to have to go up on taxes. You don't like it but that's what you're going to be faced with."](#) I disagree. We have been set up for a tax hike. The previous commission took money from capital reserves to restore retirement. This was a onetime fix that has no funding source to continue.

As we move forward putting control policies in place that were nonexistent, you will see the lack of financial controls the previous administration had in place. The key, however, is that we will move forward, not backwards. The Times believes that it would require "character and true leadership" to move backwards; I would call that insanity. Albert Einstein defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Like I said at the Republican meeting, the Chairman has done a lot of great things for this county by the sheer force of his personality. However, there have been times when the Chairman crossed the line, specifically the Omega Consulting Deal. I believe that the voters elected me in part to ensure that we stay within the boundaries of the law and I intend to keep that promise to the voters.

