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EDITORIAL

Splitting the difference

Newspaper endorses two D's,
two R's in 44th House District

The Dominion Post is endorsing Steve Cook, Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Amanda Pasdon and Chris Walters to seats in the 44th House District.

Though we split on Democrats and Republicans for the four seats in this race, it was not done by design.

Instead, we opted for the best candidates in a contest that features 10.

■ In Cook's case, he comes well-prepared to assume another stint in the Legislature. In almost a quarter of a century of public service, he has served in both the House of Delegates and the state Senate, and two terms on the Monongalia County school board.

Cook understands the Legislature's dynamics and that consensus building is key to passing legislation. He is also well-acquainted with legislative leaders, including committee chairs.

On Marcellus shale drilling he takes the measured approach of what he calls a “pragmatic environmentalist.” One that recognizes the tremendous opportunity, but insists on regulations that benefit the state and will not allow it to suffer.

■ Fleischauer also comes to the table as an asset who well knows the process in the Legislature, but is not shy about disagreeing with its leadership.

She also rejects the premise that our state is resigned to last place.

She is quick to point out the state’s low crime rate; advances in early childhood development; innovative scholarship programs; how well our state has fared the recession; the mushrooming revenues from our natural resources; and other positive benchmarks.

■ Pasdon comes to the table with a pro-job background and wants to meet the concerns of our state workers for creating the kinds of jobs that you look forward to getting up and going to every day.

She also has innovative ideas about maintaining our roads, including a proposal to invite corporate sponsors to assume responsibility for sections of roadways with the opportunity to advertise their products.

She also would like to see the state drop or accelerate the decline of certain business taxes to facilitate corporate investment in West Virginia.

■ Walters, befitting his generation, comes to the table with a host of new ideas and solutions that often apply the best of technology to problems.

For instance, he even puts a technological spin on an old issue: Potholes. He wants to post complaints about potholes and other concerns on the state Division of Highways' website and chart the progress of repairs, or lack of progress.

He also comes well-schooled in the entrepreneurial world and offers visible solutions that are more efficient and that can save money, including buying in bulk.