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Thanks to every person who voted for me in this general election of 2008. I apologize to each of you that you needed to write my name on the ballot in addition to marking the oval.

If my name and party designation had been on the ballot, I am confident the election results would have been far more interesting. When I was made aware that no Democrat was running against the Republican candidate, time was too far spent to get signatures, and I was not willing at that time to put up the required \$1,915.92 to get my name on the ballot.

If I had known then what I know now, I would have laid out that expenditure with gladness. We live and learn.

My prayers go with Kelli Stargel as she takes up the mantle of service to this district. May God grant her wisdom and protection as she faces the daunting challenge before her.

Thanks also to The Ledger and all the other interested groups for publicizing my candidacy several times during the campaign period. The exposure was desperately needed and greatly appreciated.

ALTON C. SMITH, Ph.D.

Lakeland

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