

Every four years since 1985 I have been early in line to take out papers to stand for election to the City Council. To my good fortune, the voters have been gracious enough to elect me each time.

This year will be different. At this time, I am not planning to run for re-election. I have not made an appointment to see Ms. Robbins at 9am next Monday when the filing period begins.

I am thankful for a long-career as a Council member and Mayor. At the end of my term I will have served on the Council for a third of a century, two-thirds of the City's existence as an incorporated community, and for half of my life. If I could make a mark on Lafayette, I had the opportunity to do so.

My reasons for retiring are solely personal. I would like to spend more time with Ellen. I have been on the Council for more than 90 percent of the years during which we have been married and being a council member is like having two families. I will need to have heart surgery within a few years and I am not sure for how long I will be out of commission or what my abilities will be when I return. Also, whenever I leave the Council, I will need to re-invent myself and I think that is easier to do approaching 67 than approaching 71.

I will miss being involved in Council decisions and City life as well as missing the other boards on which I serve because of my Council position. Those experiences will forever be a large part of how I define myself. I will especially miss the citizens, my fellow councilmembers, commissioners, directors, board members, and JPA members with whom I serve and the outstanding staff that support each organization in which I participate. I hope to have time to say more about them later.

I make this decision knowing there are many qualified citizens who can be outstanding council members if they have the opportunity. The easiest time to run is when there is an open seat so I hope that qualified candidates will step forward to fill the upcoming vacancy even if they were not contemplating doing so before.

I am not retiring tonight. I have about five more months to be Mayor and intend to remain active. I look forward to making the next five months both pleasurable and productive.