



## How will you vote?

As I opened the March issue of *Golf Course Industry*, I thought, "Wow, look at this impressive list of relevant articles!" Then I read John Walsh's editorial ("The lesser of two evils," page 6) and felt deflated. All I can say to him and my fellow superintendents is when voting for the president of the United States, use the same logic, common sense and analytical skills you use when doing your job. Don't vote based on party loyalty or a general, historical core value system.

Look at your own golf course's economic health, the performance of your 401(k) or IRA, the value of your home, the prices of consumer goods, taxes other than income tax rates, your safety and security, and then tell me things are better than when we had a Democrat in the White House. If you want to generalize, answer this question: Who will more likely do a better job of running government – someone who hates and mistrusts it, or someone who believes in its necessity for serving and protecting all Americans?

Our checks-and-balances system can create workable compromises if both parties have adequate representation, unlike during the many years of unchallenged Republican rule. Capitalism and democracy aren't one and the same.

As a registered Independent, I've voted for a Republican president, and I'm not pushing a Democratic agenda. I'm only asking my colleagues to think long and hard about the coming election and vote for the candidate you believe will best serve your own interests, your golf course's interests and the interests of the USA. They should be one and the same.

**Mark Jarrell, CGCS**

Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club  
Lake Worth, Fla.

## Visit Augusta

Jim McLoughlin wrote a nice column ("Golf's absolute standard," page 14, March). I had the opportunity to visit Augusta National for a week during the 2005 Masters. It's a nice place. But what you see on TV isn't comparable to what you see in person. I have two superintendent friends who are going this year for a one-day visit. I told them one day isn't enough. I highly recommend

visiting Augusta National to all other fellow superintendents.

**Willie Lopez**  
Golf course superintendent  
SilverRock Resort  
La Quinta, Calif.

## Ethics standards

Your March article "Follow the Golden Rule" (page 30) compels me to suggest what's considered unethical behavior by an "independent" superintendent is considered good ole marketing and sales by some management companies. I'll bet every working superintendent has heard of or knows someone who has lost his job to a management company. Were any of these now unemployed individuals notified in advance of the management company's intent to visit their golf course and pitch their replacement to their employer by the aforementioned (often GCSAA member) management company as required by the GCSAA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines?

When I hear an affirmative response to that question, it will be the first.

The GCSAA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines make clear what's proper and ethical behavior, and members are encouraged to practice peer reinforcement of the standards. I'm a big fan of the standards, but I harbor no illusions. There's no effort to enforce these standards on the national or chapter level. I've heard this policy (or lack thereof) results from fear of being sued for restraint of trade or some such legal blather. Whether that's true or not, until it changes, let's call the standards what they are – voluntary.

Mind your fences and watch your back because there's no cavalry coming over the hill for the independent superintendent. You're on your own.

**Fred Behnke, CGCS**  
Mount Prospect (Ill.) Municipal Golf Course

## Correction

Jim McLoughlin's column, "Golf's absolute standard" (page 14, March), stated specific classes of CMAA, GCSAA and PGA members enjoy free access to the Masters. CMAA members no longer have this privilege. **GC**

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