



Jefferson  
County Leader  
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**To the editor:**

We have lived in the same house in Crystal City for more than 40 years. Between us, we have a total of over 65 years as educators and volunteers in the Festus-Crystal City community.

We are proud of our city and cherish the quality of life we have enjoyed in our community. However, the lack of respect and arrogance demonstrated by our city government over the past several years has been a cause for concern and sadness.

It is time for a change.

One example of this arrogance was the blatant violation of the Sunshine Law which was the reason for the formation of the Concerned Citizens of Crystal City and the eventual filing of a lawsuit to address these violations. The state audit refers to these violations, specifically in reference to the agenda for the Sept. 10, 2007, meeting regarding specific ordinances planned for the passage and purchase and subsequent lease of the PPG property.

Contrary to comments made by Gary Johns in his letter to the editor, Jack Ginnever has never denied or misled anyone regarding his role in leading the movement to address these violations on the part of ALL Crystal City residents.

Over the past several years, the present mayor and four council members have decided the major issues with the mayor breaking the tie vote.

A mayor can be viewed as a CEO of the city. He works with a team – the council – which represents their friends and neighbors in their wards. The mayor is the catalyst for bringing together di-

verse interests and concerns with compromise and respect.

The mayor, if he does his job as CEO, can lead the council to consensus and away from divisive decision-making. Jack Ginnever has these qualities to do just that.

Ginnever is the candidate qualified to lead Crystal City into the next decade. If elected, he has stated his commitment and responsibility to oversee two major industrial projects facing the residents of Crystal City, which are the smelter and barge port projects.

His experience, dedication and education will be important assets to meet the challenges of these complex projects and technologies.

Just as important, Ginnever has committed to address the state audit results and to move forward with a plan to implement the state recommendations.

Without Jack Ginnever and Concerned Citizens of Crystal City, we might still be operating under a confidentiality agreement and more closed-door meetings.

Perhaps a debate between our mayor and Mr. Ginnever would highlight the vision that each candidate has for the future growth of Crystal City. We would be pleased if Mr. Schilly would reconsider and accept Mr. Ginnever's invitation to a debate.

Tom Schilly has been active in city government for many years. We appreciate his service to Crystal City but it is time for a change.

**Terry and Shirley Coleman  
Crystal City**