

Finally Closing thoughts...

As we get ready to celebrate our independence, I'd like to quote two President's (A republican and a democrat) President George H. W. Bush and Barack Obama. I am not going to reveal who said which but there is a theme here.

I believe we are a nation of special individuals not special interests. Individuals draw their enduring strength from their families, from their neighbors and communities, not from the government. And so I believe we must never ask government to do what families and neighbors and individuals can better do for themselves and for one another.

I've never believed that government can solve every problem or should -- and neither do you. We know that ultimately our strength is grounded in our people -- individuals out there, striving, working, making things happen. It depends on community, a rich and generous sense of community --

So what is the government supposed to do? At the employee all hands a few weeks ago, we discussed this with city employees.

As a reminder, here in Raton, we are a statutory municipality with a Commission/Manager form of government. This is the most common form of government in the United States.

Getting back to what does the city government do? The public sector serves a three-fold vital role as the provider of public goods, guardians of the commons and promoters for a civic life essential to our communities.

-Randall Reid, County Manager, Alachua County, FL

Provide/Protect/Promote...

-I particularly like the way a county manager from Florida summarizes the purpose of the public sector—we provide goods and services and protect them, but we also promote the quality of civic life in the communities where we serve. --That part is harder to define in terms of specific tasks, yet we recognize it when we do it right, resulting in our towns being better places to live, work and play.

Provide/Protect/Promote...I like this simple explanation...we need this for our families, our neighbors, and our community.