

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Send McConnell back to Senate

Change has been the buzzword of the current election season. It's been used by both parties to declare that the times demand new ideas, new people.

We certainly have our own disillusion with what is going on in the economy and with the governmental process. But unchecked change and change for the sake of change because of the emotional issues of the day carry their own baggage.

What we have not heard through the campaign is the need for stability during the change process as voters decide who should represent them.

In the case of the U.S. Senate race between Republican

Mitch McConnell and Democrat Bruce Lunsford, we find McConnell is in the position to best represent a stable force so change does not go unchecked.

Lunsford has brought some excitement and a few fresh ideas to the campaign, particularly in the area of energy policy. But we don't believe they are enough to warrant firing McConnell from a job he's performed well.

We believe that McConnell's record of helping this state is remarkable and we see no reason to think that will change. For the Pennyrile region alone, his assistance in getting help for Fort Campbell has made life better for the thousands of military who call the region home.

He has helped bring millions in aid to the state, and he has some fresh ideas of his own to continue to help the state, and to jump-start the economy.

McConnell, though head of his party in the Senate, has shown his ability to reach across the aisle when the need has arisen. And, in the current campaign, he's not been afraid to disagree with the party's presidential candidate in areas such as taxing health care benefits and unemployment compensation, and how the mortgage crisis should be handled.

And, in one of the most crucial areas, McConnell has exhibited his willingness to seek bi-partisan solutions during his work and leadership on the

\$700 billion federal bank rescue plan.

While the plan itself has been difficult for us to swallow, McConnell should be commended for his reaching out to the other party and helping to take action to avert what many say would have been a financial disaster of monumental proportion.

Kentucky's U.S. Senate race has, in recent weeks, gotten unexpected national attention as polls point to the possibility of a filibuster-proof Senate.

We believe that would be a disaster in itself, something that would cause grave injury to the democratic process. As was shown during the rescue

negotiations, bi-partisan contributions are crucial to solutions to the deep issues facing this country today. They are essential to bringing forth the most creative and brightest ideas.

This race should never have been such a close race and would not have been if there wasn't a sharp downturn in the market over the last month. We believe the bear market will soon pass along with the concerns attached to it.

More than ever we need an experienced stable force working for Kentucky.

For these reasons, we heartily endorse returning Mitch McConnell to the Senate.