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Our view: **Voting out 'foul foursome' can't happen quickly enough**

St. Louis County voters didn't really need another reason to look forward to Election Day 2010, when they have the opportunity to finally oust bad-behaving Commissioners Mike Forsman of Ely, Keith Nelson of Eveleth, Steve Raukar of Hibbing and Dennis Fink of Duluth.

But this week they got one.

The grassroots group We Are Watching issued its one-year report card. And the County Board's foul foursome received failing grades in the category of accountability.

At least one of the commissioners seemed not to care. Demonstrating an arrogance that has tainted the entire board and county, Nelson, the commissioner who said last year he'd support slavery if his constituents did, dismissed the low marks because of where they came from.

"That's great from a Duluth group," he said. "I represent a different part of the county."

It's hard to believe that any part of St. Louis County would tolerate support for slavery, no matter in what context such a comment was made. Or any of the other shenanigans.

Raukar stood accused of making unsolicited and sexually explicit phone calls to a female county employee while the two were at an out-of-town event.

Fink reportedly threw a report at another commissioner and then was accused of harassing a female county employee with verbal comments of a sexual nature, with overly personal comments regarding her appearance and by "ogling" her. He looked up and down over the top of his glasses, the claimant said.

Forsman sarcastically — and publicly — then suggested that he should wear sunglasses to County Board meetings so he couldn't similarly be accused of ogling.

Finally, though the claims of sexual harassment were substantiated, the commissioners involved escaped reprimand by their fellow board members.

Meanwhile, the two women who were sufficiently courageous to bring forth the claims no longer are employees of the county.

We Are Watching this week called on all county residents to demand a legal settlement for the women.

While sad and disappointing that commissioners would need to be publicly pressured into doing the right thing, it's certainly not surprising. Not for this group.

Good candidates are needed to run against Forsman, Fink, Raukar and Nelson. This week, the commissioners received failing grades. In less than two years, voters can make sure they're expelled.