

# LAKE SIDE NEWS

## Community Watchdog



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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### EXERCISE YOUR OPINION - VOTE

Every time I hear the argument that if you don't like something your commission does or the direction your city is going, vote someone else in. I don't know whether to laugh or kick that someone in the pants. Reminds me of a former commissioner in District 2. That always was his line and all the while he slept through City Commission meetings. Nice man though.

People need to learn more about our laws and what we the people are allowed to do under them. Certainly it is the right to petition. That is one of the ways that the people can directly affect change. We voted in Bush. He has done more to screw up this country than any president in its history. He's probably a nice guy too. By the time someone is elected, it is too late to do anything about it in most cases. Robert Wexler is now trying to impeach Cheney. How many years has Cheney been advising the President? Good luck.

We don't know what the outcome of our vote will be. It is a chance at best because politicians have many people and organizations to whom they are beholding. If you want to really affect change, you hire a good lobbyist. So to simply state, do better at the polls, vote your people in, is really a suggestion that can't hold water. The average voter can't make any differences but voting is a way to at least exercise an opinion.

One thing I admired during our local election was Jo-Ann Golden's refusal to receive any outside special interest money. She was telling us in so many words that her politics were based on pure values and it worked.

We don't have to follow an elected official as if they are David Koresch. Basically, we are stuck with those who are elected and the damage they bring. The only thing that we can do is put more pressure on politicians and

demand more work from them for the betterment of the electorate, not just the special interests that have such a strong influence on policies such as developers, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and, well, you get the picture.

Insider groups have taken over our State and local governments are making decision after decision favorable to development, forgetting about our environment, our resources or anything that stands in their way to meeting their objective. To politicians, it is about the tax base or who they are indebted to. The average citizen has no chance other than in the power of the vote. I am AGAINST 3 year terms. I am AGAINST no-run-off elections. As Commissioner District 3 says, "If you are doing a good job, you will get voted back in." If not, we don't want you here for 3 LONG DANGEROUS YEARS and the majority should always rule.



## VOTE NO

### JANUARY 29 ELECTION

**Vote NO on 3-LW ballot issues:**  
**NO to 3 year terms**  
**NO to no run-off elections**  
**NO to no residency requirement**  
**for police and fire chiefs**

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