

Commissioners:

I thank you today for taking the time to hear my concerns for your policy of restricting the number of signs permitted to be placed by candidates and such during early voting at the Palm Coast Public Library. As I stated in the meeting your policy has:

1. Created a hostile environment at early voting sites
2. Creates a dangerous environment for those who sit in chairs and such beside, behind or in front of parked vehicles to display their signage
3. Creates a dangerous environment for those who pass through the parking lot to go to and from their parked vehicles while traffic is passing through
4. Creates fear and intimidation to the voters to have to pass through the mounds of people in order to access their polling location (this may never be totally eliminated, but your policy has made this worse, and to the point is has created a hostile environment).
5. Prevents voters from being able to easily find parking spots to park in order to go into the early voting site in order to exercise their right to vote because the parking lot spaces are filled with those that feel they have to physically be there to hold the sign that they may otherwise place in the ground.
6. Your policy is not fair and consistent---County Administrator stated how code enforcement has to go out to that early voting site to deal with enforcing your policy (which I feel our tax dollars could be put to better use in many other ways) when it is apparent code enforcement otherwise is asleep at the wheel because I see campaign signs on county right away that have been there for weeks that have gone ignored. Some in particular for a current commissioner.
7. The county administrator stated in our conversation on Friday many times that the policy is in place because you (the commissioners) want the candidates to work for it. Please explain this, or have the county administrator explain this statement.
8. Commissioner McLaughlin repeatedly states that concerns as this need to be taken to staff. This was taken to staff and that is why I made my presence at this morning's board meeting to bring this to your attention. You commissioners are elected by the people, are accountable for your actions and decisions, and at no time should anyone be told to take concerns to your staff. Staff is not accountable

for the decisions you make, you are, just as I am for the job I do and the decisions I make.

9. I believe you should be supporting the current laws in place and if you feel additional laws need to be put into place then lobby for them to be put in the books. Apparently our law makers don't see things your way as I would believe they would have laws as your policy in place already if they did.

10. I believe you should follow your own policy and not make policy that you yourself can't or don't adhere to. There is nothing more important than our right to vote!

11. I believe you are interfering with the process of an election and you may be affecting the true outcome making elections unfair because your policy is restricting parking for the voters, and is creating an atmosphere that is uncomfortable to the voters. Because your policy is restricting parking and creating such an unpleasant atmosphere voters who are choosing to not vote, may otherwise vote therefore it is believing you are making elections unfair. Voters should be permitted to vote with ease and convenience. It is NOT my opinion that your policy has affected elections, it is a fact! I get phone calls every election with complaints and voter turnout isn't what it should be. Voters don't call me to compliment me on not being able to find a parking space, or being thankful they were required to walk through many persons which made them uncomfortable in order to vote. Voters are calling me because they feel I am responsible, and I am not. I am the elections Supervisor, and you should work with me to make elections the best they can be!

12. Your policy is believed to have failed because the people are speaking and still coming out and placing their signs on county property. Your policy has not restricted or eliminated sign placement, the signs are still there, and now so are the people. The people are telling you by coming out physically that they don't like your policy and that you will not prohibit or restrict them from being seen or heard. It is much easier to drive past a sign and go vote, than it is to dodge the current conditions. Let the process take its course, it is for a 2 week period. Everyone else in the county in non county property (including municipalities) areas can live with the process and respect it, and I would hope that you will give my concerns some serious consideration, and consider them with a common sense approach and work with me to best serve the voters. All elections must be fair, and be held without interference. Please reconsider your policy and give this matter your urgent attention.

Kimberle B. Weeks
Flagler County Supervisor of Elections
State Certified, Master FCEP 1,2 & 3