

# Our Manatee Recommendations - 2016 General Election

Ourmanatee.com is making the following voting recommendations to help electors decide how to vote on local issues and local candidates. Produced by: **ourmanatee.com** Questions? Call (941)795-0504

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**District 7** – At-Large (everyone in County has a vote)

✓ **Recommend - Jack Richardson**

**Reason** – Benac is controlled by the developers. Richardson will support all.

**District 3** – Only residents in District 3 are eligible to vote

✓ **Recommend – Matt Bower**

**Reason** – Close call. Bower's record on the Planning Commission and active participation in the Long Bar Pointe issue give him the edge.

## **SCHOOL BOARD COMMISSIONERS**

**District 1** – All in county eligible to vote for open seats

✓ **Recommend – Gina Messenger**

**Reason** – Viltz has accepted large amounts of developer money

**District 3** - All in county eligible to vote for open seats

✓ **Recommend – Dave “Watchdog” Miner**

**Reason** – Does not take developer money and supports 100% impact fees

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT** (NO on all)

**#1** – Solar

✓ **Recommendation – NO**

**Reason** - Amendment initiated by utility companies to increase profit

**#2** – Marijuana

✓ **Recommendation – NO**

**Reason** – There is a lack of control to prevent unauthorized purchase

**#3** – Exemption for Totally and Permanently Disabled Responders

✓ **Recommendation – NO**

**Reason** – Good concept but lacks means test to prevent abuse

**#5** - Property Tax Exemptions for Certain Senior Citizens

✓ **Recommendation – NO**

**Reason** - Not enough control. For example it could give someone with a \$1M home the exemption.

## **COUNTY REFERENDUM** (AGAINST on both)

**#6** – New county 15 year half-cent sales surtax for public infrastructure

✓ **Recommendation – AGAINST**

**Reason** – Term of tax too long, little control of how spent, may be used to reduce impact fees for developers

**#7** – Extending school half-cent sales tax another 15 years (may not be used for teacher pay or classroom instruction)

✓ **Recommendation – AGAINST**

**Reason** - Term of tax too long, little control of how spent, may be used to reduce impact fees for developers