

SCANNED

September 30, 2010

Lee County Elections Office
C/O Bernie Feliciano
P.O. Box 2545
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Dear Mrs. Feliciano,

It is with great regret, I am withdrawing as a candidate for Seat 4 of the East Lee County Water Control District Board (ECWCD). As we had discussed, a new law went into effect July 1, 2010 that has direct impact on retired employees of the Florida Retirement System (FRS). I will retire from public service (FRS) November 4, 2010 after completing 30 years of service. I never imagined this three hour a month position could have any effect on my state retirement but it does. The (ECWCD) participates in the FRS and even though this position is only three hours a month, the FRS would suspend my pension for a year if I were to win and accept the position. According to the FRS, even if I did not accept any wages or benefits for the required year after my retirement, the FRS would still consider that I have an employee/employer relationship and would suspend my pension.

My desire is to always do the right thing. I understand why people wanted this law and the legislature past it. It protects the public from those that had benefited greatly at the expense of the tax payers. With most pieces of legislation there is a down side. In this case, it limits a person like myself with knowledge and experiences from being able to utilize the extra time gained from retirement in providing public service.

I still have a burning desire to serve our community. I will continue my public service in other arenas over the next year. After I complete the one year separation, I will run for another seat. I am sorry for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused. This issue came to light about a week ago and I am so grateful I found out about this problem before the election and possibly taking office.

I wish the other candidates well and thank you for all your help.

Sincerely Yours,


Charles W. DiFelice

P.O. Box 970
Lehigh Acres, FL 33972

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