

Date: *MAY 11, 2018*

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To: Manatee County Supervisor of Elections

MANATEE COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Re: Withdrawal of Candidacy of Paul Finer, for District 2  
Commissioner

I hereby withdraw my candidacy for District 2 Commissioner.

District 2 was established in 1990 to settle a lawsuit brought by the NAACP when Manatee County voters reorganized the County Commission to create a district in which a minority candidate could more likely get elected.

Per sources regarding prior recent elections, of District 2's nearly 30,000 voters, about 47 percent are Democrats. There are about 8,300 Republicans and 5,910 voters with no or other party affiliations. District 2 crosses the Manatee River, taking in predominantly minority neighborhoods in east Bradenton and east Palmetto and neighborhoods flanking Business U.S. 41 in Bradenton. It also stretches east into Ellenton and north into Palm View. Its electorate is comprised of slightly more than 60 percent whites, 25 percent blacks and nearly 10 percent Hispanics.

My ongoing analysis of District 2 election results indicates that no Republican candidate has ever won any local election since the establishment of District 2. This de facto disenfranchisement of District 2 voters and candidates other than Democrats may compel me to have to run for District 6 (At Large) to have any chance of winning. To do otherwise appears quixotic unless there was an exceptional and unprecedented turnout.

Thank you,

*Paul Morris Finer*

Paul Finer