

ELECTIONS FRAUD COMPLAINT

Voter Fraud Hotline Telephone number 1-877-868-3737

Under section 97.012(15), Florida Statutes, the Division of Elections has authority to conduct preliminary investigations into any allegations of irregularities or fraud involving voter registration or voting, or candidate or issue petition activities. The Division shall then report its findings to the Office of Statewide Prosecution or to the State Attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged violation occurred for prosecution, where warranted.

Please return the completed complaint form to: *Florida Department of State, Division of Elections,
3rd Floor, R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250*

You will receive a written response from the Division of Elections at the end of its investigation.

PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT

Name Walt Augustinowicz Day Phone 941-716-9258 Evening Phone 941-475-6560
Address 770 Buckskin Ct City Englewood
County Sarasota State FL Zip Code 34223
E-mail Address (optional) walt@augustinowicz.com

PERSON OR ENTITY AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT (limit one person/entity per form)

Name School Board of Sarasota County Work Phone 941-927-9000
Person's title of office or position held or sought if applicable *Name of Governmental Office or Private Entity/Office*
Address 1960 Landings Blvd City Sarasota
County Sarasota State FL Zip Code 34231

Have you filed this complaint with the (check all that apply):

State Attorney's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Office of Statewide Prosecution	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Florida Elections Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Florida Commission on Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

VIOLATION: If you believe any irregularities or fraud involving voter registration or voting, or candidate or issue petition activities have been committed, please state the specific acts committed by the person or entity named in this complaint:

The school board is sending out referendum flyers in which they recommend voters visit www.sarasotaCBS.com which is a political action committee that is advocating for the passage of a current ballot item.

The school board also has placed a link to CBS on their website. They are violating Florida Statute 104.31

STATEMENT OF FACTS

State in your own words exactly what happened. Please include details such as what happened, where the events or acts happened, when they happened (include dates and times), what you were told, who spoke to you and to whom did you speak, what did you agree or not agree to, and who else saw or knows about what happened. Include the names, addresses and phone numbers of relevant persons. Also, give any reasons why you feel that the person or entity against whom you have brought this complaint knew that his or her actions were wrongful. The more specific information that you provide to us, the better we are able to assist you.

On or about January 29, 2010 the school board sent home referendum flyers that gave many one sided chosen facts. The flyer also contained a sentence urging voters to visit a political action committee's website. The flyer reads "An independent citizens group called Citizens for Better Schools is managing the referendum campaign. More information about CBS is available online at www.SarasotaCBS.com"

In fact CBS is not an independent citizens group but a registered PAC on the Sarasota Supervisor of Elections website.

The school board also maintains a link to www.SarasotaCBS.com on their website. I have informed them they need to remove it and they won't.

So they do have knowledge of the violation of this Florida Statute 104.31

I have asked them to place a link to an opposing referendum website for balance and they have not done so.

Check here if additional pages or documents are attached.

Signature of complainant

February 1, 2010

Date Signed

Walt Augustinowicz

Print or type name of complainant

It is a second degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, and s. 775.083 for any person to knowingly make a false official statement. (s. 837.06, Fla. Stat.)

*THIS COMPLAINT IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL.
ONCE IT IS FILED WITH THE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS, IT BECOMES A PUBLIC RECORD.*



SARASOTA
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Vote March 16

In a special election on Tuesday, **March 16, 2010**, Sarasota County voters will be asked to maintain the current voted millage rate for public schools. The facts below are presented to help voters make an informed decision.

- Approving the referendum **will not raise property taxes**. It is not a new tax. It is a continuation of a millage already in effect. It was originally approved in 2002 and renewed in 2006. It must be approved again every four years.
- Sarasota is an "A" school district with continuously improving FCAT and SAT scores that are well above state and national averages. The district **graduation rate is more than 85 percent** and its **dropout rate is below 2 percent**.
- Referendum funding has enabled the district to **recruit and retain high-quality teachers**, provide a longer school day, hire more counselors, maintain award-winning arts programs and enhance other services to help **improve student achievement**.
- The cost of the referendum to the average homeowner is about 39 cents a day. **Even with the voted millage included, homeowners in 54 of Florida's 67 counties pay a higher school millage rate than we do in Sarasota County.**

Registration, absentee ballots and early voting

Any voter may request an **absentee ballot** from the **Supervisor of Elections Office**.

Phone: **941-861-8600**

Website: **www.SRQelections.com**

Voter registration materials are available at most schools and from the Supervisor of Elections Office.

The **deadline to register** to vote in the March 16 election is **February 16**.

Early voting will be offered from March 1-14 at the Supervisor of Elections offices in Sarasota, Venice and North Port. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays.

School Referendum Information



SARASOTA
COUNTY SCHOOLS

Vote
March 16

School Referendum Information, Page 2

The district has **improved efficiency** in custodial services, transportation, energy consumption and many other areas to cut costs without cutting services to students.

Over the past two years the district has been forced to **reduce its annual operating budget by more than \$70 million** and **eliminate 500 instructional, support and administrative staff positions.**

Referendum revenue has been a critical buffer against even deeper cuts. If the millage is renewed, the district will still face serious budget cuts next year because of reduced property values in the county and continuing shortfalls in state revenue. **If the millage is not renewed, the district will lose a projected \$38 million next year in addition to whatever other cuts are required.**

An independent citizens group called **Citizens for Better Schools** is managing the referendum campaign. More information about CBS is available online at www.SarasotaCBS.com.

**Please vote in this
important election!**

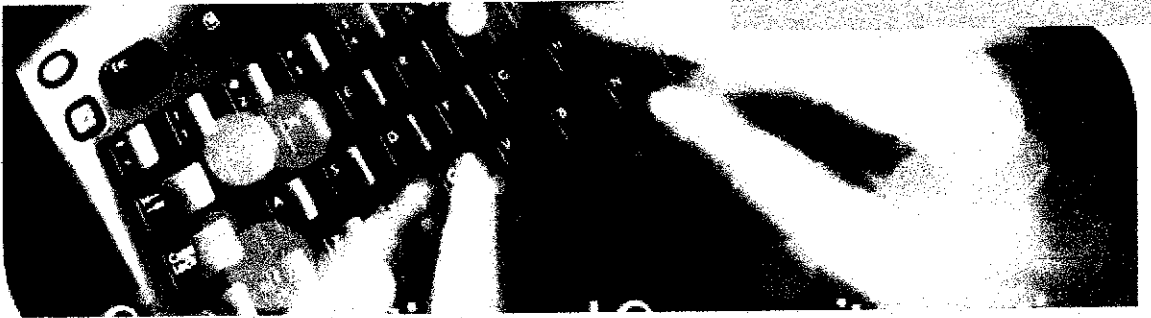


Directory A-Z

Calendars

Schools and Maps

Human Resources



Circle of Success PowerPoint as PDF file

Communication Services for Schools

Community Relations

District Printable Map

Facts at Your Fingertips (2009-10)

Media Relations

Online Communications

Public Meetings

Sarasota County Schools Referendum Information

Sarasota Schools Financial Advisory Committee report

SCS Audio Stories

March 16 Referendum Election Information

Basic election facts

On **Tuesday, March 16, 2010**, a special election will be conducted in Sarasota County. The ballot will include a referendum to allow the Sarasota County School District to continue a 1-mill levy to support public education.

The millage is **not a new tax; it is a continuation of millage voters approved in 2002 and renewed in 2006**. The renewal will only authorize the district to continue the voted millage already in place.

Referendum funding has enabled the district to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, provide a longer school day, hire additional counselors, maintain award-winning arts programs and enhance other services that have helped improve student achievement.

Over the past two years, economic conditions have forced the district to **reduce its annual operating budget by more than \$70 million and to eliminate 500 staff positions**. Referendum revenue has provided the School Board a critical buffer against even deeper cuts.

Even if the millage is renewed, the district will still face budget cuts next year because of reduced property values in the county and continuing shortfalls in state revenue. **If the millage is not renewed, the district will lose a projected \$38 million next year alone.**

Employee restrictions

Sarasota County School District employees may distribute factual information about an election, but are prohibited from participating in political activities during their work day.

Additional information

The campaign to support the March referendum renewal is being managed by **Citizens for Better Schools**, an independent citizens group. More information about the Citizens for Better Schools campaign is available at www.sarasotacbs.com.

How to participate

The **deadline to register** to vote in the March 16 election is **Feb. 16, 2010**.

Any voter may request an absentee ballot any time before March 10. Requests for absentee ballots may be picked up in person or ordered by mail from the Supervisor of Elections Office, 101 S. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236. Absentee ballots also may be requested by phone at or online at www.srgelections.com.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the elections office by mail or hand delivery by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Absentee ballots cannot be accepted at a polling place.

Early voting will take place from March 1-14, 2010, at the Supervisor of Elections offices in Sarasota, Venice and North Port. The office will be open for early voting from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m.-1

Communications and Community Relations

Gary Leatherman, Director
Cathy Iovine, Administrative Assistant

Phone: or ext. 31148
Fax: (941) 927-4059

1960 Landings Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34231
Green 3rd Floor

Education Channel 20/33

Leanne McIntire, Manager

Phone:
Fax: (941) 361-6358

3301 Proctor Road
Sarasota, Florida 34233

PALS Partners In Education

Tanice Knopp, Specialist
Phone: ext. 31500
Fax: (941) 361-6539
Green 1st Floor

Staff Listing

From: Walt Augustinowicz
To: "White Lori"; "al_weidner@sarasota.k12.fl.us"; "Shirley_Brown@sarasota.k12.fl.us";
"Frank_Kovach@sarasota.k12.fl.us"; "Carol_Todd@sarasota.k12.fl.us"; "Caroline_Zucker@sarasota.k12.fl.us";
"Kathy_Kleinlejn@sarasota.k12.fl.us"
Cc: "Jeremy.wallace@heraldtribune.com"; "eric.ernst@heraldtribune.com"; "tiffany.iankes@heraldtribune.com"
Bcc: "rthomson@review.net"; "W. Parish test"
Subject: School Board/Admin in Violation of Florida Statute
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 9:26:00 AM
Importance: High

Dear School Board and Superintendent,

I wanted to inform you that your website is in violation of Florida Election Fraud Statute 104.31

"104.31 Political activities of state, county, and municipal officers and employees.--

(1) No officer or employee of the state, or of any county or municipality thereof, except as hereinafter exempted from provisions hereof, shall:

(a) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person's vote or affecting the result thereof."

Your website's link to sarasotaCBS.com is in direct violation as an extension of the school board/school system.

The webpage I found it on is this.

<http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/departments/communications/default.aspx?id=19615>

In this part:

Additional information

The campaign to support the March referendum renewal is being managed by Citizens for Better Schools, an independent citizens group. More information about the Citizens for Better Schools campaign is available at www.sarasotacbs.com.

Please remove all references to sarasotaCBS.com in every location on all school system websites and/or brochures and/or other published documents or add the opposing viewpoint to make it just a display of facts. The link which is:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/25583281/Sarasota-School-Millage-Property-Tax-Presentation>

You now have knowledge of this violation.

Sincerely,
Walt Augustinowicz