

John G. Miller

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Mr. Clayton Lopez
Commissioner, District VI
Key West FL 33040

Hi Clayton:

I noted today that the agenda for the City Commission meeting next week includes a first reading for an “At Large” ordinance for the election of City Commissioners.

I sincerely hope that you will speak vigorously against this item. “At Large” districts are regressive and blatantly discriminatory. They “homogenize” the constituency, making minorities and others the victims of the “tyranny of the majority.” And remember, we are all members of a minority of one sort or another, and rely on the voice single-member districts give us to advocate for our district’s interests with representatives that work for us, not the majority who live elsewhere in the city.

Districts at all levels should best reflect the interest of the residents within, not the rest of the municipality. “At Large” voting is an anachronism of the past, when a majority white male electorate was able to maintain power over government through a non-representative system.

In fact, we are currently working to change Monroe County to single member districts. I designed the attached poster to help generate the signatures to get this initiative on the August ballot. I hope you will distribute copies of the poster to the rest of the dais.

Let’s not let the City of Key West move in the wrong direction on this historic and significant issue.

Sincerely,

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**How would you feel if
“out of towners” got to elect
your representatives?**

Well, they do!

Monroe County is one of a decreasing number of Florida counties where County Commissioners are mostly elected by voters from other districts!

Commissioners can and have lost their own districts, but *still get voted in* because their friends in other districts vote for them.

Perhaps worse, Commissioners who win their districts *don't get elected* because “out of towners” vote them out!

We don't think this is right. And we think it's time for Monroe County voters be allowed to decide for themselves if they agree.

Sign our petition to allow the question to appear on the ballot. Let's let Monroe County voters determine if they want “out of towners” electing their Commissioners!

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Paid for and approved by SMART Districts PAC, P.O. Box 372415, Key Largo, FL 33037