

Letter: Hometown Democracy bad way to run a government

By reader submitted

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Imagine if President Thomas Jefferson's decision to buy the land west of the Mississippi River in the Louisiana Purchase (a "growth management" issue) had to be voted on by everyone in the United States. No voters had ever been west of the Mississippi and the decision was publicly opposed for financial reasons. Probably never would have happened.

A small group of people are trying to take the power to make decisions away from government by passing the Hometown Democracy constitutional amendment. While I don't always agree with our elected officials either, our system of government is already designed to express the wishes of the majority while protecting the rights of all citizens — not to require that everyone agrees with elected officials. That's worth protecting.

I received an e-mail today about a development application that said, "Dear Troops, Please go to the following link: <http://www>. ... TODAY and vote NO against the (deleted) proposal. Also, please pass this on to any parties that you think would help us. The results of this poll will be published in the local newspaper this week, and it will carry weight on the hearts and minds of the unwashed public. The enemy has been coordinating efforts to pad the poll. We must act now."

Supporters of the Hometown Democracy constitutional amendment expect that a few people could distribute information like this to get everyone else to respond emotionally and vote against changes. This clearly would be a bad way to run the government.

We'd all be better off by voting "no" to Hometown Democracy, and then elect the best people for the job and hold them accountable. Governing is far too technical and complicated for the average citizen, washed or not, to devote the time and attention required for informed choices on every little thing.

Peter Spyke

Fort Pierce



© 2009 Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers