

# JUST VOTE NO!

**NO to special-interest control of our schools.**

**NO to more politics in education.**

**NO to more government. NO to a district-wide elected chair.**

## What's this all about?

A referendum on the November 4, 2008 Orange County ballot attempts to create an eighth seat on the school board.

This new elected official would be elected countywide (big campaign bucks!), would automatically serve as the Chairman of the School Board for four years — **and get two votes on every issue.**

Currently, one of the school board members elected from single member districts is then elected by the board to serve as chairman, annually. (No “extra” votes — just one person, one vote!)

## \$300,000 in special interest money?!?

US Sugar is just one of the many big businesses that together have spent over \$300,000 in Orange County trying to sell us on more politics for education. The list of contributors includes lobbyists from both Tallahassee and Washington, law firms, developers and realtors. **Noticeably absent from that effort are teachers, parents and other organizations who traditionally support good education and good governance.**

## Some additional facts:

No school board in the country has an even number of members (8) with a chairperson having two votes to break a tie.

The principal of “majority rule” is violated because the chairperson would only need three of the seven single member votes to approve or disapprove any agenda items.

There would be less accountability, due to confusion between the positions of elected chairman and county superintendent. The current system is highly accountable, with all schools, and the school district, getting annual grades from the State of Florida. (Orange County Public Schools is currently an “A” school district!)

Confusion between the positions could result in a less qualified group of applicants for the position of School Superintendent.

A 17-member Orange County citizens study committee researched school board governance and found no reasons to support the concept of a district-wide school board chairman.

Contrary to some reports, the Orange County Blue Ribbon Panel on Education did NOT endorse the concept of a district-wide elected school board chairman.

There is widespread concern that the costs associated with running a countywide political campaign would require a huge war chest of campaign donations. This is one of the reasons that the move to single member districts was made 8 years ago. A district-wide elected school board chairman would dilute the advantages of single member districts.

## What some other people have to say:

### Jeb Bush, Former Governor

**“I don't see how this will help public education** in Orange County. It seems to set up **two masters** rather than an efficient means to administer the schools. Why is this so important?”

### Toni Jennings, Former Lt. Gov.

**“I think the current organizational structure is the perfect one** to serve the children of Orange County.”

### Orange County Teachers Association

**“An elected chair will not benefit** either the teachers OR the students of Orange County.” *(Marion Cannon, former CTA President)*

### Rev. Randolph Bracy, Jr., NAACP

**“The district-wide elected chair is unconstitutional. It is all about power and money.** It politicizes our public schools. It is a violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.”  
*(President, Orange County Chapter, NAACP)*

### Richard Foglesong, Ph.D.:

**“Electing a board chairman countywide would politicize school board governance** in ways that are not supportive of educational quality.”  
*(Professor of Politics, Rollins College)*

## Thank you!

This information needs to get out to all Orange County voters. This efforts requires funds for printing, mailing, signs, and other advertising that brings this important message to the voter.

Your contributions are welcome. Please make checks payable to “JUST VOTE NO” and mail to the address below.

**[www.NOelectedchair.com](http://www.NOelectedchair.com)**

Paid for and approved by JUST VOTE NO!, PO BOX 1179, Winter Park, FL 32789