

PBA ENDORSEMENTS

JANUARY 29, 2008 ELECTION

PEMBROKE PINES

Frank Ortis Mayor
Bill Armstrong Dist. 2 Commissioner
(Co-endorsed)
Jack McCluskey Dist. 2 Commissioner
(Co-endorsed)

MARGATE

Art Bross Commissioner
Frank Talerico Commissioner

COOPER CITY

Debby Eisinger Mayor
James Curran Commissioner
Neal DeJesus Commissioner

HOLLYWOOD

Mara Giuliani Mayor
Cathy Anderson Commissioner
Peter Hernandez Commissioner
Leonard "Pete" Brewer Commissioner
Richard Blatter Commissioner
Fran Russo Commissioner
Linda Sherwood Commissioner

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal feelings concerning a major decision facing the voters of Florida. On January 29, 2008, voters must decide whether or not to approve the proposed property tax amendment. The outcome of that vote will not only set the tone for all future negotiations but has the potential to affect current benefits and possibly jobs. *Should the amendment pass, it could have a devastating and lasting impact on our contractual benefits, both current and future.*

As you know, this amendment is coming on the heels of the Legislature's tax roll back which politically forced local Governments to reduce their budgets. Prior to the Legislature passing those tax cuts, Cities and Counties were projecting that those cuts would affect police and fire services. Well, some officers in Broward County did feel the effect with the elimination of a specialized unit (which resulted in a loss of 3%) and the lack of funding for future educational benefits.

Sadly, the tax amendment, which has not even passed, has already impacted the PBA in negotiating contracts. At this point, Cities have not been willing to agree to our reasonable and justifiable proposals at the bargaining table for fear that the amendment will pass and budgets will have to be further reduced. *One of my biggest fears, outside of the real damage done by these tax cuts, is some Cities laying off officers or failing to fund benefits just to say "I told you so" and then blame the Legislature.* All of this for an estimated average savings of \$308, less than \$1.00 a day. In my estimation, the minimal benefit of these tax cuts to all of us does not even come close to outweighing the potential damage the passage of this amendment may cause. As more severe cuts loom we must do our part and ensure that our family and friends go to the polls to vote against this amendment. However, by not voting, each one of us potentially puts a nail in the coffin of our future.

Remember, a vote against this amendment is a vote for our future!

In Solidarity,



Neil Vaughan
Vice President