

Question for South Gardens residents to consider-Should South Gardens move into Pompano Beach Commission District 5?

Background:

John Knox Village has been divided along SW 6th Street (known to us as Village Drive) between two Pompano Beach Commission Districts for decades. The majority of the village north of Village Drive is in District 5 while South Gardens villas are in District 3.

Following the 2020 census, The Broward County Supervisor of Elections had to rework polling locations to account for the redistricting that took place. When the Supervisor sent out notices to voters informing them where they had to vote for in-person election day voting in 2022, most residents were informed that they would vote at the Village Center Auditorium, where everyone had always voted. South Gardens voters were assigned to a different location off campus.

There was an outcry from voters here who wanted to vote on campus. It was too late to change the way the election was organized for 2022 but the Supervisor arranged to move a vote scanner from the off-campus location to the Village Center. All our residents were thus able to vote on campus as they had before.

Following the 2022 election, the Supervisor went through the formal process of creating a “Split Precinct” here at the village. All residents are in the same, unique precinct but they receive one of two ballots when they vote, depending on the Commission District where their residence lies.

In reality, most residents assumed that we were all in District 5. Furthermore, most District 5 Commissioners assumed that they were our sole representative. The current and newly elected District 3 Commissioner discovered that we were split when she was running for office in 2024. She asked to be included in the Candidate Forum last year but was not invited because the Legislative Committee was unaware that we were a split precinct.

The Commissioners have two-year terms so the next election will take place in 2026.

All this confusion led us to ask the question, “Shouldn’t the entire JKV be in a single Commission district?”

Conclusion: The Legislative Committee resolved to poll residents/voters of South Gardens to learn their preference, whether to remain in District 3 or move into District 5 with the rest of the village. A Town Hall will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at the CAC at 3 pm to discuss the pros and cons.

Arguments In Favor Of A Single Commission District

With nearly one thousand residents (were we a unified precinct), JKV would make up over 5% of District 5. This would give us a big voice when speaking to our commissioner.

The other side of the argument above is that the ~100 voters in South Gardens represent less than 1% of District 3, a small voice in that district.

JKV would speak with one voice with one commissioner, creating a clear line of communication.

The “split precinct” issue would disappear, making it easier for voters to understand who would be running to represent them and making it easier for poll workers to conduct the election.

Arguments Against A Single Commissioner

With two Commissioners representing JKV, we have two votes that would potentially favor us. The Commission makes decisions on investments, zoning, urban planning, transportation, etc.

It would be easier to “do nothing” and leave well enough alone, as opposed to going through whatever process would be required by the city and the county to change the boundaries of the two districts.