

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**from Susan Bucher**

After serving 18 years as a public servant for Palm Beach County, today I submitted my official resignation as your Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.

I have reviewed my legal options with a well respected and knowledgeable attorney, Leonard Feuer. The process established in Florida law would require that I go before a handpicked State Senate Committee with the Governor's lawyers as the prosecutors. This is my only option for due process.

The law does not provide for guidelines or rules. Prior to my service as your supervisor, I was a very vocal member of the House Minority Party in Tallahassee. As such, I do not believe I can receive a fair hearing before a very partisan Senate.

The laws and our Constitution need to be changed. Florida elected officials should not be afraid to express their views and stand strong for their constituents without fear of being removed from office through fabricated allegations which would not stand up in a court of law. There should be minimum standards for removal of elected officials by a Governor so that political agendas are not the only reason. Where is the established threshold that allows a Governor to circumvent the will of the voters? There should be documented rules for these Senate hearings.

Our laws need to ensure that every elected official receives fair and equitable treatment, no matter what the accusations or their political party. Currently the process leaves it to the political will of the Senate, rather than actual facts. I will work on just such language and consider my options for 2020.

I would like to thank the many citizens of Palm Beach County for their unwavering support. I would also like to acknowledge the staff at the supervisor of elections office. I know they will work as hard as they can to put the plans in place that have already begun.

I have helped establish legislation for the 2019 Session that will bring the new voting equipment into compliance (SB 268), as well as suggested changes in statutes which would provide for a more uniform process for recount reporting times.

The political atmosphere in this state and in our country has changed so much that I no longer wish to be associated with these elected officials. That is not to say that I will no longer participate in our Democracy or stand up for what is right and just. At this time, I believe my time is better spent as a concerned and involved citizen of our community.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve and I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Susan Bucher*