

When 75% of city voters make a decision, the job of the City Commission is to respect and defend that vote.

by: **Adrian Moore** Contributor

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In 2007, voters in the city of Sarasota approved adopting a ranked choice voting system for local elections with a 75% majority. After Sarasota voters approved the change in their voting system, the next step was for the Florida secretary of state to certify the software used to count votes in the new system, but they've refused to do so, requiring the city to seek a declaratory judgment to verify that what 75% of voters said they wanted is supported by the Florida Constitution.

Worse, when the City Commission just held a hearing Sept. 20 to discuss the issue, and many citizens, including myself, spoke up on the issue, almost all in favor of the commission taking action to defend the voters' decision in 2007, the commission instead spend most of the time discussing whether each member of the commission personally thought ranked choice voting was a good idea.

Do we live in a democracy? Or are our votes just a suggestion?