

# The Delray Democrat

## The Delray Election<sup>1</sup>

*Rob Resnick*

Elections have consequences – all of them! The country has a huge election in 2020 centered on control of the White House, Senate, House of Representatives and many state governments. These are critical to our future and justifiably garner significant attention and resources. We in Delray Beach also have a big election this year – the Municipal Election on March 17, 2020. Although Donald Trump is not on the ballot, this election is crucial for our community. Everyone must register and vote. Elections have consequences – all of them.

Delray Beach is facing its own crossroads, and we need to ensure city government is led by competent leaders committed to the people, not powerful special interests. Seat 2 and Seat 4 on the City Commission are on the ballot, and are currently held by Bill Bathurst (a Republican) and Shirley Johnson (a Democrat), respectively. Three Democrats are running against Bathurst and two are running against Johnson. The Municipal Election is non-partisan, and members of the Palm Beach County Democratic Party cannot formally endorse or support any candidate who is running against a Democrat. That includes all of the Democrats running for Seat 4 as well as the three Democrats running to unseat Bathurst. That said, it is imperative that we vote out Bathurst, who has demonstrated that he is bought and paid for by the powerful development special interests threatening our community.

In a recent article (among others), the Coastal Star described the challenge. At that time, Bathurst had raised over \$60,000, well more than needed for the campaign, and by now has no doubt raised even more. He raises significant sums of money from wealthy development special interests who exploit the community and the city and who most assuredly do not have our best interest at heart. His supporters include questionable individuals and “power brokers” that includes one convicted of public corruption. Bathurst’s questionable voting record proves his priorities lie with those funding his campaign and not with the people of Delray Beach. He votes for bad deals that result in flawed projects that cost the city but benefit powerful developers and special interests.

Bathurst has three challengers, each of whom would be an improvement, but collectively ensure his unfortunate reelection. With the vote to replace Bathurst divided three ways, he gets a plurality and undeservedly wins.

He won three years ago solely because he ran unopposed to fill the seat vacated by Jim Chard to run for Mayor. We can’t give Bathurst another easy win. Elections have consequences – all of them. We need to win in March just like we need to win in November. Come out and vote

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, February 2020, p. 6.

Delray!

As a postscript, just as we went to press we learned that Palm County Commissioners Robert Weinroth and Mack Bernard, both of them Democrats, have endorsed Bathurst. This seems not only a clear and unforgiveable violation of their oath as members of the Democratic Party of Palm Beach County but also a betrayal of the Democrats who worked hard to elect them. Voters need to remember these individuals who chose a Republican in bed with powerful special interests over the people who live in the community. More importantly, voters need to ignore these meaningless endorsements based on cronyism rather than merit.