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## Write-Ins Are Right

Published: Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 1:40 a.m.

Last Modified: Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 1:41 a.m.

As a candidate for the Florida House, District 64, I respectfully disagree with The Ledger's article, "Write-ins Must Do the Right Thing." I protest the discrimination against write-ins.

The Ledger's use of the word right infers that the write-in status is somehow wrong. Write-ins are just as right before the laws of Florida as any other candidate (See Florida Statute 106.11).

The Tiger Bay Club, after inviting me to participate in their meeting, withdrew the invitation. I was allowed, after I asked for it, a place in the hallway.

The League of Women Voters segregated the write-ins to the end of their program apart from other candidates and granted only five minutes each.

Voters who don't know about write-ins are hurt, especially because I am the only Democrat available.

"Who can do the best for Florida?" is the question. I hold a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. I taught U.S. history and government, and administration. I was an academic leader. I have lived in other cultures. I held elective office over 210,000. I have successfully managed my own business and personal affairs.

I am a "bread and butter" Democrat (my term). I generally hold to the Democratic views on economics and the role of government. I reject current Democratic favor of homosexuality and abortion.

I advocate a more aggressive role of government in providing low-cost hurricane insurance, hospitalization for high-risk and uninsured persons, and resolution of the developer-infrastructure conflict. I fund my campaign out of my own pocket. I answer to the voters.

I invite you to write or print my name, Alton C. Smith, on the ballot under the District 64 heading and blacken the little oval.

ALTON C. SMITH, Ph.D.

Candidate, Florida House, District 64

Lakeland

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As a candidate for the Florida House, District 64, I respectfully disagree with The Ledger's article, "Write-ins Must Do the Right Thing." I protest the discrimination against write-ins. The Ledger's use of the word right infers that the write-in status is somehow wrong. Write-ins are just as right before the laws of Florida as any other candidate (See Florida Statute 106.11). The Tiger Bay Club, after inviting me to participate in their meeting, withdrew the invitation. I was allowed, after I asked for it, a place in the hallway. The League of Women Voters segregated the write-ins to the end of their program apart from other candidates and granted only five minutes each. Voters who don't know about write-ins are hurt, especially because I am the only Democrat available. "Who can do the best for Florida?" is the question. I hold a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. I taught U.S. history and government, and administration. I was an academic leader. I have lived in other cultures. I held elective office over 210,000. I have successfully managed my own business and personal affairs. I am a "bread and butter" Democrat (my term). I generally hold to the Democratic views on economics and the role of government. I reject current Democratic favor of homosexuality and abortion. I advocate a more aggressive role of government in providing low-cost hurricane insurance, hospitalization for high-risk and uninsured persons, and resolution of the developer-infrastructure conflict. I fund my campaign out of my own pocket. I answer to the voters. I invite you to write or print my name, Alton C. Smith, on the ballot under the District 64 heading and blacken the little oval. ALTON C. SMITH, Ph.D. Candidate, Florida House, District 64 Lakeland

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