

Momentum Builds for Having 5 Jeffco Commissioners, Not Just 3

In today's world, everything comes down to politics, and this is as true for real estate issues as anything else. It's the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") that has the ultimate say on all land use issues in the unincorporated areas of the county. Urban sprawl? It's the county commissioners who can control it. Transit oriented development? Completing the beltway? Buying (or selling) open space parcels? These are all decisions made by just three county commissioners.

Many voters are surprised to learn that Colorado's most populous county is run by only 3 commissioners who theoretically represent three districts but all of whom are elected at large. You probably don't even know which of the three districts you

are in or which commissioner represents that district.

When the county was formed, it was a rural area and three commissioners were elected to run the county. When the population reached 70,000, the board of commissioners could be enlarged to five. Today, there are 540,000 residents of Jeffco — about the population of Wyoming — and we are still represented by three commissioners, all of them elected county-wide.

A group of Jeffco citizens, mostly from the northern part of the county, have organized under the name Jeffco5 and meet regularly to press for enlarging the BCC and — more importantly — having the commissioners elected by district instead of at large.

Why is this important? It has to do with us citizens having a voice. The electoral process is what gives us our voice. If a commissioner has a district of 100,000 citizens, but is elected by 500,000 citizens, he or she doesn't have to worry so much about responding to the interests of those 100,000 citizens.

Not surprisingly, the current commissioners (except Casey Tighe) oppose such a change, but their reasons for doing so are specious and cover up their real concern which is making it easier for persons to run against them. Currently, if you want to run for one of the commissioner seats, you have to convince a plurality of all voters in the county, not just the voters in your district. It's little wonder that no one ran against one of the commissioners (Faye Griffin) last year.

The Jeffco5 group has a website, www.Jeffco5.com, which explains

the issues and allows you to be added to their email/newsletter list.

They are hoping to get supporters in every ZIP code of the county, and since this column appears in every ZIP code, I offered to publicize their worthy efforts.

This is not a partisan (Democrat vs. Republican) issue or effort. Members of both parties have joined the Jeffco5 group and see the value of making the BCC more accountable to all sections of the county.

It doesn't matter where in the county you live. There is little reason for "your" commissioner to cater to your local needs and concerns, because you are such a small part of their electorate. Wouldn't it be great, for example, if there were one commissioner accountable to your fifth of the electorate? That accountability only comes with the kind of change which the Jeffco5 group is promoting.

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

This Week's Featured New Listings from Golden Real Estate



www.ParadiseAcresHome.info

7320 Independence Street, Arvada

Upgrades include a gourmet kitchen with Thermador gas range and professional grade hood, Sub-Zero refrigerator, Bosch dishwasher, under-cabinet lighting and slab granite countertops -- a chef's delight! Flooring includes oak, hickory and cherry hardwoods on the main floor and wall-to-wall carpeting in the fully finished basement. The master bathroom features a 6-foot tub with rainfall shower head and waterfall faucet, plus quartz countertops and chair-height toilet. The new windows and sliding glass doors in the house are by Anderson. In addition to the oversized 2-car garage, there is extra driveway parking and a second driveway suitable for RV parking — big enough to build a second 3-car garage. The back of the house features an oversized wrap-around deck plus a zen garden and a storage shed. Visit the websites for each listing to take a narrated video tour on YouTube.. Open Saturday 1-4 pm.



www.LakewoodHome.info

110 S. Brentwood Street, Lakewood

This remarkable home is in that quiet neighborhood located north of Alameda Avenue between Wadsworth Blvd. and Garrison Street. It has a gourmet kitchen, cherry hardwood floors, fabulous hardwood deck, professionally landscaped yard and RV parking that is well hidden! It will be on the MLS shortly. Open this Saturday 1-4 pm.



www.LakewoodCondo.info

427 Wright Street #205, Lakewood

This 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo is located in the Snowbird Condos on the slope of Green Mountain. Imagine the convenience of living in this 1,174 square foot condo just blocks from the new light rail, local restaurants and shopping. Do you need large bedrooms and a big master walk-in closet? Look no further! Open this Saturday 1-4 pm.



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