

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Last name,

The bad news . . .

An assessment roll in shambles.

Two administrative orders directing the Property Appraiser's office to correct injustices and inadequacies in the tax roll.

Inequitable and unjust assessments in values of similar properties.

Double assessed property and incorrect maps.

Deeds not being processed in a timely manner, denying property owners their right to be heard through the value adjustment process.

This is just a sampling of what I encountered when I assumed the Property Appraiser position on May 16th, 2005.

And its why I need your help. Now.

With your contribution of \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$50, I can make sure these problems are addressed and fixed. Quickly.

Unfortunately, they're not the only problems.

Read on . . .

Homestead exemptions taken off the roll, denying taxpayers their "Save our Home" assessment cap protection.

A budget held up by "good ole boy" politics, denying my office essential operating funds.

Few financial records and thousands of dollars paid in unauthorized overtime and expenses.

Overpayments to vendors for office supplies and computers equipment.

The good news . . .

We've corrected the administrative orders so the locally controlled Property Appraiser's office is no longer in danger of being taken over

by the state which has no interest in Wakulla's taxpayers.

The budget approved and funded.

But our work is not through and I need your help to make sure we can continue improvements in your Property Appraiser's office.

Your contribution of \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$50, will make sure these problems don't happen again.

Already the good-ole-boy network has scraped up opposition. These are the same folks who made the decisions leading us to where we are today.

Make no mistake. Our opponents will roll back the improvements we've made. They liked the way things were before.

The way things were before improvements were made for Wakulla's taxpayers, like you.

And here's more improvements we're making. Simple solutions that were never done before.

Saving thousands of dollars on office supplies by taking advantage of government discounts and negotiating contractors for services.

Renewing homestead exemption automatically, making sure taxpayers like you don't pay hard-earned money on the first \$25,000 of your home value or lose your valuable "Save Our Homes" assessment cap.

Leading a damage-assessment team to discover the number of homes affected by hurricanes, paving the way for federal disaster relief to those who need it.

Giving the staff opportunity to get hours of desperately needed training.

Purchasing and sharing multi-line phone systems with other local government offices, providing taxpayers like you a way to contact your local government.

These are simple things the good-ole-boy network could have done to help you, but didn't.

And you can bet they would be simple solutions rolled back if the good-ole-boy network takes it back.

They're not interested in making improvements, or they would have done it by now.

That's why your contribution is so important.

Your financial help sends a message that these changes that benefit taxpayers like you are what's needed. It sends a message that the old way that led to the problems we face are no longer acceptable in the 21st century.

This race is one of improvements which benefit you versus doing the things the way they have always been done in the past that led to the problems we're correcting.

Don't let the other side have a chance at rolling back the improvements we have already accomplished.

Send your contribution today.

Sincerely,

Anne Ahrendt
Property Appraiser

PS: This is a race of continuing to improving the Property Appraiser's office versus rolling back our progress. A race to determine if we move forward with repairing the assessment rolls, providing accurate property values, making sure you are protected through the "Save Our Homes" amendment or going back to the way things have been done before that led to the problems we face today.

PPS: We simply can't afford to let the good-ole-boy network take back the Property Appraiser's office. Your contribution of \$500, \$250, \$100 or even \$50 will make sure you and all Wakulla taxpayers are protected.