From: <u>Jacquelyn Kendall</u>

To: <u>Clerk</u>

Subject: Early Childhood Millage

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 2:50:23 PM

Please send to all commissioners and post online. Thank you.

Dear County Commissioners:

Let me preface this by saying that I attended hours of presentations regarding the millage for the Early Childhood Development program including the meeting in Elwood Township. I make it a point to be an informed citizen. I recently viewed the recording of last week's BOC discussion of eliminating the county millage for the program. My concerns about this were eclipsed by other statements made by some members of the County Commission. The millage was approved by a countywide vote. The end.

Statements made by commissioners that they had a right or responsibility to overturn that vote for any reason, including that they don't think it reflected the views of their constituents, are appalling as well as an affront to the democratic process. They were elected to represent us, not to determine whether elections are accurate assessments of what county residents want. Elections indicate with absolute clarity what citizens want. We do not need commissioners to interpret the results.

I suspect that disregarding a referendum item approved by county voters may be illegal, perhaps cause for removal from the Commission. The simplest course of action for all of us would have been to seek legal counsel on the issue before proceeding.

Unlike the commissioners who "believe" they have this right, I will do the research required to confirm what the law actually states. It is my responsibility. It should be theirs, too.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn C. Kendall Kasson Township

Sent from my iPad