Bonnet Shores Fire District Tax Assessors Report 6/22/24

Good morning, my name is Nancy Cordy and I am one of the FD Tax Assessors along with Katarina Wrin and Denise Sellon.

I would like to refer to the two ByLaws that pertain to our job description The first is Article I, Section 6: Voting List (read the whole passage)

The other is Article III, Section 6: Assessors of Taxes - The part that reads: "The Assessors of Taxes shall prior to each Annual Meeting of the District examine, approve and certify the list provided for in Section 6 of Article I hereof."

To our knowledge, neither of these ByLaws have been followed in the past, but that doesn't make it right nor should we continue to ignore them.

So, that brings us to our role of certifying a qualified voter list.

We have so many questions and concerns on what that may look like. There does not seem to be a consensus on how this election can legally and constitutionally take place.

There are the current Charter and ByLaws, there is a lawsuit with a judge's ruling, there is a consent judgment, there is a court ordered Charter Revision Commission charged with addressing voter eligibility and there was supposed to be a FD registration process set up. And yet there is no consensus.

The Tax Assessors strongly feel that we need absolute clarity on the definition of "qualified voters" before we can certify any voter lists. We ask that the FD Council hire external legal counsel to determine this.

Thank you!