

Government without Consent of the Governed

Thomas Jefferson advanced Rousseau's 1762 "[social contract](#)" theory in the "Declaration of Independence," which states: "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed." This principle is one of the most important on which our system of government is founded. It is called democracy.

Our Township enabling legislation provides for transition by 2010 to a seven member board elected at-large within the boundaries of The Woodlands. The legislation was ratified by the voters in November, 2007 and election of the first five at-large directors occurred May 10, 2008. All directors, whether elected at-large or appointed or elected by a few, thus became fully accountable to the voters for all decisions made and all public money spent. The [Transition Agreement](#) describes a "seamless" transition "using existing personnel, management, programs and structures and ensuring continuity of management and elected leadership".

There were only ten sitting members of The Town Center Board when this agreement was made and promised to the voters. Thus in May 2008 there were five elected at-large and five that were not. Appointing an eleventh person to the Township Board without consent of the voters is an insult to residents the board is accountable to and unfair to those who ran for a position and were either elected or not. It is an insult to democracy.

On June 25, 2008, a very restrictive agenda allowed the board to only "consider and act upon a recommendation" from the pre-existing TCID executive committee to appoint a person who chose not to run for election as a Township Director. My "no" vote was in opposition to appointing when, in a democracy, either not appointing or election based upon next highest number of votes received should have been allowed for discussion and voting. Since the four member executive committee can apparently make major decisions, and since a seven member board is considered sufficient for the future, why revert to the previous eleven members now?

After three closed session meetings of the Executive Committee, in June action was taken during a regular meeting of The Township Board without consent of the voters.

Sincerely,

Claude Hunter, June 28, 2008

Note: These comments reflect input received from many constituents, but may not represent the views of other directors on boards on which I am privileged to serve.