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**Letters from our readers, page A6**

**Redistricting commission is best voice of the voter**

A recent article on possible Sarasota County single-member redistricting cites a commissioner saying she “has no intention of turning (redistricting) over to a blue ribbon committee made up of people who aren’t elected.” The response was to the suggestion of a bipartisan or nonpartisan redistricting commission.

The League of Women Voters Sarasota County believes that when diverse stakeholders are left out of the redistricting process, it’s more likely that elected officials will choose their voters than voters will be empowered to choose their elected officials.

FairVote warns, “The formation of equitable single-member districts has become increasingly ... open to partisan manipulation.”

The Brennan Center for Justice found “a compelling case that putting (redistricting) commissions in charge ... can significantly reduce many of the worst abuses associated with redistricting and improve outcomes and satisfaction.”

The CATO Institute agrees, stating, “The strength and independence of the selection process was, by far, the most important determinant of a commission’s success.”

The Sarasota League urges county commissioners to bolster trust in the fairness of our democratic processes. A balanced redistricting commission, with members representing diverse parties and stakeholders, is the best voice of the voter.

**Carol Hartz, president, League of Women Voters Sarasota County**