

Vote

[View Results](#)

The appointed members of boards that levy property taxes, including the state's five water management districts, instead would be elected by voters under a constitutional amendment proposed by state Rep. [Carl Domino](#), R-Jupiter.

"It's something called 'no taxation without representation,'" Domino, a state Senate candidate, said Wednesday during a workshop on his proposal ([HJR 493](#)). The Senate [version](#), sponsored by Sen. [Joe Negron](#), R-Stuart, has not received a hearing.

Objections were raised by environmentalists, children advocates and hospital lobbyists who argued their boards were created – and in some cases approved by voters – to fill a specific need. Requiring elections would dissuade participation from experts who volunteer on boards and have little time or interest for elected office.

Eric Draper, of [Audubon of Florida](#), reminded the [House Governmental Affairs Committee](#) that another Palm Beach County lawmaker, former Senate President Phil Lewis, led the "extraordinary legislative process" that decided to draw water districts along hydrological lines instead of political boundaries.

[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

[Share / Save](#)

[4 Comments »](#)

McCollum: No merit to faulty PVC pipe lawsuit, state won't join

by Dara Kam | February 17th, 2010

Attorney General Bill McCollum said today that the state will not join a federal whistleblower lawsuit against a PVC pipe manufacturer accused of selling millions of dollars of faulty water and sewer lines to local governments on projects around the country.

McCollum said his office agreed with the U.S. Justice Department that the case is without merit.

"After we looked at it, we concluded the same thing. So we chose not to join in this one," McCollum, who is running in a GOP primary against Sen. Paula Dokerly for governor, said.

McCollum has a team of lawyers looking into about 150 whistleblower - or *qui tam* - lawsuits at any given time, he said.

McCollum said his office will announce its involvement in a similar case within a few days "but not this one."

State Sen. [Dan Gelber](#), a Miami Beach Democrat running to replace McCollum, asked the attorney general yesterday to join four other states and dozens of cities, counties and water districts in the whistleblower suit filed in federal court in California.

A former employee of the company alleges that the pipes, used for sewer and water lines and supposed to last up to 50 years, leak and break as quickly as the first year of use and can rupture and explode.

Court documents show that Florida was among the governments initially involved in the lawsuit in 2006.

The allegedly faulty pipe was used in a Ft. Pierce project in 2003.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs claim that it will cost millions of dollars for local governments to dig up and replace the faulty sewer and water lines at a time when they can least afford it.

[Share / Save](#)

[No Comments »](#)

State executes fifth inmate in 17 months, despite protests from Jewish groups

by Michael C. Bender | February 17th, 2010

Martin Edward Grossman on Tuesday was the [fifth execution](#) since Republican Gov. Charlie Crist reinstated the death penalty in July 2008.

