

June 18, 2004

Ms. Glenda E. Hood  
Secretary of State  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Hood:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of Senate Bill 3188, enacted during the 36th Session of the Legislature of Florida convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2004, and entitled:

An act relating to North Lauderdale Water Control District . . .

The bill codifies the district's authority into a single comprehensive act and provides certain amendments to the district's charter. The amendments to the charter include a boundary change so that the district's boundary mimics that of the municipality that controls the dependent special district. The district boundary change also mirrors recent annexations by the City of North Lauderdale. These annexations were supported by a voter approved referendum. However, no referendum was conducted nor proposed to support the special district's boundary revision.

My review of local bills is guided by a long standing local bill policy. One of the pillars of my policy is local control and awareness of changes to a special district's authority. A bill should provide for a referendum (of the citizens in the affected area(s)) if it proposes a change in boundaries for local governments, commissions, special districts or school districts. A change to a district boundary has the potential to change fees and assessments for both taxpayers in the current district and taxpayers in the expanded district. The strongest means to demonstrate local support and awareness for such a change is a voter approved referendum.

Without a voter approved referendum, I am unwilling to approve this bill. It is my hope that this change will be considered by a voter referendum and brought forward during the next legislative session.

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For these reason, I therefore withhold my approval of Senate Bill 3188 and veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush