

# Reconsider silencing resident voices

**By Janet Seldon**

District B candidate

As seasoned Baby Boomers who have spent decades advocating for democracy, fairness, and transparency, we do not expect to be treated like children when it comes to protesting in Rossmoor. As a member of the GRF Board, I will ask for reconsideration of policies that restrict when and where residents can protest and even preapproval of signs, as these are a troubling overreach that undermines free speech.

The right to peacefully protest is a fundamental principle of a free society. Policies that dictate the terms of our expression place unnecessary and arbitrary restrictions on our ability to voice concerns. By demanding prior approval of our signage, they are effectively attempting to censor messages before they are even seen. This level of control is not only condescending but also sets a dangerous precedent. What's next – banning public criticism altogether?

I will also ask for reconsideration of the policy that removed political columns from our weekly newspaper. I

understand this may require hiring additional staff. For a community filled with engaged, informed citizens, this is nothing short of an insult. Many of us have spent our lives participating in political discourse, shaping policy, and championing causes that matter. To now have these discussions stripped from our own publication is a blatant attempt to suppress differing viewpoints and limit access to diverse perspectives.

We did not move to Rossmoor to be silenced. We built this country, fought for civil rights, and defended free speech. We should not sit back and allow a small group of decision-makers to erode the very rights we spent our lives upholding. We are not passive residents. We are active citizens, and we will continue to make our voices heard – whether they approve of it or not. We are asking for reconsideration of these policies.

*Editor's note: Candidates running for the GRF Board are permitted to submit up to four articles (maximum of 300 words each) about issues pertaining to Rossmoor and its residents. Janet Seldon is running for director in District B.*