

## Temple Terrace Recall Effort Excessive

Published: Oct 5, 2005

Temple Terrace voters should dismiss a mean-spirited effort to recall three city council members because of their votes on a plan for redeveloping the city's downtown.

Failed mayoral candidate Ken Tozier is pushing petitions to recall Ken Holloway, Glenda Venable and Linda Shattles. Tozier has had his personal beefs with city hall, including an ongoing lawsuit over property use. His recall effort is merely vindictive.

If voters don't like how these council members are governing the city, they can vote them out of office when they are up for re-election in 2006. Recalls should be reserved for cases of misconduct, not differences of opinion. These three have done nothing to warrant such harsh action.

Temple Terrace is at a crossroads in its redevelopment effort. After voters this summer turned down a tax increase that would have helped pay to convert a blighted strip shopping mall into a new downtown, city officials immediately asked residents to help redefine the plan. The three council members voted to reserve space in the revised plan for municipal buildings that some residents have said shouldn't be there. The referendum failed for several reasons, including that people simply did not want higher taxes, not just because public buildings were part of the plan.

What is at hand here is a conflict in vision. Some believe municipal buildings will give Temple Terrace an identifiable downtown and provide a stream of customers for new stores and restaurants. Others think the land shouldn't be used for buildings that won't produce tax revenue. Across the country, there are examples of successful New Urbanism centers that have municipal buildings and some that don't.

The redevelopment will be a work in progress for years. Temple Terrace needs to focus on creating the best plan possible and not getting sidetracked by destructive campaigns that offer no solutions.