

**Mayor's column for
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At a recent City Council meeting, a motion was made to send the whole “downtown building height issue” to a vote of the people. To be clear, a vote could not mandate what the height of buildings could be; it would have no power to affect change and would only be an advisory ballot. There was much discussion about the motion and, in the end, it failed by a 4-3 vote, which has been typical of most votes on the height issue.

It's the campaign season and candidates and incumbents will be inundated with questions about where they stand on building heights. In fact, some will campaign only on the issue of building heights. It is a viable campaign issue and deserves to be an integral part of a City Council campaign. As voters make a determination of who they will vote for, they may take the height issue into account; however, it's not the sole reason to support a candidate or oppose another.

Call me old fashioned, but when I vote for my choices for City Council, I expect them to use common sense in their voting and to consider what is best for the whole city, and if I have an opinion about an issue, I'll let them know. What I don't expect of a Councilmember is whenever a controversial issue appears or they have a 4-3 vote on a matter, that they will spend taxpayer dollars to have an advisory vote. I voted for them to make those decisions, not turn it back to me to vote on it.

Do it once and you've set a dangerous, and possibly expensive, precedent. Council business is always decided by majority votes. Sometimes it's a 7-0 vote and sometimes it's 4-3. The outcome remains the same no matter what the vote. When you sign your name on the dotted line to be a City Councilmember, you better realize that you are going to win some and lose some. You also better realize that the voters who put you in office expect you to represent their point of view, they liked what you stood for as person, and they expect you to make the judgments that will make Edmonds a better place for all of us who live here. They expect you to see the big picture, not look with tunnel vision.

Just some thoughts from a voter as we move into the campaign season.