

By **CHARLES PATTON**
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NEW PORT RICHEY — A suit was filed in Pasco Circuit Court Friday asking that the March 9 general-obligation, bond-issue election in the Southwest Pasco Water and Sewer Service Unit be declared void.

Jeffrey E. White of Holiday also asks in the suit that the County Commission be enjoined from undertaking any further actions to ratify, approve, validate or issue the \$3-million in water bonds approved by a narrow 341-vote margin by the election.

WHITE CONTENDS in the suit that the commission, its agents and employees "systematically denied the right to vote to certain non-freeholders (residents but not property owners) and political independents" living within the district.

All members of the Pasco County Commission are named defendants in the suit. Commission Chairman Mike Olson declined comment on the suit and its possible effect on plans to build a pipeline to deliver water to the saltwater-plagued Holiday area.

The general obligation bonds were to support a revenue-bond issue that is expected to be used to pay for a pipeline from Starkey Wellfield to Holiday.

JOSEPH R. PARK, White's attorney, said a similar suit will be filed in U.S. Feder-

al court because denying a person the right to vote violates the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The suit is the second challenge of the election results.

Another Holiday resident, Ronald Mathews, filed a complaint with Circuit Clerk Miller **Newton** and Elections Supervisor Mary Morgan less than a week after the **election**.

He asked the elections canvassing board to "investigate, examine, check and correct" the returns. Mathews said his complaint was based on the contention that some people were not allowed to vote because they were not property owners, that voting machines were out of order in one precinct, that insufficient numbers of voter-signature slips were available in some precincts, that the availability of absentee ballots failed to meet state guidelines and that the wording of the referendum question on the ballot did not conform with state law.

THE CANVASSING BOARD ruled it could not act on the complaint because it was filed after the board had adjourned.

Mathews said he was instrumental in the filing of white's formal suit. He said his action is aimed at correcting election infractions rather than stopping issuance of the bonds.

"But I don't see how the County Commission can validate the bonds until this issue is settled," Mathews said.