



2016 VOTER GUIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

Lake County, Florida

Democratic



Welcome to the League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Area 2016 Primary Election Guide

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization of women and men whose purpose is to engage voters in the political process by promoting informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. Through education and advocacy, the League of Women Voters promotes good governance.

The Voter's Guide was created by the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area. The purpose of the Guide is to assist voters in their ballot choices.

All qualified candidates were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire.

Candidate responses are included as submitted. They have not been edited, nor have spelling and grammar corrections been made.

If a candidate completed the questionnaire, the *What's on My Ballot* section contains a link as well as the page number where the responses are located. If a candidate chose not to respond, "No Response" will appear next to the candidate's name in the *What's on My Ballot* section.

The candidates' views expressed within do not represent those of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area.

To contact the LWV of The Villages / Tri-County area, go to

www.lwvtrifl.org

WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT

Click on candidates' names to go to their responses.

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REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6



JAY McGOVERN (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Personal History:

Jay McGovern was born in Sanford, Florida. He was raised in Sanford and New Smyrna Beach, then joined the Navy. He was stationed in Jacksonville after flight training in Pensacola and designation as a Naval Aviator. He served 30 years in the U.S. Navy as a helicopter pilot and commanding officer. Jay and his wife of 30 years, have two adult children.

Education:

- Master of Science, Aeronautical Engineering, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, 1991
- Bachelor of Science, Marine Engineering, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, 1983

Occupation:

Licensed Professional Engineer

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Riverside Avondale Preservation
Riverside Avondale Development Organization
Democratic Precinct Committeeman

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

Yes. As a responsible gun owner, I believe universal background checks for the purchase of firearms would enhance the safety of our citizens without impinging on my rights or those of other responsible gun owners.

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

There is room to improve the Affordable Care Act. Reforms that effectively controlled the annual rise in health care costs should be continued. More Americans are insured under the ACA than were insured before it was enacted. Too many of the remaining uninsured are due to the failure of states, such as Florida, to accept Federal funding to expand Medicaid coverage. We have a lot of work to do to ensure Americans' are cared for without bankrupting them.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6

JAY McGOVERN *(continued)*

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

I oppose getting rid of the Department of Education. Americans built a country of freedom and self-determination with a national commitment to build and maintain the best public education system in the world. States have different abilities to provide the level of education necessary to compete in a global economy. It is the Federal Government's role to provide measures and resources to enable citizens in every state to compete with any country in the world.

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REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6



GEORGE PAPPAS (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born in Daytona Beach, Florida and I have been a resident of the Volusia county area my whole life. I went to the University of Florida for my undergraduate degree and law degree. I graduated from law school in 1976 and took off a year to travel throughout Europe. When I got back home I went to work for the State Attorney's office and was there for eight years. I prosecuted every crime from disorderly conduct to murder. After that I worked for a local insurance defense firm for five years. In 1990 I went into my own private practice where I have been ever since. I have a general practice and I am a mediator. I have mediated over 2000 cases since 1991. I have been married since 1993 and have two daughters. They are both attending college, one at the University of Florida and the other at the University of South Florida. I am a member of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Daytona Beach and was President of the church community in 2002-2004.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Throughout the years I have been involved with the Congressional affairs committee with the local chamber, Chairman of the Chamber Leadership Committee, Beach Committee for the Chamber, March of Dimes advisory Board, Co-chaired Seaside Music Theater, President of the associate board of the Symphony Society, very active in my church and I am presently on the Volusia County Cultural Council.

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

Murder and gun crime in the United States is falling. Crime of any kind is a tragedy and it happens every day. Since 2010 murders have fallen nearly 10%, gun crime is down by about the same rate. Rifle and "assault" style weapons crime is down more than 30% since 2010. Only 248 murders involved rifles of any kind in 2014 however there were about 5500 murders involving pistols in the same year. I believe that falling victim to knee jerk reactions and old political talking points does not serve the public. It only polarizes the people. Also none of the laws proposed would have stopped any of these tragedies.

We must look for solutions beyond the same old political rhetoric. The Supreme Court has ruled on the second amendment. We must work to stop terrorism and crime across the board. I believe that we should redouble our efforts to enforce existing laws, that we should work to reduce the root causes of violent crime and that the FBI should be informed if a suspected terrorist purchases a gun. But more laws are not the only answer. Just look at the daily gun crime in Chicago to see that more restrictive laws do not solve the problem.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6

GEORGE PAPPAS *(continued)*

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

I believe, as many do, that the Affordable Healthcare Act has failed in many ways. We only have to look at the increase in insurance premiums for Americans to see the problem. And it is the middle class Americans who are paying the price. In fact the cost of health care is one of the main reasons for our income stagnation in America. The real question is how to solve this issue. I believe it is time to look for creative solutions to address the issues. It is time to consider allowing insurance companies to sell in multiple states-to spread the risk. But there are other numerous issues and possible answers we should consider as we move forward. However the answer is not as simple as “fix or repeal”. These sound bites just lead to entrenchments in political positions that do not serve Americans.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

Political candidates for years have “promised” to eliminate the Department of Education or the Internal Revenue Service. But these agencies still exist and will continue to exist no matter whom is in power. The Federal government should not dictate educational programs to the states. I believe the states, the local school boards and, in fact, even our teachers have better ideas about how to teach their students than some nameless bureaucrats in Washington D.C. There is not a single educational solution for all 50 states. The Department of Education should set goals for the states and overall standards regarding the quality of education. They should not be in charge of setting curriculum. What works for students in Southcentral LA will not work in Leesburg and what works in Atlanta may not work in Mt. Dora.

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REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6



DWAYNE L. TAYLOR (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a native Floridian, educated in the local public schools in Volusia County. Graduate of Mainland High School and I obtained five college degrees including a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida. I studied the Fundamentals of Money Management at Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. I'm married to Ekecia Grayson Taylor and I have 4 children.

I'm a retired Firefighter & Paramedic and first held elected office as a City Commissioner for the City of Daytona Beach in 2003. I was re-elected in 2005 to a four year term. On November 4, 2008, I was elected to the Florida House of Representatives and re-elected subsequently thereafter.

There have been numerous committees within the past eight years that I served on including: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (Democratic Ranking Member), State Affairs Committee (Democratic Ranking Member), Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Democratic ranking Member), Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Government Operations Subcommittee, Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining, Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Select Committee on Water Policy, Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, and Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee just to name a few.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

- Daytona Beach Police & Fire Pension Board, Former Trustee
- Leadership Florida Class X
- Florida League of Cities, past member
- East Volusia Regional Water Authority Oversight Committee, Chairman, 2008
- Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, First Vice President, 2006-2008
- National League of Cities, 2003-2008
- Volusia/Flagler MPO, Vice Chairman, 2007-2008
- Volusia League of Cities, 2003-2008

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

I was among the Florida House & Senate Representatives that wrote a letter to the Secretary of State requesting a special session to pass legislation that would prohibit the purchase of guns by those on the national no-fly list and terrorist watch lists – with appropriate due-process steps for the rare instances of people wrongly placed on these security lists.

I also believe there should be measures in place during the background check process to ensure the mental stability of a gun purchaser.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 6

DWAYNE L. TAYLOR *(continued)*

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

I would continue to support the plan and look at opportunities and ways for health care cost to be reduced.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

I served eight years on Education Appropriation Subcommittee in the Florida House, four of those years as Ranking Member and I believe that the role of the Department of Education should be to appropriate the education funds to the States. The States and Federal government should work together to make the first two years of community college free.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1



MIKE LEVINE (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Mike Levine is a passionate advocate for the hard working people of Lake County. Mike is a small business owner. In his role as a real estate broker and property manager, Mike knows that today's small businesses and tomorrow's entrepreneurs are facing difficult challenges. As Wall Street's publicly traded companies move into every nook and cranny of the economy, small businesses get squeezed out. It is more and more difficult for small businesses to compete with well funded, publicly traded, Wall Street firms that scoop up market share and drive small businesses out of business. When Mike Levine is elected to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, District 1, he will utilize his seat to support Lake County's small businesses and Lake County's workforce. Mike Levine will originate public policies for Lake County that will improve wages in Lake County's under performing economy.

Mike Levine is a central Florida native. Mike attended first grade at Engelwood Elementary School and graduated from Colonial High School in 1976; both located on the east side of Orlando. Mike Levine is a graduate of Florida State University's School of Business and has a background in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

As a hotel operator in the early days of Mike Levine's professional career and as a real estate broker in his current occupation, Mike has extensive experience evaluating proposals and managing contracts. Mike Levine will be an excellent steward of Lake County taxpayer's money.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Mike Levine has participated in the following organizations in an effort to improve household income and the quality of life for Lake County residents.

Member: Wellness Way Leadership Advisory Board
Chairman: Library Foundation of Lake County
Member: East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Member: South Lake Chamber of Commerce
Member: Osceola County Association of Realtors
Member: Realtor Association of Lake and Sumter Counties

In light of the request to permit a sand mine in the County, name one or more changes you would make in the zoning ordinances to prevent the excessive extraction of water for such facility and would prevent development of sensitive areas that must be protected to preserve the water supply.

The Wellness Way Area Plan (WWAP) is a development plan originally intended to include over 16,000 acres in south Lake County. The mission of the WWAP is to provide infrastructure that would fast track business development, ultimately attracting higher wage jobs to south Lake County. Cemex is a global building materials company that applied for a conditional use permit that would allow Cemex to mine sand in the WWAP. Mining is not a permitted activity under the current land use plan and is therefore prohibited. In order for Cemex to obtain the conditional use permit required in order to commence operations the Lake County Board of County Commissioners must approve Cemex' application for the



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1

MIKE LEVINE *(continued)*

conditional use. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners voted three to two in opposition to Cemex' request for the conditional use. The primary factor influencing the vote, rejecting mining as an approved activity, was the objection of area residents to the impact of mining on their property values and quality of life. The impact of mining on the development plans of the WWAP was also a factor influencing commissioners. Aquifer recharge and the availability of potable and non-potable water was an objection that was considered but was not the primary issue that commissioners based their decisions on.

Before development projects can be approved organizations such as Saint Johns Water Management District, Water Conserv II and Central Florida Water Initiative must be consulted.

What one or two things would you do to ensure that the services and infrastructure required by new development in Lake County are provided?

Lake County must develop a business centric tax base that is completely independent of taxpayer funding to ensure that the infrastructure and services required by new development is provided. No community can be everything to everyone. Lake County must differentiate herself from other Florida counties. There is one thing that all Lake County taxpayers agree on. Lake county taxpayers enjoy Lake County's suburban lifestyle. No one wants to cover Lake County in concrete. By differentiating Lake County in a way that messages outdoor living Lake County will attract like minded industries, companies and high net worth individuals. Lake County is the "Outdoor Living Capital of Florida" subtitle "Home of the One Acre Lot." By attracting like minded industries, companies and high net worth individuals to Lake County, Lake County will grow a business base that includes the manufacturers of products associated with outdoor living. Sports related companies will come to Lake County. Lake county will host more amateur sports tournaments. Lake County will enjoy the hotel and restaurant revenues that are associated with amateur sports tournaments. Lake County will host companies that manufacture sporting goods such as boats, off road vehicles, softballs, equestrian supplies and similar products. In order to ensure that the infrastructure and services required by new development is provided Lake County must build a business centric tax base that is completely independent of taxpayer support.

Since quality schools help in attracting businesses, name one or more things you would do to help the School District to improve Lake County Schools.

Leadership is always the answer when improvement is required. A quality school district makes it easier to attract business to Lake County. Attracting business to Lake County is required in order to create a quality school district.

Elected office provides a platform on which Lake County leadership can, and must, send a clear message to all Lake County families. The message must inspire Lake County families to recommit to their children's education. Families must deliver children to classrooms ready to learn. Once the message is crafted, public service announcements and social media campaigns must be developed in order to facilitate the delivery of the message. Lake County Schools' performance must be the first priority of all government agencies and the business community. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners must share the responsibility of improving Lake County Schools with the Lake County School District. High performance schools contribute to a vibrant economy. A vibrant economy paves the road for achieving high performance in schools. The two objectives are inseparable.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1

MIKE LEVINE *(continued)*

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1



TIM LOUCKS (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Mayor the City of Groveland,
Retired from Reedy Creek Energy Service 27yrs. (The Governmental arm of Walt Disney World.

Co-founder of the South Lake Regional Water Initiative, a cooperative effort of the Cities in Lake County The Lake County Board of County Commissioners, The St. Johns River Management District, The Lake County Water Authority and the South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Our Mission, ensuring a affordable and sustainable water source for Lake County.

Education:

Mid Florida Tech. Municipal Civil Design.

Valencia Community College, Social Science

Clemson University, Municipal Management

Walt Disney University Municipal Infrastructure Procurement

I am recognized throughout Florida as an expert in water supply planning.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

The South Lake Regional Water Initiative.

Central Florida Water Initiative.

National Ground Water Conservatory.

The St. Johns River Water Management District.

The South West Florida Water Management District.

The South Florida Water Management District.

The National League of Mayors.

The Florida League of Mayors.

The National League of Cities.

The Florida League of Cities.

The South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Faith Neighborhood Center Board of Directors

In light of the request to permit a sand mine in the County, name one or more changes you would make in the zoning ordinances to prevent the excessive extraction of water for such facility and would prevent development of sensitive areas that must be protected to preserve the water supply.

MINING RESTRICTIONS:

Mining Ordinances in Lake County are out dated and contradictory. Moreover, Chapter VI Section 6.09.01-(A1) refers to "PRIME RECHARGE" this term is no longer recognized by the Water Management district as a valid indicator of aquifer recharge capabilities. Chapter VI Section 6.09.01-(A1) need to be revised to read "ALL MINING OPERATION ARE PROHIBITED IN AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE SURGO MAPPING SYSTEMS AS AN AREA WITH A RECHARGE CAPABILITY 10+ INCHED PER YEAR" In addition this must be reflected throughout the Chapter VI Sections 6.09.02 thru 6.12.00 and in all Lake County Ordinances mining regulations. All other County Ordinances referencing mining activity must be revised to reflect mining reclamation must restore

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1

TIM LOUCKS (continued)

the land to previous elevations and the natural state, as well as prohibiting mining activities in urbanized areas, or those that are designated to become urbanized within the Master Comprehensive Plan. These revisions will prevent a repeat of the Cemex Sand mine issues experienced in South Lake County in 2014-15

WATER & AQUIFER RECHARGE:

The Florida Administrative Code addresses "Water Use Permitting" in a two-line regulation that's so weak it can be interpreted in thousands of different ways. It simply states, all an applicator has to do is show a "BENEFICIAL USE FOR WATER" this alone makes virtually impossible for the Water Management District to deny an application for ground water withdrawals for any reason.

What one or two things would you do to ensure that the services and infrastructure required by new development in Lake County are provided?

(1) Distribution of Impact fees must be revisited to reflect a realistic cost of County impacts created by new development. In some cases a developer is being charged impact fees by both Cities and County for shared impacts. However, in most all circumstances the Cities are not sharing revenues with the County in regards to County services being provided. Sharing of these revenues would decrease County reliance on County revenues generated by impact fees. This will result in decrease in County Impact fees to developers which could be passed on the home-buyer and increase discretionary dollars that could be put back into the local economy.

(2) The County must re-evaluate Transportation, Recreational(park) and Administrative Impacts fees to reflect a realistic cost in order to provide the level service and safety reflective of public demand. Due to the proximity to major attractions in neighboring Counties we have hundreds of thousands people utilizing County services at no cost leaving the burden to our residence and developers alone. The County must implement new revenue sources through shared tourist revenues with the State to reflect impacts created by this transient traffic. This action alone will prevent the County from under charging for actual or implied Impacts, and put a stop to the reliance on property tax revenues and impact fees to bear 100% of the cost for transient impacts.

Since quality schools help in attracting businesses, name one or more things you would do to help the School District to improve Lake County Schools.

The Lake County School Board and the Lake County Board of County Commissioners must begin to form a partnership in regards realistic educational requirements created by new residential development that impact our Counties requirements for new or improved Schools. This can be accomplished by collaborating with developers to build new or improve existing Schools in developments that will require additional education facilities when an increase in student population is predicted. This alone will free up additional funding for teacher salary increases and enhanced and advanced student curriculum's.

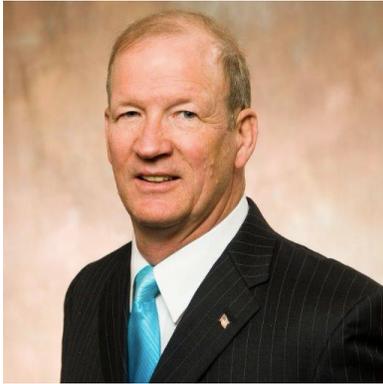
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1



TIM SULLIVAN (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

CMarried 33 Years Mary T. (Fran) Sullivan, Two Daughters, 2 Grandchildren
34 Years Prudential Advisor, Registered Investment Advisor
33 Years US Army Veteran, Brigadier General (Retired)
Commanded Large Organizations in peace and Wartime environments
Mayor City Commissioner Fruitland Park 1984-1990
Lake County School Board 1990-1992

Lake County Commission 2012-Present
Masters Strategic Studies US Army War College
Bachelor Degree The Citadel
Certified and Advance County Commissioner Designations

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Charter Member Leadership Lake
Board Member Central Florida Health(LRMC VILLAGES Hospital
Boys & Girls Club Lake Sumter
Past President Leesburg Area Chamber, Current member 4 Chambers of Commerce
American Legion, AMVETS 206
Good News Church

In light of the request to permit a sand mine in the County, name one or more changes you would make in the zoning ordinances to prevent the excessive extraction of water for such facility and would prevent development of sensitive areas that must be protected to preserve the water supply.

Due to a current Law suit I cannot comment on Sand Mine. For the future I would recommend the county to change Zoning to not allow Sand Mines in areas designated for development.
In regards to Water issues some of the most grievous extraction of water is in systems that do not have reuse systems. The studies I have seen show as much as 50% in the systems are used for irrigation. A reuse system must be the standard for all future developments.
Lake County recently updated our Irrigation Ordinance to require timers and setbacks to further strengthen the use of water.
The cities and county must pressure to The Water Management Districts and the Legislature to truly manage the issue of potable water sources as it is a State wide issue.

What one or two things would you do to ensure that the services and infrastructure required by new development in Lake County are provided?

We must manage the new growth such that urban services are provided in the most efficient and affective manner. The County created Inter-Service Boundary Agreements so that a city may only annex property



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1

TIM SULLIVAN *(continued)*

for which they will provide services. This allows for agreements such that we can share Fire/Rescue services thus eliminating redundancy while also reducing response times.

We must collaborate with our Lake Schools and Colleges to assure a high quality workforce which in turn helps our existing businesses grow and encourages new businesses to locate here. This results in reducing the tax burden on homeowners.

A great example of this was the County Commission number one Legislative priority was the Advanced Manufacturing Center which got funded this year. Lake county has the highest percentage of manufacturing jobs in the region and thus enhances our workforce.

Since quality schools help in attracting businesses, name one or more things you would do to help the School District to improve Lake County Schools.

Passing of the Education Impact Fee is one example of actions already completed.

The sharing of the Penny Sales tax revenues 33% to Lake County Schools is another.

Thirdly the county showcases the many quality CTE programs, the Votech Center as well as the School and Colleges ability to put quality training programs together for employers who show an interest in Lake County. This has already resulted in great success in recruiting business through our Economic Development efforts.

Already mentioned was the legislative priority in conjunction with the School System.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



KRISTI BURNS, Ph. D. (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I hold a Doctorate in Biochemistry from Georgia Tech and am a mother to 4 children Xander (9), Rowan (5), Anya (3), and Wyatt (3). While attaining my doctorate, I taught college level Chemistry courses. This is unique amongst my competitors in that I have a background that includes teaching, grading, designing and grading exams, and designing laboratories. I have a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Tufts University. I graduated from Eustis High School as salutatorian of my class. I

worked at Dupont on several projects which involved interacting with scientists in the field and in R&D, sales people, marketing, and U.S. military generals. I am the child of teachers. My mother is a 40 year teacher and still teaches in the Lake County schools. My father taught business in Lake County for 7 years before moving on to own his own restaurants. In addition to my advocacy work for the children of Lake County, I recently began chemistry consulting.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Cofounded Lake Test Watch: nonpartisan local group to reduce excessive high-stakes tests
Cofounded Lake County Healthy Schools: Facebook Page
Opt Out Florida Network/Opt Out Lake County: Admin & Local Leader
Spring Creek Charter School: PTO
Treadway Elementary: PTO
Fund Education Now

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My unique background in teaching while working on my Ph.D. has given me a good foundation in what our college bound students need to succeed. Additionally, I began working to change Lake's educational system two years ago when recess was canceled for every child at my son's school. After rallies, speaking before the school board, waiting through several committee meetings, and hitting national news, the school board settled for the superintendent's directive of a measly 60 minutes of recess per week. This fell far short of the recommended 20 minutes per day deemed critical by the American Academy of pediatrics. Nevertheless, this directive has helped some schools. I have since teamed up with parents across the state to bring this issue to the Florida Legislature. I spent 4 days in Tallahassee last year lobbying for Recess. The recess bill passed the house last year but was blocked by the senate. We will bring it back this year to achieve 20 minutes of daily recess for every child in the state of Florida. Of note, my son is now at a school that gives him 2, 15 min. recess periods each day. I choose to work on this for every child in the state of Florida. I provide this as just one example of my experience that has prepared me for this office. I learned a lot about how Tallahassee works and how the school board could more effectively utilize their legislative connections.

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

I support higher salaries especially for teachers with more experience.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2

KRISTI BURNS, Ph. D. *(continued)*

I support a measure that would give teachers with effective and highly effective ratings the guarantee of a job the following year

I support hiring a superintendent that leads through respectful discourse and by positively encouraging creative teachers to work to their best ability instead of governing through fear of job loss. This is a base way to lead employees and does not lead people to working at their best.

I support a superintendent that could lead or effectively hire HR to teach proper managerial skills to administrators that lack these skills. Some administrators in our county also lead through fear and that methodology should either be redirected or eliminated.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

I work with the Opt Out Florida Network and Test Watch. We fight to achieve equity in our schools by eliminating high-stakes tests. We do not dislike tests, but instead believe that tests should be teacher created and graded, like spelling tests etc. High-stakes tests can be compared to the SAT test that many of us took in high school. High-stakes tests are tied to 3rd graders moving to 4th grade, teacher and principal salaries, school and district grades, high-school graduation, and distribution of school money. When tests are tied to these sorts of punishments then the test is not accurate because schools 'teach to the test' and our schools become 'test-prep' factories. Additionally, the common core tests are age inappropriate. Therefore, children must be drilled even more so that they learn test material, information that they would easily learn if they were simply ready. This is no way to properly educate children. We must and can stop the excessive test-prep and testing at the local level. We must lobby the state legislature to ensure that they understand the consequences of excessive-testing. This is an huge drain on our resources. Statistically schools that test well are schools with students from high socioeconomic backgrounds. These schools are given extra money. This setup essentially starves schools with lower socioeconomic students, therefore, making it more difficult to hire and retain high quality teachers.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



PERNELL MITCHELL (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a small business owner who has lived in Lake County for over 25 years. I am a veteran of the U. S. Air Force and served in Panama during Just Cause. I am also a 17 year law enforcement veteran of the Leesburg Police Department. I supervised the Community Services Division and taught DARE in the Leesburg elementary schools. I was named the Florida DARE Officer of the Year and served as the president of the Florida DARE Officers Association. I was appointed as the first Manager of Security

Services for the Lake County School District. I graduated from Lake/Sumter Community with an A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice and I have Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Warner Southern College. I was an honor graduate of the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville. My wife Ruby and I have seven adult children, including two sets of twins. Our children all graduated from Leesburg High School. Each one continued their education at the college and university levels. Our daughter, Kenea teaches at Carver Middle School and Jocelyn will begin her teaching career in December. I received numerous awards and community recognition throughout my career. I was the Leesburg Police Department's Officer of the Year four times and I was also named Lake and Sumter Counties Boys and Girls Club Man of the Year. I received the Orlando Sentinel Community Services Award. I am the only candidate who has experience in school safety and security. I trained district administrators, principals, teachers and support staff in crisis response and emergency planning. I drafted and negotiated the contract for School Resource Officers with local enforcement agencies. I also coordinated vulnerability assessments for all school campuses and district facilities.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have served as a member of the following organizations' member of Lake Sumter Stated College Equity and Diversity Committee, President of Drug Free Inc., member of the Lake Sumter Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors and member of the Lake County Shared Services Network.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My extensive experience coordinating and planning activities and events with government agencies and community organizations have provided me the ability to work in partnership with all stake holders to achieve the desired missions. Teachers and students deserve school environments that are safe, supportive and conducive to teaching and learning. Creating a supportive school climate and decreasing suspensions and expulsions requires close attention to the social, emotional and behavioral needs of all students. I have worked closely with the most at-risk students and understand how to create safe schools.

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

Establishing and improving the induction process for new teachers is very important in helping the district recruit and retain high quality teachers. Research has shown that teachers are leaving the field of education after only 4 or 5 years of teaching. Therefore, I would support a 5 year induction process.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2

PERNELL MITCHELL *(continued)*

During this induction process, the new teacher should be matched with a veteran teacher who can mentor and offer assistance. A number of studies have found that well designed mentoring programs improve retention rates for new teachers. They also improve teachers' attitudes, feeling of efficacy and instructional skills. There is much evidence that well operated induction and mentoring programs are the best method for increasing teacher retention. My Teacher's A Plus plan will focus on teacher's advancement, assistance, assignments, achievements and awards.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

Education has always been the cornerstone of freedom and democracy, and the key to economic prosperity. The Lake County School District is challenged to provide for the growth and expansion in South Lake while keeping up with the demands for renovations and technological updates of the schools in the other parts of the County. We must also make sure that we do not incur debt that will burden our children and citizens for years to come. I propose that we pay as we go and only bond for new construction and renovations in the most extreme circumstances. Lake County also has pockets of excellence within our District, particularly in the South end. We should duplicate and implement the successful programs like the Health Sciences Collegiate Academy in other parts of the District. I also want to increase partnering with local organizations, families and the community to extend the learning hours of the lower performing students thereby improving our schools and district grades. Students can be better prepared for college and/or 21st century careers.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



SANDI MOORE (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born in Lake County, graduated from Leesburg High School. Went to college at Union College in Ky, with a Bachelors degree in Religion. My parents both retired as long time educators in Lake County. I have two boys currently in Lake County Schools. I worked for 10 years as a Children and Youth minister at Community Methodist Church, 7and a half years as the Main Street Manager for the Leesburg Partnership and am currently the Executive Director of the Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Leadership Lake Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club Board member for the Teeter Unit, Member and past president of Leesburg Sunset Rotary, Leesburg Partnership board member, Toastmasters, member of Community UMC, Lake County Schools CTE Advisory Council, SAC member for Leesburg High School, Executive Committee Chamber Alliance.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My entire working career has been in careers to better our community. In each position I have held, I have had success. I have spent years building relationship across Lake County to give me a unique perspective on the needs of our community. I am someone who takes action to get things accomplished, I don't just talk about change, I make it happen. I am currently the Executive Director of the Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce. When I started at the Leesburg Chamber the Chamber had lost the trust of the community and had little engagement by its then dwindling membership. I have brought back respect and trust to the Leesburg Chamber and it is now seen, again as one of the stronger Chambers in the county. I plan to use my unique skill set to bring back trust into our school system with Leadership and vision.

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

The first thing will be in the hiring of a new superintendent. This person has to have a proven track record of success. We need to have someone with a vision for Lake County schools and the Leadership skills to carry out that vision to earn the trust of our community. As a school board member we need to hold accountability as one of the most important values.

I think we need to look at all our schools and find programs that draw students into our schools and instill trust in the schools. We need a PR campaign to better communicate the good things that happen in our schools. We need to train our principals on how to motivate and empower our teachers. We also need to engage the community so that they feel ownership in our schools.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2

SANDI MOORE *(continued)*

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

This is a great question and one that is not easy to answer. I think we have to look into where the money is being spent in our schools and look at ways we can funnel more money into the classrooms. Unfortunately without starting everyone in a brand new school at the same time there is no real way to make it "fair", but we have to find a way to address those older schools that seem to keep getting overlooked. I think engaging the community and bringing awareness to this will help. We have to advocate for all our children and all our schools.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



LOU BUIGAS (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Native Floridian, born to Cuban parents in Miami, FL. Married for 34 years, 1 adult daughter & 3 grandchildren.

Attended Miami-Dade Community College
Small business owner
Licensed Building Contractor #CBC1256151

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

City of Tavares P & Z, Lake Business Magazine Editorial Board, Lake County Arts & Cultural Alliance, Tavares Historical Society, Tavares Chamber of Commerce BOD, Lake Eustis Museum of Art BOD, Lake Tech Advisory Board

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

As a business woman, I bring a diverse set of tools to the school board:

- experienced business woman
- expertise in construction (several schools to be built in the coming years)
- common sense approach
- involved in the community (which allows me to see how education affects each and everyone in the county)
- I am my own boss, therefore I can devote all the time I need to the School Board.

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

The two most important players in the district are the students and the teachers. One would not exist without the other. Teachers are passionate about their profession. Which is what allows them to tap into the students to make them excel. Teachers engage the student in the best learning style for that student. Although in the recent past, this has been challenging as a result of the testing culture we have been experiencing.

As for measure to improve the situation, it typically comes down to funds. The FLDOE has to revisit the standards in place for this culture to improve. Having said that, there are many operational costs that can be addressed to redirect funds into the classroom.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

The district is one of the largest businesses in the county and it should be run as such. If you the approach of each school in the district is a franchise and treat it as such you will be able to distribute the resources accordingly. Each franchise , each school has a different demographics, different needs etc. But at the end of the day each student must reach the best possible & positive result in he or she's education.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

LOU BUIGAS (*continued*)

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



SANDY GAMBLE (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Born in 1958 in the Eustis Hospital, Graduated in 1976 from Tavares High. Married my wife in 1979 after moving to Tn. in March, and back to Fl. in June of 1981. Licensed minister in the Church of God of Prophecy since 1979, and previously ordained as a Bishop in 2013. I served as an elected Tavares City Councilman for 8 years and one as Mayor to Tavares. I coached in youth sports such as youth football, baseball in Tavares for over 13 years. Then on to high school sports in basketball, baseball & softball for a total of about 10 years. Some coaching during the time I was coaching high school softball. I

know how to manage my time to deal with all time needed to do the job required.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Lake Community Action Agency; Tavares youth baseball and booster club President; Tavares High Athletic Booster Club, President for 6 years; High school sports; Local Union for classified employees. Also in church youth camps serving ages from 5 to 18 years of age.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I believe my years as serving as an elected official for the citizens of Tavares on City Council and also representing the city as Mayor has given me the knowledge and experience for government operations and procedures needed to be a asset as a School Board Member. I have worked with budgets, staff and the citizens to do the best I could for all involved.

I believe my work with the church I pastor has given me the ability to cope with difficult situations with finances needed to operate and pay as you go. By not putting the church in debt to do renovations needed, as well as replacing equipment and furnishings. I believe in cutting costs where applicable.

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

Number one for me would be to look at the present pay scale for teachers and do some major improvements needed. It's not just attracting the teachers to come, but having something here to keep them. We need to stop being a training facility for other districts with our staff, but do financially what is needed to retain our highly qualified staff.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

Need to make changes as needed with the allocations for staff and funding for the schools. Would have to make some needed cuts at the main office of high paid positions that can be then redirected to the schools and classrooms. As noted from the reports form the grant, we are top heavy at the county level. Then after the report we approve more top positions that took away from the funding needed in the classrooms as well as other areas of the district. We have some elementary schools in the Clermont area



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

SANDY GAMBLE *(continued)*

that need improvements or even a new school. In Fruitland Park they have been in need of a new campus for years, especially the main building and cafeteria. We need to quit putting in portables and do the right thing. Eustis elementary is also need of attention as well. The Board Members elected and present have a Big job ahead of them in the coming years, no matter who gets elected.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



JAMES A. MYERS (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am an Iowa native, but have lived in Lake County for 10 years. My two siblings and I were raised by a single mother, who was an elementary school teacher and later became an elementary school media specialist. In addition, my uncle is a retired superintendent and my aunt is a retired high school English teacher.

I am married to my college sweetheart, Lori, who is also a teacher and has thankfully put up with me for over 16 years. We have two children currently in the Lake County school system. Our daughter, Nola, will be a freshman next year at Mt. Dora High School and our son, Nile, will be in 7th grade next year at Mt. Dora Middle School.

I obtained a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from Simpson College in 1999 and my law degree from University of Florida in 2013. I practice with Bowen & Schroth, P.A. in Eustis, and currently handle primarily real estate matters. Lori has taught for Lake County Schools for 10 years, between Seminole Springs Elementary and Mt. Dora High School, and will be the new Assistant Principal at Umatilla Elementary in the fall.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have volunteered at Seminole Springs Elementary since 2008 and was their 2011 School Volunteer of the Year. I have served on the board of directors for the Educational Foundation of Lake County, Inc. since 2013 and was named their 2015 Board Member of the Year. I have been a Take Stock in Children mentor since 2014. I have served on the School Advisory Council for Mt. Dora Middle School since 2013. I have also been a Justice Teaching volunteer at Seminole Springs Elementary since 2013. I am also a member of the Golden Triangle Kiwanis Club and East Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Part of what has prepared me to serve as a school board member is my diverse training and the ability to analyze problems from all angles in order to make informed decisions. I developed logic and problem solving skills while earning my math degree, investigative, active listening and risk management skills while working as a claims adjuster, and now as an attorney, I am paid to pick issues apart and gather as much information as possible, from as many sources as possible, before forming an opinion. I am also able to analyze contracts, review legal documents and interpret statutes, ordinances, regulations, and judicial opinions, all of which are likely to be encountered by the school board, at some point, over the next 4 years.

In addition, when I left the insurance industry in 2010 to go back to law school, our family of four managed to survive on only a teacher's salary for 3 years. In order to carry our mortgage, car payments and rent for a campus apartment, we trimmed our budget, sacrificed wants in favor of needs and constantly found new ways to keep ourselves afloat. We did not declare bankruptcy, did not fall behind on payments and did not ask for handouts. This is the perspective I bring to the school board.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

JAMES A. MYERS *(continued)*

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

Attracting and retaining high quality teachers has to begin with paying our teachers a competitive salary compared to surrounding districts. Right now, our teachers can make an average of \$7,000-\$8,000 more per year just by traveling over the Orange or Seminole County lines. If we want to be competitive, then we have to make higher teacher salaries a board priority.

In addition, we need to start automatically retaining our effective annual contract teachers at the end of each school year. We currently only automatically retain our "highly effective" annual contract teachers each year. This means our "effective" teachers are left to wonder between May and August whether they will have a job, so many accept offers from other districts. At the same time, however, we need to improve our teacher evaluation process to ensure the "effective" and "highly effective" ratings mean what they say. The first step toward doing so is to eliminate the use of student test scores as a measurement of teacher effectiveness altogether. The next step is to involve teachers in the process of creating a more comprehensive evaluation system. Both of these steps would have my full support.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

I am a firm believer in zero-based budgeting as a way to identify and address the inequitable distribution and inefficient use of resources. The current budget process of basing next year's figures on the prior year's expenses has created an environment where the "if we don't spend it we'll lose it" mentality has been allowed to take root. I want to begin each budget cycle by allocating enough resources to meet each legally required minimum in the budget and then build from there. I want each department head, school administrator, etc. to justify, as a discussion item at a public meeting, why they need additional resources beyond the required minimums. More importantly, I also want to hear justification as to how their intended use of those resources will serve the best interests of the students. I would also visit each school and facility, and speak with teachers and staff, to see the needs and current allocation of resources firsthand, which will allow me to make more informed budget decisions.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



JOAN M. RINTELMANN (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born and raised in Rhinelander, a small northern Wisconsin town very similar to the communities in northern Lake County. My homemaker mom and musician/civil-servant dad provided me with a great supportive start in life. "Dream big, work hard and anything is possible." I share my life with a great guy named Lou and between us we have five daughters and 10 grandchildren.

I earned a BS degree from Ohio University in Hearing and Speech Sciences and my MA degree from the University of Massachusetts in Communication Disorders. I returned to Wisconsin and started my career in education. I earned certifications in Learning Disabilities and Elementary Education as well as receiving training in AODA and mentoring. Since moving to Florida in 2005, I have earned a Reading Endorsement and ELL Endorsement.

For the past 43 years, I have worked in the schools. My responsibilities have included positions as a speech pathologist, speech diagnostician, learning disabilities teacher, cross-category teacher, 2nd grade teacher, 6th grade elementary teacher, 6th grade intensive reading teacher and an adjunct professor in education. I taught in small towns, wealthy suburban areas and inner city neighborhoods. My last full-time assignment was as the 6th grade Intensive Reading teacher at Tavares Middle School where I was awarded the Lake County Middle School Reading Teacher of the Year in 2008. I currently work as a part-time Title 1 Reading Tutor in Lake County.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Through the years I have been active in school affiliated groups such as PTA and church education programs. Currently I am an exercise leader in my community and sing with the community Musicale Chorus. I serve on the Christian Education board at my church. I am a member of the Performing Arts Series Committee for the LSSC Foundation and am a Patron of Bay Street Theater and the LSSC Performing Arts Series. I am a member of several Chamber of Commerce groups in Lake County.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Being a Lake County School Board member will be the culmination of my long career in education. Public education has been my career and my passion for the last 43 years. I have had a school board for a boss for all those years and I know what an efficient, well-run, fiscally responsible, transparent and innovative board looks like. I will work to make the necessary changes to the Lake County Board so it fits that description. My experience includes teaching for 32 years in Wisconsin and 11 years in Lake County. I have worked with students from preschool to teaching college level education classes while teaching in rural, suburban and urban areas. My understanding of the workings of all areas of a school district is extensive. I know what questions to ask to get positive results. This will be my full-time job. I am willing to fight to make necessary changes at the local level and will travel to Tallahassee if necessary to effect change at the state level. I will spend as many hours as necessary to build a strong public school system serving all the students and families in Lake County.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

JOAN M. RINTELMANN *(continued)*

Name one or more specific measures you would support for the Lake County School Board (LCSB) to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

Teacher Evaluation: I would work to replace the teacher evaluation system that is currently used in the district. The present system is punitive and negatively affects teacher performance, moral and monetary advancement. It has been questioned since it was first introduced more than eight years ago. While it is mandated that teacher evaluation systems are tied to student test scores to some degree, Lake County uses a higher percentage than is required. Research has shown that there is no merit to tying teacher effectiveness to student test scores...there are simply too many variables. There are other options that could be used. Knowing that this type of evaluation system is in place could keep quality teachers from applying and it has driven many good teachers from our district or from the profession all together.

Testing: Lake County tests students more than is mandated by the state. I would work to cut back the amount of testing to the degree which is absolutely mandated. I would utilize alternative pathways such as student based portfolios (which are approved by the state) to show competency in those students who "fail" or "opt out" of the standardized tests. If teachers knew that they could TEACH MORE and TEST LESS here in Lake County, they would want to work here and/or stay here.

Pay: We need to pay the teachers more....some how, some way we need to become competitive with surrounding districts. If it is a priority, we will find the funds.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

The follow-the-rules part of me says we should utilize the guidelines that are currently in place and make sure they are followed. That doesn't seem to be working.

The thinking outside-the-box part would like to try the following. Look at a school....any school. You are starting with no staff or special programs. Assess the needs of the school community, how many students enrolled, how much projected growth. Determine the number of teachers needed to effectively teach the student population, leaving empty spots in each grade level for growth in the area so class size mandates can be maintained throughout the year. Perhaps the number could even be below the state mandate which would cut down discipline issues giving teachers more time to teach which would raise student scores and decrease the need for special intervention. This would reduce teacher time out of the classroom attending remediation meetings. Determine what resource teachers are required to meet special and enrichment needs. These teachers will all have regular contact with students and will be on campus. Now that the needs of the students and teachers are met, what is the minimum number of administrators and mandated support staff needed to have a highly effective school community.

Do this for all schools. Some schools may get more resources than others, but that is because their needs are greater. The bottom line will be that schools get what they need, when they need it to be effective.

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COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2



BEN BOYLSTON (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I grew up in Lake County where my father, Richard "Red" Boylston, served as County Judge for 20 years. I attended the University of Michigan and graduated "with distinction" at the age of 20, and at that same age was the youngest incoming first year student in my class at FSU's law school. While in law school I was certified to, and did, prosecute cases for the State of Florida. After graduation I began work for Graves & Spivey P.A. in Tavares, where I stayed for five years before moving to Stone & Gerken P.A. in Mt. Dora. I am

now one of the founding partners of Stuart, Mount, and Boylston (running our Tavares office). Most of my nearly 11-year career has been spent in the area of criminal law, where I have tried over 40 jury trials including a death penalty case. I also have experience in business law, contracts, landlord/tenant disputes, and have worked for several cities. I live in Eustis with my German Shepherd, Ingrid.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been very active in Lake County's Teen Court program, earning the "Eternal Flame" award for exceptional service. I am the immediate past president of the Lake County Bar Association and am on the board of directors of LEASH, a local animal welfare organization.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My extensive background in criminal law has prepared me very well for the office. The person succeeding Judge Donna Miller will preside over criminal trials, which is what she does now. To run a criminal courtroom, a person must have extensive knowledge of the rules of evidence and criminal procedure - when an objection is made or issue comes up, the judge must be able to rule immediately - and if he or she gets it wrong, the result could be a criminal going free or an innocent person being convicted. I have tried over 40 criminal jury trials during my career, and have thorough knowledge of the laws and rules that will govern my courtroom. In addition to that, I am a business owner and understand that time is money. A judge must balance the need to hear all sides of a case and give it the attention it deserves against the need to run an efficient courtroom that avoids unnecessary delays. I believe my experience as a lawyer and small business owner prepares me well to strike this balance.

What do you believe is the most important quality for a judge?

Humility. Getting the law right is relatively easy. It is much more difficult to resist the power that accompanies the office leading to arrogance. It takes great humility to always remember that the power is not really yours; it belongs to the people, and you are merely a steward of it. Wearing a robe doesn't make you any smarter or any better than the day you first put it on. It doesn't entitle you to treat any person entering your courtroom with anything less than the utmost respect, no matter who they are. It also doesn't entitle you to rewrite laws to suit your own preferences - your job is to figure out as best you can what the law says and apply it fairly, whether you agree with it or not. When judges lack humility and ignore their proper place in our system of government, it undermines public faith in that system, and ultimately corrupts it. That is a very dangerous thing, which a humble judge recognizes and strives to avoid.



COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2

BEN BOYLSTON *(continued)*

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COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2



JONATHAN OLSON (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

St. Olaf College 88-92

University of Valparaiso Law School 92-95

I began my career as a Law Clerk in northern Minnesota where I learned the general principles of being a judge. My next position was an Assistant County Attorney where I prosecuted juvenile and misdemeanor cases, as well child welfare cases.

I moved to southeast Minnesota (where my wife was working) and again was employed as an Assistant County Attorney eventually

promoted to Chief Assistant County Attorney. As Chief Assistant I supervised staff and other attorneys, prosecuted all both felony and misdemeanor cases, was legal counsel for the county commissioners and legal counsel of the sheriff's office.

In 2004, we moved to Florida and began work at the State Attorney's Office.

Currently I am a Docket Manager in the Lake County Office. I prosecute career criminal cases, 10-20 Life cases and DUI Manslaughter cases. I also supervise the other docket attorneys.

Other civic experience includes being a volunteer firefighter, baseball coach, board member of the IceHouse Theater, Fee Arbitrator for the Florida Bar, Past Chairman of the 5th Circuit Grievance Committee and an elder and past acting president for my church. I am also a member of CART, the Child Abduction Response Team.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Member Faith Lutheran Church

-Former Elder

-Past Acting President

Eustis Gun Club

CART (Child Abduction Response Team)

Florida Bar, Fee Arbitration

NRA

Ducks Unlimited

Coastal Conservation Association

Former Ice House Theater Board Member

Baseball coach, Tavares City League

Former Firefighter

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Throughout my 20 years in criminal law I've obtained supervisory experience which gives me the unique ability to have judged other attorney's work. As a supervisor I've had to critically look at work of other attorney's and make decisions on what steps they need to take to prosecute their cases.

I have taught law on various levels, from school children to other attorneys. I'm an active participant in Justice Teaching, a program from the Supreme Court. This program allows me to go into the schools to discuss legal issues with middle and high school students. I've also taught law enforcement and attorneys evidence and trial technique. This includes being an instructor at the National Advocacy Center.



COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2

JONATHAN OLSON *(continued)*

I've twice been published in the Florida Bar Journal. My writing has further strengthened by appreciation for changes which take place in the law.

What do you believe is the most important quality for a judge?

When my family and I moved to Lake County in 2004, there were three county judges, two criminal and one civil. Despite the continued growth in Lake County we still only have three county judges. My top priority is to ensure the citizens of Lake County that despite the increased numbers on the county docket, my experience and knowledge of process will allow cases will be handled efficiently.

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COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2



CARY RADA (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a 1994 graduate of Stetson University College of Law. I have practiced law here in Lake County for over 21 years. I served as an Assistant State Attorney in Lake County for 8 years where I was one of the first prosecutors assigned to Judge Donna Miller's Courtroom in 1995. In 2003, I established a private law practice in Tavares where I am currently employed. I have been a Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer since 2003. Less than one percent of all Florida lawyers are Board Certified in criminal trial. During my legal career I conducted numerous jury trials and evidentiary hearings, ranging from misdemeanor to homicide cases. As a teenager, I developed a strong work ethic while working in the construction industry on weekends and school breaks. I have been blessed with a wonderful wife, Brandy, and five terrific children, Christian, Christopher, Matthew, Andrew, and Ethan.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church - Parishioner\ Volunteer
Rotary - Member\ Volunteer
Kiwanis - Member \ Volunteer
Youth Sports Coach - Y.M.C.A.
Lake County Bar - Member

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

The office for which I am running is the seat being vacated by Judge Donna Miller. Judge Miller presides over County Court criminal cases. I served as an Assistant State Attorney in Lake County for 8 years where I was one of the first prosecutors assigned to Judge Miller's Courtroom in 1995. I prosecuted cases before Judge Miller until 1998 when I was promoted to a Felony position where I served until 2003, thereafter I established a private law practice in Tavares where I am currently employed. I have operated a successful law practice for the past 13 years where I am in the office by 7am and often work weekends in my commitment to providing my clients the best possible representation. I have been a Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer since 2003. During my legal career I conducted numerous jury trials and evidentiary hearings, ranging from misdemeanor to homicide cases. I have nearly 22 years of criminal trial experience both as an Assistant State Attorney and as private defense counsel. I am the only Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer running for this office.

What do you believe is the most important quality for a judge?

A judge must ensure that every individual receives equal justice under the law. A judge must be fair and unbiased. A judge must not hear a case with any preconceived notions. Knowledge of the law and prior courtroom experience are key to any well qualified judicial candidate.

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COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2



JUDY A. STEWART (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Originally from Michigan, I moved to Lake County in 1979. I am married to my husband, Steve, and I have one daughter, Amanda. I also have a dog, a grand-puppy, and my daughter is expecting my first grandchild in October. I graduated from Mt. Dora High School. I received my Associate's degree from Lake Sumter State College; my Bachelor's degree from Warner University and my Juris Doctor degree from FAMU College of Law. I worked for a local attorney for 17 years while attending school part-time as a single mother. I then attended law school full-time, remarried, and worked the last two years of law school at the Lake County Public Defender's Office under Howard "Skip" Babb. I won my first case in Judge Miller's courtroom while still an intern before receiving my law degree. It took me 11 years total to complete my education and get my law degree. I opened my law practice in 2009. I started from the ground up and worked hard and single-handedly have built my practice to the success it is today. I practice primarily criminal law and family law. I also completed a summer internship with another local attorney the first summer of law school.

My family has a history in Lake County. My grandparents were very involved in the Mount Dora Shuffleboard Club way before I was born.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been a member of the Tavares Chamber and Eustis Chamber for several years. I was Ambassador of the Year for Tavares in 2013. I currently hold the title of Small Business of the Year for both Tavares and Eustis Chambers. I am a member of several other chambers including East Lake; South Lake, and Leesburg. I was previously a board member of Hearts and Hands; the Eustis Chamber and am currently a board member of LovExtension and assist in quad bowling and several veteran organizations.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have been involved in the Lake County Legal System since 1988, both as a legal assistant and now an attorney. I have been a single mother; had financial difficulties; and worked hard to be where I am today. I appreciate everything I have gone through to be where I am today. It has not always been easy but worth it. I worked in Judge Miller's courtroom as an intern while at the Public Defender's Office. I have legal experience but also life experience. I am a wife, a mother and soon to be grandmother. I am honest, level-headed, and down to earth. I can show compassion but also hold a firm hand when necessary.

What do you believe is the most important quality for a judge?

Probably common sense and compassion. Not every case is the same and should not be treated as such. Using common sense along with experiences learned in not only the legal field but in life to help people who find themselves involved in the legal system. Anyone can be arrested but that doesn't mean



COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2

JUDY A. STEWART *(continued)*

he or she is guilty. Also, we are all human and make mistakes. The objective is to learn from that mistake and not do it again. Those who don't learn or continue same behaviors require a different stance. Sometimes, a person just needs some assistance or guidance. A judge should be fair and neutral regardless of personal beliefs and equal to everyone while following the laws of the State of Florida. Legal experiences, life experiences, and levelheadedness. It takes all three to make important decisions that affect other people's lives.

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COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2



BRIAN WELKE (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1965 and moved to Central Florida in 1970 graduating from Tavares High School in 1983. I volunteered in the United States Army in 1984 and served for 4 years in Texas, Colorado, and South Korea. I attended Florida State University and obtained a degree in Political Science and History in 1991 and then attended the University of Tulsa and received my Juris Doctorate in 1997.

I am married to Teresa and we have two sons, Chris and Alex, Chris serves in the U.S. Air Force.

I have been practicing law in Lake County since 1997 with my first job working as an assistant county attorney for Lake County. But nine months out of law school, in 1998, I opened my office in Mt. Dora and then moving it to Eustis in 2003. Since 1998 I have represented dozens of homeowners and renters associations and over 2,000 individual clients in Lake County. Now my practice is limited to the area of estate planning, probate, and adoption law. I am a member of the Florida Adoption Council and a Fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. In 2012, I opened Florida Adoption Services, a full service adoption agency. I have participated in placing over 400 children in adoptive homes.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Camp counselor, Camp Challenge Easter Seals Camp
Florida Bar Grievance Committee - two terms
Volunteer Judge for Lake County Teen Court
Board of Directors, Korean Veterans Association, Lake County
President 106th Infantry Division Association
Associate member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Lake County
Board of Directors, CODE HORSE, a non-profit serving veterans and first responders with PTSD using equine therapy
Eustis Little League coach
Kiwanis Golden Triangle

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

The 19 years that I have been practicing law has prepared me. In 1998, I opened my law office 9 months out of law school and 6 months after passing the Florida Bar. And since that I have represented over 2,000 individual clients as well as several dozen homeowner associations; HOAs, condominium, coops, and renters. Some of the clients that I have worked with were very wealthy while others had virtually nothing; they did not know where they were going to sleep from night to night or where their next meal came from. But regardless of their socioeconomic status I strive to treat everyone with the same civility, courtesy, and respect and if elected I am committed to bring that to the courtroom.



COUNTY COURT JUDEGE GROUP 2

BRIAN WELKE *(continued)*

What do you believe is the most important quality for a judge?

Integrity. The citizens of Lake County must believe they will be treated fairly when they enter a courtroom. The Judge should be honest and impartial. The citizens deserve to have a judge who cares about their case as much as they do and will allow all parties the opportunity to be heard.

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AMENDMENT 4

TAX EXEMPTION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVICES

Source: The Florida Legislature

Synopsis:

Amendment 4 expands tax breaks on renewable energy devices to include businesses. Current state law restricts property-tax breaks on solar power and other renewable energy devices to residential property. The amendment would authorize (but not require) the state Legislature to pass laws exempting businesses from two different taxes when those businesses purchase renewable energy devices. One exemption would prohibit local governments from considering renewable energy devices when determining the value of real estate used for business purposes. The other would exempt renewable energy devices from the state's tax on a business' "tangible personal property," which includes such items as computers and furniture. The amendment would take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, and would sunset on Dec. 31, 2037. This amendment, which will appear on the Aug. 30 primary ballot, should not be confused with a solar-power amendment that will appear on the general election ballot Nov. 8. The two are very different. Read the full text of the Aug. 30 amendment question [here](#) and a legislative analysis of it [here](#).

A YES vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Change the [state Constitution](#) by allowing the Legislature to exempt renewable energy devices from a tax imposed on business-owned personal property.
- Allows the Legislature to prohibit local [property appraisers](#) from including renewable energy devices when determining the value of business-owned real estate, which means property tax bills would not increase because a business purchased those devices.
- Potentially encourage businesses to invest in renewable energy devices, such as solar-power cells and wind turbines that generate electricity.

A NO vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Maintain the status quo, which currently subjects businesses that buy renewable energy devices to the state's tax on personal property.
- Continue allowing local property appraisers to include renewable energy devices when deciding how much real estate is worth, which means the value of those devices shows up on a business' tax bill.
- Have no effect on the current law that grants a tax exemption on renewable energy devices used on residential property.