



CHAIRMEN:

JANE KUCKEL

FRANK MOSER

JIM SHIELDS

After interviewing 9 candidates for ½ hour each over two days, the participating committee members voted by substantial margins to recommend the following 4 candidates for Congress, State Senator, the Lee County Board and the Lee County School Board.

The emphasis has always been on how good they are going to be for Estero with special emphasis for legislative and county races on development growth and its impact on our natural resources and infrastructure.

Please share these recommendations throughout your community and Estero

Francis Rooney, Representative in Congress, 19th District Republican

Francis Rooney, a Naples resident, is a very successful business owner and long time, major Republican Party fund-raiser. He is also a thoughtful, results oriented problem solver who supports bipartisan cooperation in order to get things done.

He told the Committee that he is committed to organizing the Florida House delegation and beyond in order to elevate the Everglades water problems into a national Public Works project.

During his first term he was part of a small group that was able to obtain Federal approval of \$900 million for accelerated reconstruction of the Herbert Hoover dike around Lake Okeechobee (by 2021 instead of the original completion date of 2030/31) and \$200 million for construction towards a water storage facility (known as A2 Reservoir), both of which will reduce the threat of red tide and blue-green algae on our shores and beaches. In addition he has been instrumental in getting the Federal government to provide grants and low interest loans to small businesses impacted by this increasingly persistent water pollution.

Annisa Karim, State Senator, 28th District Democrat

Annisa Karim is a highly educated Florida Master Naturalist and a political newcomer with 20 years' experience helping the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Collier and Lee Counties implement their Conservancy and Land Management Programs. The Committee believes that she could become a powerful influence in the State Senate as it addresses the critical water quality, land planning and conservation issue that so urgently need to be addressed by the State.

Her extensive experience with the Conservation Collier Program and as a Land Stewardship Coordinator, a Senior Supervisor of Conservation Lands and a Manager for Lee County Parks and Recreation will enable her to direct State policy and resources toward solving the problems that currently threaten our southwest Florida economy and quality of life.

No Recommendation, State Representative, 76th District

Bill Taylor, Board of County Commissioners, District 2 No Party Affiliation

Bill Taylor grew up in Fort Myers where he founded and managed Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts for the last 30 years. In this capacity he has demonstrated his creative skills as well as his business acumen.

As a longtime resident he is concerned that Lee County is encouraging, rather than managing, our rapid growth so that it threatens our clean drinking water supply and the water quality of our rivers, streams and beaches and thereby our tourism economy.

He told the Committee he believes that the Conservation 2020 program needs to have its own funding source again and that many more natural resource significant land purchases need to be implemented. He opposes further development in the DR/GR and recently testified against County approval of the Troyer Brothers mine. The attached video addresses many of these issues in his own words...https://youtu.be/d2OASwVQI_8

He advocates restoring Road, Park and School impact fees to the 100% level, not the 45% level imposed by the sitting County Commissioners. Finally he is also a strong supporter of community planning so that it is being directed by those who know most about the area and are most impacted by the implementation of those plans.

Nicholas Alexander, Member School Board, District 6 Nonpartisan

Dr. Alexander is a retired business executive with a proven track record of delivering for some of America's largest firms. He aims to bring his operations, finance management and process improvement experience to the School Board to effect positive change for the district and its students.

The Lee County School District is a \$1.5 billion operation educating 95,000 students with 11,000 employees and managing a multibillion construction and maintenance operation with too much debt and a \$468 million budget deficit due to reductions in state capital funding and school impact fees. The district is also growing by 1,800 students per year, the equivalent of one new high school per year.

The School Board presently is loaded with experienced educators but does not have anyone with the kind of executive business experience that Dr. Alexander would bring to the Board.

Some of the problems that Dr. Alexander will focus on are:

- Ensuring that all students are higher education or career ready
- Improve classroom excellence by attracting and retaining effective/highly effective teachers
- Improve graduation rates
- Increase operational efficiency
- Improve school security
- Ensure better openness and accountability

Constitutional Amendments

The League of Women Voters of Florida has examined all 12 Constitutional Amendments on the November 6th ballots and taken positions on each. The following section summarizes those recommendations. Click the following link to review the detailed explanation of each amendment and the League's reasoning for their position... <https://www.lwvfl.org/amendments/>

Amendment 1...Oppose

Amendment 2...Oppose

The Estero Candidate Screening Committee is not affiliated with any other local organizations or parties.

Amendment 3...Support
Amendment 4...Support
Amendment 5...Oppose
Amendment 6...Oppose
Amendment 7...Oppose
Amendment 8...Deleted by Court Order
Amendment 9...Support
Amendment 10...Oppose
Amendment 11...No Position
Amendment 12...No Position
Amendment 13...Support

At the Bottom of the Ballot

Levy of One-half Cent per Dollar Sales Surtax for Educational Improvements, Equipment and Technology...Yes

The Committee met with the School Board twice during the spring to understand the need for this increase and voted without opposition to support this 10 year increase.

The Committee's Statement of Support

The upcoming November 6 election ballot includes an item that will impact all of Lee County for years, maybe decades to come.

The quality of schools is the biggest economic driver in any community.

- It impacts the ability to attract high wage businesses to Lee County,
- It impacts the District's ability to educate students so that we can provide highly skilled employees to our local employers; and
- It impacts your property values.

When passed, the half-penny investment may only be used for capital expenditures—safety and security, new construction, maintenance, and technology. None of these designated monies may be used for salaries or daily operations.

Some of these funds will be used to finance a new elementary and a new middle school in Estero within the next 10 years.

The Committee urges everyone stand up for what is best for our community and to vote yes on the half penny sales tax.