

2018 Primary Election Guide

See inside for
Candidate Profiles

AUGUST 16, 2018 · SPECIAL SECTION

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder
Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by the staff at the Ponte Vedra Recorder to prepare area voters for the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

A significant portion of the information in the guide was submitted by the candidates. For candidates in some of the congressional and statewide races, background information was obtained by the Recorder via campaign websites. Information pertaining to the election was also provided by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections.

Also in this guide, readers will see stories by the Recorder and contributor, as well as photos taken by staff at recent political events.

NOTE ABOUT THE ELECTION

Florida is a closed primary state. Democrats will receive a Democratic ballot, and Republicans will receive a Republican ballot. Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party will receive a Nonpartisan ballot.

AREA PRECINCT LOCATIONS

- **401:** Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
This is also an early voting site that transitions into a precinct come election day.
- **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A, North Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
- **403:** Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
- **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
- ***405:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Residents north of the Nocatee Parkway and in Sawmill previously voted at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church.
- **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
- **407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
- **408:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32095

Note: Precincts denoted with an * indicate a change in the polling location.

On election day, voters are required to vote at their assigned polling place based on their address. To find your polling place, visit the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website at www.votesjc.com and click "My Voter Status" in the "Quick Links" section of the homepage.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting for the Aug. 28 primary election begins Saturday, Aug. 18.

Early voting dates are August 18-25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily at all locations. This election is open to all registered voters in St. Johns County.

There are six early voting locations throughout St. Johns County. Voters may cast their ballot at any of the locations, regardless of where they reside.

- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Ave. A, Suite 101, St. Augustine
- Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine
- Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns
- W.E. Harris Community Center, 400 E. Harris Street, Hastings

Remember to take your current and valid photo and signature ID with you when you vote. If you do not have proper ID, you must vote a provisional ballot.

For more elections information, visit www.votesjc.com or call (904) 823-2238.

MSD: SEAT 1



GORDON BLALOCK

Gordon Blalock was born in Florida and raised in Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra. His family has resided in Ponte Vedra since 1969. He is a veteran with over 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy. He has an additional 15 years of constitutional experience — seven years as arraigning magistrate in the 19th Judicial District of Virginia (Fairfax & Mount Vernon) and eight years as a Ponte Vedra MSD trustee.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in political science, government and public administration from The American University in Washington, D.C. He served as the legislative assistant to the Honorable Charles E. Bennett from the 3rd District of Florida (Duval County). After spending six years as a certified flight instructor and commuter airline pilot, he transitioned into the jet sales community as a jet aircraft broker.

Today, Blalock is still active as vice president of sales for Omni International Jet Trading. He is also a serving member of the Ponte Vedra Community Association Board. Currently, Blalock and his wife, Pamela, reside in the family home at 187 San Juan Drive. His mailing address is P.O. Box 977, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004. He can be reached at any time on his mobile phone at (703) 801-9730.

Submitted by the candidate



GARY JURENOVICH

Gary Jurenovich is a 34-year resident of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD). He is running for reelection to serve a second term as a trustee on the MSD Board. Jurenovich, his wife Ann and son Eric enjoy the beautiful community that they live in.

Jurenovich is a business owner in St Johns County where he owns and operates a home healthcare agency. He is currently the chairman of the MSD Board of Trustees and has served as a trustee previously from 2004 to 2012. He was elected to his current term in 2014. Jurenovich has served the MSD community for 12 years as a trustee, six years as chairman, two years as vice chairman and four years as treasurer.

Just a few of the many projects Jurenovich started and completed while serving as an MSD trustee include new bridges at Lake Road, Rutile Drive and Pablo Road and helping residents to improve the recent bridge crossing on Corona Road over the lagoon. His efforts have also included the placing of utilities underground and the removal of overhead telephone poles on Solana Road, San Juan Drive, Corona Road and Ponte Vedra Boulevard. He has also worked with a group of residents to construct a sidewalk on Ponte Vedra Boulevard from Corona Road to Mickler's.

Jurenovich has been the St Johns County Sheriff's Office MSD liaison for eight years and is a 2017 graduate of the SJCSO Civilian Law Enforcement Academy. He has been responsible for all street signs and poles for the past 14 years and recently completed a three-year project to install all new street signs and poles within the MSD. Jurenovich has been past committee chair for JEA, Beaches Energy and Road and Bridge.

Jurenovich believes that community service is a small price to pay for the privilege of living in such a nice place.

Submitted by the candidate

SCHOOL BOARD: DISTRICT 4

Note: This nonpartisan race appears on all primary ballots in District 4



KELLY BARRERA

Kelly Barrera brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in education and business management to the St. Johns County School Board.

As the board's vice chair, she plays a strategic role in guiding the top-rated school district in Florida, overseeing nearly 40,000 students and a \$315 million budget. During her tenure, Barrera has addressed concerns about school overcrowding, overseeing the opening of four new K-8 schools and one new elementary school, along with the expansion of Crookshank, Mill Creek and Nease. If re-elected, she has pledged to lead the fight for a new high school to further ease overcrowding.

Barrera also advocated for a testing task force to reduce testing, increased Exceptional Student Education and guidance programs, expanded student social and emotional learning and support and played a leading role in plans to strengthen school security. She has increased opportunities for parental and community involvement

including: Superintendent Selection committee, Citizen's Sales Tax Advisory committee, Strategic Plan committee, Testing Task Force and dozens of town hall/community meetings held across the district.

Barrera is committed to providing all students with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to enter higher education or directly move into the workforce.

As a lifelong learner, she is pursuing her master's degree in education, has earned the Florida School Board Association's Certified Board Member designation and Master Board Certification and serves on the Schultz Center for Teaching and Learning, along with years of experience serving in advisory boards for area schools and in post-secondary education.

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Barrera is a graduate of Jacksonville University, where she was the first female graduate of the aviation program. She and her husband, Gil Barrera, are the parents of two children and two Rotary Youth Exchange students. For more information on Barrera, visit www.kellybarrera.com.

Submitted by the candidate

SCHOOL BOARD: DISTRICT 4 CONT.



DENVER COOK

As a parent of two daughters in middle school, Denver Cook personally understands the challenges facing St. Johns County Schools. He believes parents are the single most important partner for success in education and that unilateral decision-making by the current board often ignores desired parental outcomes and insufficiently prepares students for life.

Cook believes his years of service in military intelligence, large-scale commercial and government construction, law enforcement and as a leader supporting many St. Johns County youth initiatives have uniquely prepared him to successfully address current and future challenges. With solutions to address these challenges, as a board member, he believes he will set policy prioritizing initiatives that help students reach their full potential.

For students to succeed, Cook says the district must challenge the most talented students with a more rigorous curriculum, provide supportive environments for special needs children and develop better vocational programs for those not on a college track so they can find real-world success.

Cook says many people don't know that local school boards have the state constitutional responsibility for and authority over all curriculum. He believes the community needs board members who will provide a curriculum that teaches past the FSA minimum, administrators who truly support teachers and teachers empowered to inspire children.

According to Cook, overcrowding and school safety are real issues for the community, but he says these can be addressed through fiscally responsible budget policy. He says he is a leader who understands how to evaluate complex programs, identify challenges, develop effective strategies and target resources for systemic improvement.

For more information about Cook, visit www.denvercook.com.

Submitted by the candidate



ABIGAIL LEVRINI

Dr. Abigail Levrini is a licensed psychologist, Ponte Vedra business owner, bestselling author and mom to two St. Johns County public school students. She earned her doctorate in counseling and school psychology from the Florida State University College of Education in 2008.

In 2010, she authored her first book with the American Psychological Association, a bestselling self-help book for adults with ADHD. Two years later she produced a second book, which helps other professionals around the world to conduct behavioral interventions for clients with Attention Deficit. She has published

numerous scientific articles in the field of school psychology and presents on school interventions in professional settings throughout the country. She can be found throughout the media on WebMD, The Washington Post, NAMI, APA, Psych Central and many other popular means of press.

In 2014, she opened a Florida branch of her educational and psychological practice, Psych Ed Connections. Through Psych Ed, Levrini and her staff help families to improve academic and work functioning, relationships and life skills. She specializes in helping students to develop executive function skills such as organization, time management decision-making, positive self-talk and social skills. She is also an avid runner and philanthropist, and for this reason Levrini started the Psych Ed Connections 5K/10K Turkey Trot, Fun Run & Golf Cart Parade each Thanksgiving since 2016 in the Nocatee community, from which proceeds are distributed to local charities.

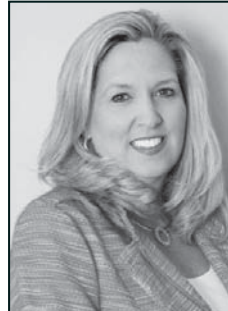
Levrini hopes to bring her vast experience in the field of educational psychology to the St. Johns County School Board, emphasizing the importance of children's social and emotional health in addition to their academic prowess. She plans to take St. Johns from a top tier Florida county to a top performing county within the United States, improve state safety rankings and advocate for the families of St. Johns County.

For more information on Levrini, visit www.votelevrini2018.com.

Submitted by the candidate

Note: Unless one of the candidates receives a majority of the vote in the primary to win the seat, the top two candidates will then face off again in the general election on Nov. 6.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: DISTRICT 4



ERIKA ALBA (Republican)

Erika Alba has been a Republican since she first voted in 1984. A resident of Palm Valley for over 13 years, she and her husband have two children: a daughter (PVHS 2011 graduate) and a son who's a fifth grader at Ocean Palms Elementary School.

Alba's 25-year legal career began as a deputy district attorney where she prosecuted child sexual abuses cases. Since leaving the DA's office, she has worked in the private sector: first as a senior vice president and assistant general counsel for Fidelity National Financial, and now as an attorney with a business law firm advising corporate and nonprofit clients on regulatory and compliance matters.

Alba is running for commissioner because she believes the status quo is not working. She says St. Johns is rapidly growing and infrastructure is lagging behind. According to Alba, the county cannot jeopardize its wonderful quality of life with mismanaged traffic, overcrowded schools and eroded beaches. When elected, Alba will call for a "top-down" forensic audit to ensure that hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely. She believes the county must create more high-wage jobs through strategic economic development and prioritize infrastructure with particular attention to roads and maintenance-starved parks/recreational facilities.

As commissioner, Alba says she will always put citizens first. She believes she has the experience to serve on the commission because she understands how government works, both the good and the bad. Throughout her legal career, she has seen the negative impact government can have on ordinary folks when it is not working for the people.

Alba says her family loves this county and cares deeply about the community. She believes in public service and has served on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club, Florida, Florida TaxWatch and the PVAA. Alba believes the county can fix its problems if "service" is put back in public service.

For more information on Alba, visit erikaalba.com.

Submitted by the candidate



JEREMIAH BLOCKER (Republican)

Jeremiah Blocker was born and raised in Ocala, Florida. He comes from a family of public servants, as all four of his brothers are combat veterans in the U.S. military.

He is a graduate of the University of Florida, where he obtained a degree in history and commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Army ROTC program.

In the military, Blocker served as an Army officer for over 13 years, both on active duty and in the reserves. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Blocker commanded a military police company in combat operations. Blocker continues his military service in the Air Force Reserves as a judge advocate general officer with the rank of major.

Awards Blocker has received include the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Blocker graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law. He has also earned graduate degrees in land use and business entrepreneurship.

Before transitioning into private practice, Blocker served as a state prosecutor in both Jacksonville and Palatka, Florida, trying over 30 cases in front of juries ranging from DUIs to violent felony cases. As a prosecutor, he served as the Drug Court liaison for the state of Florida, managing all Drug Court diversion cases.

Currently, Blocker is a partner in a small firm where he concentrates his practice in the areas of small business law, title insurance and veteran benefits. His firm has offices in St. Augustine. As a small business owner and a conservative Republican, he believes that fiscally conservative principles are the best way to serve. According to Blocker, this includes limiting the size and scope of government, reducing taxes, creating a business-friendly environment to retain and attract new businesses and promote job growth and providing the best public safety to protect citizens. Blocker is also a former board member of the Florida Bar Committee on Military Law and is certified in Veterans Benefits Appeals.

Blocker and his wife Lauren have lived in St. Johns County for seven years. They have two young children and worship at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Nocatee. They volunteer their time with local organizations such as K9s for Warriors.

For more information on Blocker, visit jeremiahblocker.com.

Submitted by the candidate

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: DISTRICT 4 CONT.



NICHOLAS 'MIKE' DUDYNSKAY
(Republican)

A first-time political candidate, Nicholas "Mike" Dudynskay is an engineer, entrepreneur, marketer and consultant. His vision is to make St. Johns County the best place to live and work in America.

As commissioner, Dudynskay would work to attract clean, high-technology firms to diversify the economic base and grow tax revenue. He would also plan to eliminate wasteful spending.

According to Dudynskay, more tax revenue would then result in more county services.

Dudynskay believes unbalanced (irresponsible) growth is leading the county toward fiscal insolvency. He says the tax base is over-represented by residential property taxes and residents typically consume more public services than tax dollars paid. He believes larger businesses are grossly under-represented.

Dudynskay believes the functional St. Johns County tax base should be roughly 65 percent residential and 35 percent business. In addition, he says each new home that is constructed increases the financial risk if not counter-balanced by economic growth.

Dudynskay is married to Christine, who holds degrees in criminal justice and psychology, and is a "Daughter of the American Revolution." Their son, Max, attends Palmer Catholic Academy and is a baseball fanatic. Dudynskay believes in faith, not fate.

For more information on Dudynskay, visit www.ElectMikeSJCC.com.

Submitted by the candidate



DICK WILLIAMS
(Republican)

Dick Williams is honored to have the support and endorsement of St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar. Williams looks forward to working with Shoar and his law enforcement professionals to continue to protect St Johns County schools and keep the community's neighborhoods safe.

Like most families with school age children, Williams and his wife, Linda, chose to live in St Johns County 17 years ago for its A-rated public schools, low crime rate and the special quality of life. Now, Williams is looking forward to the opportunity to give back.

As a conservative, Williams is committed to bringing his decades of private sector business experience to the job as St Johns County commissioner. His full-time focus will be protecting tax dollars, maintaining the quality of life that the community enjoys and ensuring that the Board of County Commissioners manages future growth in the county.

Williams acknowledges that St. Johns County is a special place with amazing natural resources. As St Johns County commissioner, he will work to create permanent solutions to restore area beaches, protect the environment and manage residential growth in a way that benefits all who live in the community.

As an experienced business leader, Williams will recommend that the county government implement zero-based budgeting to ensure that it is spending tax dollars wisely and effectively. He is prepared to dedicate his full-time attention to serving as District 4's Commission representative. Williams pledges that the voter will be his top priority and not special interests.

For more information on Williams, visit www.williams4commission.com.

Submitted by the candidate

Linda L. GAUSTAD
for Judge

Integrity - Diverse Experience - Impartial

Your vote counts!



Linda needs your vote!

A solid reputation for being dependable, respectful, fair, and honest.

18 years of diversified experience and knowledge of the law - Florida District, Circuit, and County Courts.

Circuit Court experience - Civil, Criminal, Dependency, Family Law, Injunctions, Juvenile, and Probate.

LindaForJudge.org

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Linda L. Gaustad for Circuit Judge, Circuit 7, Group 15, Nonpartisan.



The husband of St. Johns County School Board District 4 candidate Dr. Abigail Levrini (left), current District 4 Rep. Kelly Barrera (center) and candidate Denver Cook (right) participate in a candidate forum, which was hosted by the Ponte Vedra Republican Club Aug. 10 at the Coastal Oaks Clubhouse in Nocatee.



Circuit Judge candidates Sebrina Slack (left) and Ryan Will (right) deliver their opening remarks at the candidate forum. Photos by Benjamin Naim

Ponte Vedra Republican Club hosts candidate forum ahead of primary

By Benjamin Naim

The Ponte Vedra Republican Club hosted a candidate forum featuring Circuit Judge (7th Judicial Circuit, Group 15), County Commission District 4 and St. Johns County School Board District

4 candidates on Friday, Aug. 10 at the Coastal Oaks Clubhouse in Nocatee.

Circuit Judge candidates Sebrina Slack and Ryan Will, County Commission candidates Jeremiah Blocker and Nicholas “Mike” Dudynskay and School Board candidates Denver Cook, the husband

of Dr. Abigail Levrini and Kelly Barrera participated.


The forum began with the Circuit Judge candidates, who fielded questions from the audience on the role of the court, their experience in the field of law and more. One resident asked if either candidate has

ever had a complaint filed against them.

“I have actually never had complaints filed against me,” Slack said. “There’s a variety of places you can get a complaint as an attorney ... I’ve never had one.”

FORUM continues on Page 22

Vote for
Gordon Blalock
 Seat 1
PV MSD
 Election
August 28




- Native Floridian (JAX & PVB)
- 30 Years service in the US Navy
- 15 years additional constitutional officer experience
 - 7 years arraigning magistrate in the 19th Judicial District of Virginia
 - District of Virginia
- 8 years Ponte Vedra MSD trustee
- BA Political Science, Government, & Public Administration from The American University, Washington, DC
- Legislative Assistant to the Honorable Charles E. Bennett from the 3rd District of Florida (Duval County)
- 6 years as a certified flight instructor & commuter airline pilot
- Currently, VP of Sales for Omni International Jet Trading

Gordon welcomes your questions and concerns
703.801.9730 • gordon_blalock@yahoo.com

He would appreciate your vote but respectfully requests no monetary contributions.
 Paid for and approved by Gordon Blalock for Seat 1 PV MSD.


EXPERIENCE MATTERS

- ★ Promoting Smart Economic Growth
- ★ Protecting Our Tax Dollars
- ★ Committed to Restoring Our Beaches
- ★ Keeping Our Schools & Communities SAFE



DICK **WILLIAMS**
 For County Commissioner ★ District 4

**Ready to Work Full-Time for
 St. Johns County Families**



**ENDORSED BY
 ST. JOHNS COUNTY
 SHERIFF DAVID B. SHOAR**

Williams4Commission.com
 PAID BY DICK WILLIAMS, REPUBLICAN, FOR ST JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 4

CIRCUIT JUDGE: 7TH CIRCUIT GROUP 15

Note: This race appears on all primary ballots



LINDA L. GAUSTAD

Linda L. Gaustad believes residents deserve a judge with integrity, experience, knowledge and common sense to make potential life altering decisions. Dedication, hard work, time management, patience, commitment and efficiency are abilities she says she has perfected operating a law practice and practicing law.

Gaustad has worked one-on-one with clients over the years providing individualized personalized representation. An advantage of operating a law practice, she said, has been representing individuals and businesses in the community in a wide range of practice areas. For the last 18 years, Gaustad

has represented thousands of residents in the community.

Her courtroom experience includes the District Court of Appeals (criminal, civil and family); Circuit Court (criminal felony, juvenile, dependency, civil, probate and family); County Court (criminal misdemeanor, civil and small claim); Administrative Court (civil and traffic); and Federal Court (bankruptcy, Social Security appeals and immigration).

Gaustad is passionate about the law. She promises to have your full attention, and to be fair and impartial and apply the law to the individual facts of each case.

For more information on Gaustad, visit www.lindaforjudge.org.

Submitted by the candidate



RYAN WILL

For more than a decade, Ryan Will has served the people of this community and worked to improve residents' quality of life. As a senior member of the State Attorney's Office, Will has successfully prosecuted the most dangerous criminals in society. A lawyer since 2005, Will is responsible for the prosecution of murder cases in the 7th Circuit. He has traveled the community handling hundreds of high profile cases and representing thousands of innocent victims.

According to Will, a depth of legal experience and commitment to the community distinguish him in this race. These qualities, he said, have earned him support from other attorneys, law enforcement and members the community.

Natives of Volusia County, Will and his wife, Bryn, are invested in the community and committed to its future. Bryn is a kindergarten teacher in the public school system; Will frequently lectures at the police academy, local universities and high schools. He serves on the boards of numerous charities and nonprofit organizations, including Stewart Marchman Act Foundation, Teen Court and Rotary. Will and his wife are raising three young children and are active in youth athletics.

Will takes pride in his community and fights to keep neighborhoods safe. In 2013, he established Florida's first Playground to Prevent Neighborhood Sex Predators and used available laws to stop sexual predators from establishing residence. Since then, Will has consulted with citizens and developers to create nearly a dozen other neighborhoods that ensure the protection of our children. Soon, according to Will, the entire area west of I-95 in Daytona Beach will be closed to the relocation efforts of these dangerous criminals.

In addition to his work at the State Attorney's Office, Will has experience in civil, family, probate and juvenile affairs. For more information, visit www.electryanwill.com.

Submitted by the candidate



SEBRINA L. SLACK

Sebrina L. Slack is the managing attorney with the law firm of Landis Graham French, PA, where she handles civil litigation, condominium association matters, probate litigation, contract drafting and family law.

Slack was born in Daytona Beach and grew up in Holly Hill. She attended and graduated from Mainland High School, and then attended the University of Miami, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and history and a minor in politics. In 2000, she earned her Juris Doctor degree from George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia.

Also in 2000, Slack was admitted to the practice of law by the Florida Bar. She began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Office of the State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit under then State Attorney John Tanner. In her first assignment, Slack handled juvenile prosecutions in Volusia County. After less than a year, Slack was transferred to the misdemeanor division in New Smyrna Beach, where she was the sole prosecutor for misdemeanors in Southeast Volusia. Again after less than a year, Slack was promoted to the Felony Sex Crimes Division in the Daytona Beach office, where she prosecuted numerous criminals charged with sexual offenses.

In 2003, Slack took a job with the Florida Department of Revenue in the Sales Tax Division in Tallahassee. During her two years there, Slack prepared letters of advice, handled taxpayer appeals of sales tax audits and participated on rules revision committees. In late 2004, Slack began work as an associate attorney at the law firm of Smith, Hood, Perkins, Loucks, Stout, Bigman, Lane and Brock, PA. There, Slack practiced civil litigation under the direction of partner, C. David Hood, Jr. Esquire, and family law under the direction of partner, Horace Smith, Jr., Esquire. In 2008, Slack joined Landis Graham French, PA to practice in its DeLand office.

As an attorney in private practice, Slack believes it is important to contribute to her community by performing volunteer or pro bono work. She also is deeply immersed within the legal community, having served in various capacities with organizations such as the Florida Bar Grievance Committee for Volusia County, the Volusia County Bar Association, the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers, the Putnam County Bar Association, the St. Johns County Bar Association and the Flagler County Bar Associations.

Slack balances the demands of her legal career by placing a premium on the time she spends with her husband, Don Slack, and their two dogs, Cheyenne and Shenanigans.

For more information on Slack, visit www.sebrinasklackforjudge.com.

Submitted by the candidate

Note: Unless one of the candidates receives a majority of the vote in the primary to win the seat, the top two candidates will then face off again in the general election on Nov. 6.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



MATT CALDWELL (Republican)

Matt Caldwell is a seventh-generation Florida native whose family has a long history of being farmers, small business owners, ministers and doctors.

He was born in Gainesville but grew up in Lee County where he eventually met his wife, Yvonne. They live in North Fort Myers, where Yvonne serves as a teacher and they raise their daughter, Ava.

After attending local schools in Lee County, Caldwell received his associate degree from Edison College and his Bachelor of Arts in history from Florida Gulf Coast University. He then began his career as a real estate appraiser with Maxwell, Hendry & Simmons in Fort Myers. He has attained the highest state

certification in his field and is qualified as an expert witness in multiple states and federal court.

Caldwell's desire to serve his community took him to Tallahassee when he was first elected to the Florida House in 2010. He has served on several committees during his tenure, including transportation, tax policy, redistricting, insurance, banking and local government and federal government affairs. He has chaired subcommittees and committees related to agriculture and natural resources. He currently chairs the Government Accountability Committee, which oversees subcommittees regarding natural resources and public lands, transportation and infrastructure, local, federal and military issues, and oversight of government operations, such as pensions & elections.

For more information on Caldwell, visit votecaldwell.org.

From votecaldwell.org



NICOLE 'NIKKI' FRIED (Democrat)

Nicole "Nikki" Fried was born and raised in South Florida and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a law degree. At UF, she served as student body president, the first woman to hold the position in nearly two decades prior.

Fried worked for the Alachua County Public Defender's office after law school, where she was the head of the Felony Division. In private practice, Fried defended homeowners against foreclosure during the 2007-2008 housing crisis, fighting big banks to keep families from evictions.

As an advocate, Fried has fought for access to medical marijuana, Broward County Public Schools and funding for foster children with special needs.

Fried lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more information on Fried, visit nikkifried.com.

Submitted by the candidate

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE CONT.



DENISE GRIMSLEY (Republican)

Growing up in Wauchula, Florida, Denise Grimsley's family has deep roots going back generations in Florida agriculture as cattle ranchers and citrus growers. Grimsley is a member of the Peace River Valley and Highlands County Citrus Grower's Associations, the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the Florida Farm Bureau.

She received her degrees from Polk Community College and Warner Southern College, and earned an MBA from the University of Miami.

Grimsley has spent most of her career serving those in need as a registered nurse. But when her father became ill, she left nursing to run her family's small business and experienced the frustrations of government red

tape and bureaucracy firsthand. Those frustrations and her commitment to serving others is what led her to run for office in the Florida House and Senate.

In the Legislature, Grimsley has been an advocate for Florida agriculture. She currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and is the recipient of the 2017 Florida Farm Bureau Legislator of the Year award.

Today, Grimsley serves as a hospital administrator, focusing on patient care, customer satisfaction and fiscal responsibility. And she still works her family's citrus and cattle operations.

Family and faith are central to Grimsley's life. She is proud and grateful for her parents, who have been married more than 60 years, her daughter Nicole, and her grandchildren Tyson and Jillian.

As Commissioner of Agriculture, Grimsley said she will bring her conservative Heartland values and commitment to serving others to Tallahassee to fight for farmers, protect consumers and seniors and defend Second Amendment rights.

For more information on Grimsley, visit denisegrimsley.com.

From denisegrimsley.com



MIKE MCCALISTER (Republican)

Col. Mike McCalister served honorably in the Army Reserves, Army National Guard and on active duty for a total of 33 years. He retired in 2005. He is a licensed and degreed agriculture professional and owner-operator of a small tree farm.

McCalister was a university instructor in accredited MBA and DBA programs, teaching working professionals about today's global economy in areas of operations management, strategy & policy, entrepreneurship and strategic thinking.

He was the custodial parent of a son from the age of 4 through college; both McCalister and his son are Eagle Scouts and earned the God & Country Award. Additionally, McCalister is a recipient of the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism.

McCalister's education includes a Bachelor of Science in science with a major in agriculture and a minor in earth science from Southeast Missouri State University and a Ph.D. in management from The Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a graduate of The Command and General Staff College, and completed both the U.S. Army War College Defense Strategy and the The Air War College Curriculums. Additionally, he has completed the Harvard University Program on Senior Executive Leadership.

For more information on McCalister, visit mikemccalister.com.

From mikemccalister.com



JEFF PORTER (Democrat)

Jeff Porter was born in the City of Homestead, Florida, and moved to Mississippi after the death of his father. He returned to Homestead, where he attended Miami Dade College. He and his wife Cindy have been married for over 21 years. Twelve years ago, Porter founded World Wide Supply Solutions, which is a small business located in Homestead. The native Floridian is 58 years old.

Porter was elected in 2017 to his third term as Homestead's mayor. He had previously been elected vice-mayor and served on the City Council for 10 years in Miami-Dade County's fifth largest city.

As the mayor of Homestead, Porter represents one of the leading agricultural cities in Miami-Dade County, which is second only to Palm

Beach County in agricultural products sold in Florida.

Porter has worked with both farm laborers and growers during many tough times including floods, hurricanes, frost warnings and fruit fly infestation. Porter currently serves on many boards including Florida's Municipal Electric Association, The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization.

Throughout Porter's reelection campaign, he ran on a "promises made - promises kept" platform. As mayor, he has never raised taxes, yet oversaw a revitalization of his city that many have praised for being one of the most "family friendly" cities to live in Florida. Property values have gone up and the crime rate has gone down under the leadership of Porter.

For more information on Porter, visit porter4florida.com.

Submitted by the candidate



BAXTER TROUTMAN (Republican)

Baxter Troutman is a family farmer and rancher with a lifetime of experience working in citrus and cattle. For two decades, Troutman has been the CEO of Labor Solutions, a personnel services company with five locations in Central Florida. Since opening their doors in 1997, Labor Solutions has helped place over 52,000 Floridians in jobs throughout the Sunshine State.

Dark Hammock Legacy Ranch is his beef cattle operation, which is located in Highlands County. He served as the first president of the Florida AgriTourism Association Board of Directors and was a former board member of Farm Credit of Florida, Alico and Polk County Farm Bureau. Troutman is also a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association.

In addition to his success in agriculture and as a job creator, Troutman has been a community leader and citizen servant. From 2002 to 2010 he was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, serving House District 66 with a record as a common-sense conservative. While a state representative, Troutman was vice chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection, Environment & Natural Resources Council and chaired the General Government Council. Troutman also helped form the Florida Legislature's Sportsmen Caucus, a group of representatives and senators dedicated to maintaining and promoting second amendment rights.

Troutman is married to Becky Troutman, a former teacher with a graduate degree in school psychology. She works in her community to make local education better, especially for children from low-income areas. They are proud parents raising their daughter Holly-Kate, who has just started the third grade.

For more information on Troutman, visit baxtertroutman.com.

Submitted by the candidate



ROY DAVID WALKER (Democrat)

Roy David Walker is a fifth-generation Floridian. He was born in Plant City, Florida to two public servants: His father was a firefighter and his mother was a schoolteacher.

Walker's interests led him to obtain a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a master's degree in environmental policy and management from American Public University, graduating with honors. He had done research with United States Geological Survey, National

Park Service and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, among others. Walker researched and explored the impact of climate change and invasive species in the Everglades, and has advocated for air, land and water conversation.

Walker is president of the South Florida Audubon Society, sits on the Everglades Regional Conservation Committee and is vice president of the Broward Chapter of the Democratic Environmental Caucus. He is also involved with a wide range of professional associations.

Walker believes in protecting the state's natural resources and growing Florida. He said he is driven to run for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services due to what he described as "disturbing policies" that are detrimental to the environment, pollute water, discourage renewable energy and accelerate climate change to benefit big businesses and the fossil fuel industry.

Walker said he knows that Florida's economy depends on the strength of the environment, and as Commissioner of Agriculture, he said he will ensure that the state bolsters its commitment to conserve natural resources, public land, clean water, high food and nutrient standards, and grow agriculture and aquaculture industries. He said he will work to encourage clean, renewable energy sources, protect consumers and grow local businesses and the economy.

For more information on Walker, visit walkerforflorida.com.

From walkerforflorida.com and www.facebook.com/WalkerForFlorida

Candidates connect with community at private gathering in Sawgrass Country Club

On Aug. 3, a special political gathering took place at the home of the Westling family in Sawgrass Country Club.

The dinner reception for over 60 guests was a departure from the typical summer political rally and barbecue. Instead, guests enjoyed an Italian dinner from a local favorite, Poppy's Italiano. Sawgrass Events Catering contributed charcuterie and cheese. After dinner, guests gathered in the great room to hear from/about candidates for Congress, the Florida House and St. Johns County School Board.

Congressman John Rutherford, who is running for re-election in Florida's 4th Congressional District, was the first to speak and provided an update on many of the issues facing the community and country. He specifically talked about the importance of protecting the southern border in California, Arizona and Texas.

"Securing our southern border," said Rutherford, "is a complex, but achievable, challenge."

Former Green Beret and Lt. Col. Michael Waltz, a candidate for Florida's 6th Congressional District, addressed many issues including the veterans who return from combat.

According to Bob Zoeller, a former marine and Sawgrass neighbor who attended the talk, Waltz always impresses.



LEFT: Janet Westling (second from right) and her husband, Dale, hosted Congressman John Rutherford, State Rep. Cindy Stevenson, Michael Waltz, a candidate for Florida's 6th Congressional District, and 60 guests for a private gathering at their home in Sawgrass Country Club on Aug. 3.

Photo by Susan Griffin

BELOW: Allison Ferebee, Mariana McGarry and Francesca Rutherford

Photo courtesy of Janet Westling

"His grasp of local everyday issues and his understanding of national and global affairs will make a great addition in Congress," Zoeller said.

State Rep. Cindy Stevenson, who is running for re-election in Florida's District 17, followed with an overview of the issues affecting the state and local community. The next speaker was Pam Mullarkey Robbins, a former St. Johns County School board member and the founder of Project SOS. She filled in for current St. Johns County School Board District 4 Representative Kelly Barrera and spoke of the healthy state of the schools. She also spoke highly of Barrera.

Submitted by Janet Westling



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- Former felony sex crimes prosecutor
- Managing partner Landis Graham French PA
- Graduate George Mason University - School of Law and University of Miami
- Vice Chair of Florida Bar Grievance Committee (Volusia County)
- Past President of Volusia County Bar Association
- Community involvement- DeLand Chamber of Commerce, Tiger Bay Club of Volusia County and DeLand Rotary Club
- 5th Generation Floridian who grew up in Holly Hill and graduated from Mainland High
- Married 9 years to husband, Don Slack, who is retired law enforcement



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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Sebrina Slack, Non-partisan, for Circuit Judge, Circuit 7, Group 15

PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 28, 2018

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- View and print your sample ballot
- Read candidate profiles and campaign reports

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID WHEN VOTING IN PERSON

Voter information cards are not a valid form of identification when voting. Be sure to bring a current and valid photo ID when voting in person. If the photo ID does not contain your signature, an additional ID that includes your signature shall be required. Example: Photo on Student ID and signature on a library card are acceptable. If you do not bring any ID, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card issued by DMV
- United States Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID
- Concealed Weapon ID
- Firearm License ID
- Government Employee ID

FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

- Democrats receive a Democratic ballot
- Republicans receive a Republican ballot
- Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party receive a nonpartisan ballot
- School Board Dist 4 (Precincts 401-409) is nonpartisan and appears on all primary ballots in District 4

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Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on the vote by mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote by mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Your voted mail ballot is due in the Elections Office no later than 7 PM on election day. If it is late, it will not count. The local delivery of mail takes an average of 3-5 days or drop your mail ballot in the red box at your local public library or Tax Collectors Office. Drop boxes will be available beginning August 1st.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ DATES & TIMES~August 18th – 25th (including Sunday)
 Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM Daily At All Locations

Supervisor of Elections Office 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095	St. Augustine Beach City Hall 2200 A1A South St. Augustine, FL 32080	Southeast Branch Library 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, FL 32086
Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	Julington Creek Annex St. Johns Co. Service Ctr. 725 Flora Branch Blvd. St. Johns, FL 32259	W.E. Harris Community Center 400 E. Harris St. Hastings, FL 32145

ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 28, 2018
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit www.votesjc.com or call the Elections Office at 823-2238.

ATTORNEY GENERAL



ASHLEY MOODY (Republican)

Ashley Moody is a fifth-generation Floridian and was born and raised in Plant City, Florida. She attended the University of Florida, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting, and Juris Doctor. She later attended Stetson University College of Law, earning a Master of Laws in international law.

She began her legal career with Holland & Knight, where she practiced commercial litigation. While at Holland & Knight, she was named one of Tampa Bay's "40 under 40" distinguished lawyers for her professional and civic contributions. Moody subsequently joined the United States Attorney's Office prosecuting drug, firearm and fraud offenses. While a federal prosecutor, Moody was commended by the DEA for prosecutorial excellence and outstanding initiative in drug law enforcement.

In 2006, at the age of 31, Moody became the youngest judge in Florida when she was elected circuit court judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County. Moody served as a circuit court judge for over a decade and, during that time, founded the Attorney Ad Litem program, recruiting volunteer attorneys to stand in the place of parents who did not appear in court with their children, and developed a mentoring program for at-risk children within the juvenile delinquency system.

Moody also served as an adjunct professor at Stetson University College of Law during her time on the bench. In 2015, Moody was awarded the Florida Supreme Court's Distinguished Judicial Service Award for her significant contributions to pro bono legal service.

Moody lives with her husband, Justin, a federal law enforcement agent, in Tampa with their two sons, Brandon and Connor. For more information, visit www.electashleymoody.com.

Submitted by the candidate



SEAN SHAW (Democrat)

Raised in North Florida, Rep. Sean Shaw was taught the importance of public service from a young age by his father, Leander Shaw, the first African-American chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. During law school at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, Shaw clerked for a United States District Court judge focusing on constitutional law and the protection of civil rights.

After law school, Shaw worked in private practice representing workers, families and small businesses during some of their most trying times. As Florida's Insurance Consumer Advocate, Shaw was an insurance industry watchdog protecting consumers against abuses from insurers. He led the process of negotiating lower rates for homeowners, pushed for faster response times from insurers after emergencies and ensured rates were fair and justified.

He currently represents State House District 61 in Tampa, where he has fought for more funding for public education, for criminal justice reforms and for common sense gun safety legislation to make communities safer.

For more information, visit seanshaw.com.

Submitted by the candidate



RYAN TORRENS (Democrat)

Ryan Torrens is a fifth-generation Tampa native who owns his own law practice, through which he defends clients against mortgage foreclosure actions and debt collection violations.

Prior to starting his practice in 2012, Torrens worked as an independent consultant reviewing toxic mortgage loans for the federal government-mandated Independent Foreclosure Review Project, to which he attributes his interest in consumer protection law.

Torrens earned a bachelor's degree in government and world affairs from the University of Tampa, where he graduated magna cum laude. He earned his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he served as an intern for a federal bankruptcy judge and for several members of the U.S. Congress.

In his spare time, Torrens enjoys running, fishing, reading and enjoying time with his family, including his wife, Francesca, and their dog Ziggy.

For more information, visit www.ryanforattorneygeneral.com.

From www.ryanforattorneygeneral.com



FRANK WHITE (Republican)

Frank White and his wife, Stephanie, are raising their three boys with conservative values in the Florida Panhandle. White serves as a deacon in the First Baptist Church and teaches Sunday School with his wife. He is also a board member for Baptist Hospital and Pensacola M.E.S.S. Hall Children's Science Museum. Recognized for his business and community leadership, Gov. Rick Scott appointed White to the Florida Development Finance Corporation Board of Directors, where he serves as chair.

White is the chief financial officer and general counsel for the Sansing Dealer Group, an organization with over 650 employees and stores throughout Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. He graduated from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and was the president of the Federalist Society chapter. White has practiced law in Texas and Florida for over 15 years. Prior to entering public service, he practiced law as an attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

As a Florida legislator, White fought to ban "Sanctuary" cities for illegal immigrants; strengthened Florida's Stand Your Ground laws and gun owner rights; achieved the highest "A+" rating from the NRA; was backed by Florida Sheriffs and Law Enforcement; refused using taxpayer dollars in his political campaigns and sponsored legislation to end taxpayer subsidies of political campaigns in Florida; passed a law that gives individuals injured by an act of terrorism the right to recover damages; and was the co-founder of the Northwest Florida chapter of the Federalist Society.

For more information on White, visit www.frankwhite.com.

Submitted by the candidate

JEREMIAH BLOCKER ★ *Military Veteran*
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Paid by Jeremiah Blocker, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission District 4.

Jeremiah Blocker is a member of the US Air Force Reserves. Use of military rank, job titles, and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, or the Department of Defense.

Forum

Continued from 17

Conversely, Will revealed he once had a complaint sustained against him for calling someone a "crackhead."

"It was a trial 10 years ago and I called a crackhead a crackhead," he revealed. "A 56-year-old man lived in an apartment on U.S. 1 in Daytona Beach and wanted to purchase cocaine and he had been buying cocaine from teenage drug dealers for 10 years."

The man used his position of authority with the teens to arrange a deal that led to four people getting shot, Will explained, and one 19-year-old getting killed.

"I called it like I saw it," he concluded.

Later, School Board candidates discussed measures being taken by the

district to keep students safe, such as single entry points, video surveillance and other initiatives.

Cook said he wants youth resource officers to be made available for students in every school in the county. Barrera, who is running for re-election, touted the district's safety efforts and said it is working with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and a company called U.S. Security.

Finally, Blocker and Dudynskay discussed fiscal policy, the Republican party, transportation, how to handle the growth of St. Johns County and more.

Dudynskay and Blocker reached a point of disagreement on sales tax, with Dudynskay stating he wouldn't mind raising the tax "by a penny" if it would pay the bills. Meanwhile, Blocker argued that responsible spending would help the county manage expenditures without the need for a tax increase.

KELLY BARRERA

for School Board



Kelly Barrera

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

As your school board representative, I truly enjoy the opportunity to serve our students, teachers, staff, parents and community. My goal for the next four years is simple, to build on the success that makes our school district great.

Doing so isn't simple; It will require a leader that knows how to get those great results and has the passion, energy and values to accomplish what we need to do to continue our success!

I have brought my broad based background, experience, pursuit of knowledge in graduate educational courses and strong civic conscience to the St. Johns County School Board. With the challenges of managing growth, continuing academic excellence, limited funding and meeting the safety, security, social and emotional needs of our students, it is imperative to have an experienced leader who is well-rounded, an independent thinker, a creative problem solver and understands what needs to be done to move forward. I am that leader!

We have achieved great success over the last four years, in spite of explosive growth, increased rigor and accountability, legislative changes, and limited funding. Our school district has successfully transitioned to a new superintendent and senior leadership, continued academic excellence, expanded our workforce and career opportunities, increased our graduation rate and increased a variety of programs, partnerships and support services for students.

Although we have met and overcome many challenges, we are far from finished.

Providing safe, supportive and secure schools is my top priority.

We must move forward with plans meeting the growth needs of our community, ensure we have increased school capacity, strong leadership and the best teachers. I will continue to advocate for a new high school as our next school to be built.

My personal commitment to our children is to help all students find success. We continue to provide opportunities to allow them to explore their strengths and interests while also learning to manage their challenges. Differentiated instruction and providing individual learning pathways is paramount to our students' academic growth.

I am the right person at the right time, running for the right reasons- our children! I ask that you consider me your candidate of choice and would appreciate your vote.

Sincerely, *Kelly*

The Right Experience

Kelly is the ONLY candidate with School Board and governmental leadership experience. As vice chair of the St. Johns County School Board, Kelly has overseen the opening of five new schools. She has expanded school choice and workforce education offerings across the county and has guided the district in overseeing 39 schools, nearly 40,000 students and an operating budget of more than \$315 million. Kelly earned her Certified Board Member certification, Master Board certification, and has completed graduate course work in educational leadership and technology.

Vision for the Future

Kelly will continue to build on the academic excellence of our school district, working to make it the best in the country, not just Florida. She would like to increase the partnerships and programs at each school to provide our students, teachers and staff with safe, supportive, and secure schools. She will help meet our communities growing needs through increased capacity including a new \$70 million dollar high school, strong leadership, and providing and supporting the very best teachers.

The Best Getting Better

All of our schools in district 4 received an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). This year, Ponte Vedra High School and Allen D. Nease saw improved performance as evidenced by increasing total number of points earned on Florida State Standards assessment, the number of Advanced Placement tests given and passage rate. Our Graduation rates, College Readiness, SAT and ACT Test Scores are all above state and national averages. Our high school students also have the opportunity to earn college credit through a variety of dual enrollment courses. Beginning in 2018-19 school year we have added Collegiate High School through a partnership with St. Johns River State College, at all of our high schools. This is a structured program that will offer our students the ability to earn their AA degree while in high school.

RESPECTED & ACCOMPLISHED EDUCATORS ENDORSING KELLY

"Our endorsement is based on our belief that Kelly Barrera is best positioned to support teachers and lead the charge in new ideas for our growing, changing district. We have watched her in action as she has served on the board for the last 4 years. She has showcased her abilities to listen, question and act. We look forward to working with her in the future."

~St. Johns Education Association, the local teachers union

"There is no question in my mind that the re-election of Kelly Barrera is essential to the continued success of the St. Johns County School District," Joyner said in his endorsement. "I have worked with many board members in my 40 years in public education and Kelly Barrera is one of the finest."

~Dr. Joyner- Flagler College President and past Superintendent St. Johns County School District

"I enthusiastically support Kelly Barrera for St. Johns County School Board, District 4. She is a strong advocate for our teachers and students!"

~Kathleen Furness - Past Principal PVPV/Rawlings (17 years)

"Kelly is forward thinking as our school district strives for continuous improvement and as we build on our academic and extra-curricular activities."

~Bill Fehling - Past St. Johns County School Board Member, District 4

- Dr. Frances B. Kinne Past President and Chancellor Emerita Jacksonville University
- Dr. Anne Marie Kent- Willette- Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, Jacksonville University
- Julie Clairmont- Retired SJC Teacher

- Dr. Christine C. Arab- Chair of the Schultz Board and former St. Johns County educator
- Dr. Pam Mullarkey Robbins- Founder Project SOS, a program of The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and Past St Johns County School Board Member, District 4
- Karen Forfar - Retired SJC Teacher

JOIN US IN VOTING TO RE-ELECT KELLY BARRERA FOR DISTRICT 4 SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

★ EARLY VOTING STARTS AUGUST 18TH. ELECTION DAY AUGUST 28TH. ★

www.kellybarrera.com

Paid for by Kelly Barrera for School Board

Chamber's Politics in St. Johns candidate forums collect more than 550 votes in straw polls

More than 550 votes were cast in straw polls administered by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections office during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Politics in St. Johns series of events held in Ponte Vedra on July 16 and in St. Augustine Aug. 1.

"It's certainly not a model to predict results," said Bob Porter, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's director of public policy. "However, the numbers of people at these events is large and, for the first time this year, we have held the poll in Ponte Vedra as well, so it could be a useful tool for candidates to gauge the public's sentiment with only weeks to go before the Primaries."

View the combined straw poll results, which were provided by the Chamber.



Photos by Susan Griffin
County Commission District 4 candidate Dick Williams and his wife, Linda, at the Politics in St. Johns event in St. Augustine



Circuit Judge candidate Sebrina L. Slack at the event in St. Augustine



County Commission District 4 candidate Erika Alba at the Politics in St. Johns event in St. Augustine



Circuit Judge candidate Ryan Will with his wife, Bryn, at the event in Ponte Vedra



ABOVE: County Commission District 4 candidate Jeremiah Blocker (center) gathers with supporters at the event in St. Augustine.

LEFT: Circuit Judge candidate Linda L. Gaustad at the event in Ponte Vedra Beach

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STRAW POLL RESULTS

United States Senator			Chief Financial Officer		
263	Rick Scott	R	227	Jimmy Patronis	R
282	Bill Nelson	D	245	Jeremy Ring	D
United States Representative District 4			Commissioner of Agriculture		
283	John H. Rutherford	R	114	Matt Caldwell	R
243	George "Ges" Selmont	D	62	Denise Grimsley	R
United States Representative District 6			35	Mike McCalister	R
42	Fred Costello	R	40	Baxter Troutman	R
47	Michael Waltz	R	161	Nicole "Nikki" Fried	D
23	John Ward	R	20	Jeffery Duane Porter	D
46	Stephen Sevigny	D	48	Roy David Walker	D
96	Nancy Soderberg	D	State Representative District 17		
32	John Upchurch	D	288	Cyndi Stevenson	R
Governor			235	Jaime D. Perkins	NPA
142	Ron DeSantis	R	State Representative District 24		
19	Bruce Nathan	R	143	Paul Renner	R
109	Adam H. Putnam	R	153	Adam Morley	D
105	Andrew Gillum	D	Circuit Judge – 7th Circuit – Group 15		
70	Gwen Graham	D	137	Linda L. Gaustad	
47	Jeff Greene	D	170	Sebrina L. Slack	
7	Chris King	D	139	Ryan Will	
33	Philip Levine	D	County Commissioner District 4		
5	Alex "Lundy" Lundmark	D	93	Erika Alba	R
Attorney General			128	Jeremiah Blocker	R
199	Ashley Moody	R	21	Nicholas "Mike" Dudynsky	R
70	Frank White	R	115	Dick Williams	R
162	Sean Shaw	D	139	John C. "Jack" Gorman	NPA
65	Ryan Torrens	D			

STRAW POLL RESULTS CONT.

School Board Member District 4

276 Kelly Barrera
52 Denver Cook
146 Abigail Levrini

Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 2

132 Karen Cornwell
214 Jeanne Moeller
60 Merrill Paul Roland

Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 4

175 Trish Becker
84 Catherine Brandhorst
146 Peter Miele

St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 2

189 Justin Mirgeaux
221 Victor Raymos

St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 3

220 Bruce Maguire
185 Carl Youman

City of St. Augustine Seat 3/Mayor

109 Bill McClure
34 Jackie Rock
126 Nancy Shaver

City of St. Augustine Seat 4

98 Jill Pacetti
30 Wade Ross
126 John Valdes

City of St. Augustine Seat 5

87 Chris Ellis
158 Nancy Sikes-Kline

U.S. SENATOR



ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE (Republican)

Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente is running for Senate in five states, including Florida, California, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for President in 2016 but did secure the Reform Party nomination.

De La Fuente was born in San Diego, California in 1954. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Instituto Patria and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He

then studied business administration and accounting at Anahuac University and the University of San Diego.

As a young adult, De La Fuente entered the automotive business in 1974. His first jobs in the industry were selling cars for Mazda and Toyota dealerships in El Cajon, California. A few years later, he founded American Automotive Management & Services, Inc. and acquired his first new car franchise. He added 27 more over the next 16 years. At the age of 28, De La Fuente was recognized by his peers and elected chairman of the National Dealer Council for the third largest automotive company in the world at the time. He ultimately sold 27 of his automotive franchises. In addition to his automotive success, De La Fuente has experience in currency exchange, banking, real estate and more.

De La Fuente believes in the regulation of indirect campaign contributions from corporations and unions, finding alternatives to jail and prison for nonviolent criminals, reasonable gun control legislation, comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes undocumented workers as assets rather than liabilities and more.

For more information, visit vote.rocky101.com/en_us.

From vote.rocky101.com/en_us



RICK SCOTT (Republican)

A Bloomington, Illinois native, Rick Scott is a Republican currently serving as the 45th governor of the state of Florida. Scott grew up in public housing as his adoptive father, a World War II veteran and truck driver, and his mother, a store clerk, struggled to financially support their family. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Ann, Scott joined the Navy and used the G.I. Bill to go to college and eventually open his first business — a donut shop. He ultimately ran the world's largest healthcare company with hundreds of thousands of

employees from across the world. Scott is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, later receiving his law degree from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

Since being elected governor, Scott has championed more than \$10 billion in tax cuts and reduced more than 5,200 regulations. Since 2011, he has helped navigate the state of Florida through several natural disasters including Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma.

Scott believes in term limits for all members of Congress, a requirement for Congress to pass an annual budget and meet appropriations bill deadlines, a requirement for Congress to put in full-time work for a full-time salary and more. His plan, entitled "Make Washington Work," is aimed at reforming Washington to make it work for families across the nation.

For more information on Scott, visit www.rickscottforflorida.com.

From rickscottforflorida.com

Elect RYAN WILL for Circuit Judge

- Attorney since 2005
- Graduate of the University of Florida & Cumberland School of Law
- 10 years as a homicide prosecutor in Volusia, Flagler, Putnam & St Johns
- Civil, family, juvenile, and probate experience
- Teaches at the Detectives Academy, local Universities and High Schools
- Involved in the Community and Committed to our Future: serves on the Board of local charities and service organizations
- Established Florida's network of playgrounds to prevent neighborhood sex predators
- Married to a teacher
- www.electryanwill.com / FB Elect Ryan Will

Political advertisement approved by Ryan Will and paid for by the Committee of Responsible Persons to Elect Ryan Will for Circuit Judge. Non-partisan. Circuit 7, Group 15

GOVERNOR

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Available

DON BALDAUF (Republican)

Don Baldauf is determined to get “our republic back to the original founding principles and restore tranquility to our nation.” Baldauf believes government has grown beyond its useful size and scope, and he has promised that his first act as governor will be to fully uphold his oath of office and strictly conform to the Constitution of the United States.

Baldauf would like to eliminate all direct Federal Income tax for all Floridians in both personal and business categories. He strongly opposes sanctuary cities and believes it is in the governor’s power to prosecute willful violators of immigration law.

Baldauf also believes that healthcare and health insurance coverage are different issues that need to be addressed separately. Regarding healthcare, Baldauf believes government has the responsibility to remove roadblocks and obstacles to achieve the standard of services people can afford or wish to purchase by opening the market to promote competition.

When it comes to the Second Amendment, Baldauf believes every person has a natural born right to protect and defend themselves against all threats. He does not believe the government has the right to limit the Second Amendment or enforce regulations that would limit anyone’s ability to protect themselves with a firearm.

For more information, visit www.itsarepublic.com.

From www.itsarepublic.com



RON DESANTIS (Republican)

Currently the U.S. Representative for Florida’s Sixth District, Ron DeSantis has been endorsed by President Donald Trump, Fox News’ Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham and radio host Mark Levin for his gubernatorial bid.

While in Congress, DeSantis has led efforts to impose term limits cut taxes, repeal ObamaCare, relocate America’s embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, prevent American tax dollars from being sent to Iran, combat radical Islamic terrorism, stop illegal immigration and defund sanctuary cities.

A native Floridian with blue-collar roots, DeSantis worked his way through Yale University, where he graduated with honors and was the captain of the varsity baseball team. He also graduated with honors from Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, DeSantis earned a commission in the U.S. Navy as a JAG officer. During his active-duty service, he supported operations at the terrorist detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and deployed to Iraq as an adviser to a U.S. Navy SEAL commander in support of the SEAL mission in Fallujah, Ramadi, and the rest of Al Anbar province. His military decorations include the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He has also served as a federal and military prosecutor.

DeSantis is married to his wife, Casey, an Emmy Award-winning television host. They have a daughter, Madison, and son, Mason.

For more information, visit rondesantis.com.

From rondesantis.com



ANDREW GILLUM (Democrat)

Andrew Gillum was born in Miami where his mother drove a school bus and his father was a construction worker. After being the first in his family to graduate from college, the Miami native went on to become the youngest person in history to be elected to the Tallahassee City Commission. He later became mayor and contributed 15 years in public service.

As mayor, Gillum developed the local economy, fought the gun lobby in court to promote reform and defended the rights of immigrants.

He is running for governor to rebuild the state’s economy, revitalize public education, protect and expand healthcare access and address the climate change crisis with a clean energy economy. He also wants to strengthen public schools and end the culture of high-stakes testing.

Gillum has promised to fight against special interests that are standing in the way of acting against climate change and ensuring Florida is a welcome and safe place for everyone.

Gillum believes in criminal justice reform; gun regulations such as a ban on assault weapons, bump stocks and large capacity magazines; LGBT equality; women’s rights, the abolishment of ICE in its current form and more.

Furthermore, Gillum is a strong supporter of Puerto Rico, and he plans to use his platform as governor to advocate for new federal legislation and assistance.

For more information, visit www.andrewgillum.com.

From www.andrewgillum.com



GWEN GRAHAM (Democrat)

In 2014, Gwen Graham challenged a Tea Party congressman in Florida’s 2nd Congressional District. She ran on a promise to fight for the middle class and campaigned in every corner of the district. Graham won her race and became one of just two Democrats in the nation to defeat an incumbent Republican.

On the campaign and throughout her time in Congress, Graham has followed in the footsteps of her father — Gov. Bob Graham — by participating in “Graham Workdays,” where she spends an entire shift working alongside fellow Floridians. Her jobs have included work on farms, teaching in public schools and training with the United States Air Force in a T-38 jet.

Graham grew up enjoying Florida’s natural treasures. As a result, she is committed to protecting Florida’s air and waters. Graham also believes in criminal justice reform, healthcare as a human right, making Florida a solar state, LGBT equality, women’s rights, gun safety, comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship, ethics and government transparency, women’s rights and more.

For more information, visit www.gwengraham.com.

From www.gwengraham.com



JEFF GREENE (Democrat)

Jeff Greene is committed to fighting for Florida’s families and putting everyday Floridians first. Greene doesn’t want families to work three jobs to put food on the table. His goal is to facilitate a school system that guarantees students an education preparing them for high-paying jobs, that also ensures their teachers fair compensation.

Greene believes in a woman’s right to choose, helping citizens gain access to high-quality, low-cost healthcare, protecting communities from gun violence through common sense gun reforms, standing up to President Donald Trump on immigration, LGBT equality, protecting the environment, providing affordable housing, criminal justice reform, prioritizing public education and raising Florida’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

As a teenager, Greene’s family lost everything, and he saw his parents go from owning a small business to working blue-collar jobs to get by. Following the death of his father at age 51, he found nothing but stacks of bills on his desk. A strong public-school education, government-subsidized student loans and work-study programs helped him rebuild. Greene eventually graduated from college, received his MBA and achieved what he calls “the American Dream.”

For more information, visit www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com.

From www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com



CHRIS KING (Democrat)

Born in Orlando, Chris King is a third-generation Central Floridian. He graduated from Harvard University and earned his law degree from the University of Florida. Over a dozen years ago, with the idea that businesses had a responsibility to “do well and do good,” King and his brother started Elevation, a company that provides seniors across the state and Southeast affordable housing options.

With his family, King started several charitable efforts to serve their community, including the Elevation Scholars program, which provides college scholarship opportunities to low-income students in Orange County. The Elevation Global Initiative funds family farming and environmental efforts in Haiti, entrepreneurship training in East Africa and prisoner rehabilitation in U.S. prisons. He also helped launch the Elevation Academy, a school in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo that serves 700 low-income students.

King met his wife Kristen when he was 15 years old. They are raising their three children in Orlando.

From www.chrinkingforflorida.com

Note: Timothy M. Devine and Bob Langford will both be listed as candidates in Florida’s gubernatorial race. The Recorder, however, was unable to get in contact with either candidate or find information about them online.

GOVERNOR CONT.



PHILIP LEVINE (Democrat)

Philip Levine is the former two-term mayor of Miami Beach, entrepreneur and philanthropist. A native of South Florida since the age of 10, Levine has spent most of his career in the private sector as an entrepreneur, building successful businesses in his community.

As mayor, Levine spearheaded an ambitious series of solutions to combat sea level rise — installing pumps and raising roads — which are now a model for cities around the world. He helped reform a broken police department, developed new public transportation options, helped to pass the first living minimum wage in the state of Florida in Miami Beach and oversaw a city that was one of only a handful in the country to win consecutive perfect scores for LGBTQ+ inclusiveness during his tenure.

Levine is now running for governor this year, hoping to bring a progressive vision and the same get-it-done attitude to Tallahassee.

For more information, visit phililevine2018.com.

Submitted by the candidate



ALEX 'LUNDY' LUNDMARK (Democrat)

Lundy Lundmark is a Rotarian, Eagle Scout, realtor, pilot and first-generation immigrant. He is running because he envisions a different future for Florida.

Lundmark was born in Russia, adopted by a loving family at age 10. He grew up in Vero Beach and studied at Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. He earned a degree in business financing, with an emphasis in real estate. He retired at the age of 31. Before committing to the gubernatorial race, he spent as much time as possible flying to accumulate hours and skills to work for a commercial airline.

Lundmark decided to run because he saw the first three debates and was not satisfied with the vision of Florida's future from the other candidates. He ran to give Floridians a different and better option.

Lundmark envisions a future where students are challenged, inspired and enriched on a daily basis; all Floridians look up to law enforcement, at all ages; Florida's compassion shines as bright as the sun; the state never pursues the death penalty, with the victim's family even having the ability to reduce or even eliminate the perpetrator's prison sentence, saving significant taxpayer's dollars; and court orders are required to pull over vehicles to keep residents safe and protected.

For more information, visit www.GovLundy.com.

Submitted by the candidate



JOHN JOSEPH MERCADANTE (Republican)

Born and raised in a suburb of Boston, John Joseph Mercadante is an active member of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, District 40, as well as a lead in the Grass Root's movement team. Mercadante has received the Order of Merit for volunteering in a congressional election for the former mayor of Cutler Bay. Additionally, Mercadante is a member of the Republican National Committee's Presidential Advisory Board, a member of Judicial Watch and a charter member of the Republican National Committee. He is a frequent guest of the Miami Young Republicans and has been involved in Project Majority Red, led by the Republican Party of Florida.

Mercadante believes in enhancing the state's transportation by pushing for light rail vehicles, an improved bus system and more. The candidate would like to protect blue-collar workers from workers compensation abuse, resolve nursing home abuse and improve the economy by treating the state of Florida like a business. Furthermore, Mercadante is determined to fight corruption and represent Florida while upholding his Republican oath.

For more information on Mercadante visit www.patriotforthestate.com.

From www.patriotforthestate.com



BRUCE NATHAN (Republican)

Bruce Nathan has been a physical therapist for over 20 years. He moved to Florida in 2000 to work for the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

Nathan joined the United States Army Reserves directly after the 9/11 attacks. At the time, Nathan was a member of the Democratic Party. However, he eventually switched to the Republican Party.

Nathan believes that elected officials should not live in an ivory tower. As governor, he plans to open satellite offices to increase his ability to meet with all who want to share their thoughts and ideas on the issues facing Florida, and the U.S. as a whole.

If elected, the candidate also wants to fight human trafficking, the opioid epidemic and government corruption; assist and support veterans; secure Florida's Medicaid system from potential hacks; support hemp farming; and work directly with Florida residents to tackle state issues.

For more information on Nathan, visit www.bruceNathan2018.com.

From bruceNathan2018.com



ADAM PUTNAM (Republican)

As a fifth-generation Floridian from Bartow, Putnam spent his life raising cattle and growing citrus. Putnam, along with wife Melissa, have built a family in Florida and taught their kids the values of hard work, self-reliance and perseverance.

Putnam has pledged to protect religious freedom and work with faith-based communities to address societal challenges. He has promised to help home-school families navigate Florida's education system, protect gun rights and support veterans. He believes in defending constitutional freedoms, removing judicial activism from court benches, various faith-based and community-based initiatives and more. Putnam is pro-life and boasts a 100 percent National Right to Life lifetime rating.

Putnam, a recipient of the Defender of Faith and Freedom award from the Florida Faith and Freedom Coalition, plans on combating the opioid crisis; standing by those suffering from addiction and substance abuse disorders while providing support and treatment for those seeking sobriety; caring for the 41,000 children in Florida's child welfare system; sharing a message of redemption for inmates through prison ministries; feeding the hungry and more.

For more information, visit adamputnam.com.

From adamputnam.com



JOHN WETHERBEE (Democrat)

John Wetherbee has lived in Florida for 17 years, with time spent in Miami, Gainesville and now the Treasure Coast. By living in various regions of the state, Wetherbee has been able to connect with a wide number of residents and learn more about their issues with the quality of water in their area.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Wetherbee went to work as a mechanical engineer for Dupont and then Westinghouse, both contracted by the Department of Energy. He now owns and manages a small business in the Treasure Coast area, employing local workers as they provide for their families. Throughout his career, Wetherbee has learned the fundamentals of how large and small businesses function, even in the government sector. He has seen the impact of government decisions first-hand as they came down from Washington and is now seeking to apply his knowledge and experience toward restoring Florida's water systems and saving its wildlife.

For more information, visit www.johnwetherbee.com.

From www.johnwetherbee.com



BOB WHITE (Republican)

Bob White is a Polk County native running a campaign based on changing the environment, ending government corruption and promoting conservative values. The chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida and Central East Florida and the founder and former chairman of the Liberty Catalyst Fund, White is a fourth-generation Floridian.

White has made a commitment to defending the integrity of Florida's elections and promoting meaningful campaign finance reform. He is passionate about curbing the growing influence of special interest money in the political and legislative process, along with reducing regulations and creating jobs.

Regarding education, White believes in eliminating Common Core and reducing the burdens associated with excessive standardized testing. White is a supporter of the Second Amendment. He has promised to work with the Florida legislature for the revocation of government-mandated "Gun Free Zones" and support open carry by concealed carry weapons licensees.

The candidate does not support sanctuary cities. When it comes to abortion, White believes that life begins at conception and he has vowed to reduce the number of abortions performed in Florida.

For more information, visit www.bobforflorida.com.

From www.bobforflorida.com



Lifelong Republican

*Working together we
can keep St. Johns the
wonderful place to
live that it is. Please
know that you can
always count on me.
I respectfully ask for
your support.*

Paid by Erika Alba, Republican, for St. Johns
County Commission, District 4

904-373-0660

www.ErikaAlba.com

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FOR ST JOHNS COUNTY
COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

Alba

Conservative Leadership For Our Future

Lifelong Republican Erika Alba is a True Conservative and exactly who we need for Commissioner.

As a Deputy District Attorney, she prosecuted sexual predators. As a corporate attorney she fought against government regulations.

Now she is running for Commissioner to protect our taxpayers, ensure our schools are safe, our parks and recreational facilities maintained, and that our economy thrives.

Erika Alba - the conservative voice in St. Johns County.



"Being a former prosecutor and an experienced leader, Erika is the true conservative our county needs."

Senator Travis Hutson, FL Senate, District 7.