

July 12, 2018

Dear Candidates,

On behalf of Clay Family Policy Forum, we feel the need to respond to your correspondence related to the 2018 Voter Guide. The objective of the guide is to inform like-minded voters on which candidates share their worldview on a wide range of issues including some that *don't appear* to have a direct relation to specific issues in the county at this time. Those positions suggest how and from where the candidate discerns right from wrong, good from bad, legal from illegal and the foundation to decide unknown future issues. Certainly all Clay County voters don't share the same worldview and values but a portion do and they like having a resource to determine which candidates align most closely with theirs.

We all have experienced the flood of campaign material each election season with glossy vagaries declaring that their candidate stands for everything good and opposes everything bad and is clearly the most qualified. Certainly specific experience and training are a plus in some offices but those are not the only (and in the minds of some) not the most important qualities.

The CFPF does not choose or endorse candidates and we certainly don't presume to tell voters how to vote. Our target audience wants a glimpse into the candidate's worldview as revealed by their position on specific topics and make their choice accordingly; without regard to the individual personality. We understand that all issues don't lend themselves so easily to digital answers, but many do, and much can be gleaned from those. Forums and debates have their place and we don't expect those who value the CFPF Voter Guide to consider it the only resource available.

Four years ago complaints were lodged regarding information which had not been directly contributed by the candidate showing up on the voter guide. That information was all publicly available information and was deemed informative to voters.

Florida Statute 1002.33 (Student and Parental Rights and Educational Choices) opens with this statement .... "Charter schools shall be part of the state's program of public education." While we understand your angst at losing control of those funds, the state legislature has provided a way for taxpayers to have a *choice* in the curriculum for their children. The St Johns Classical Academy apparently complied with all state application requirements and was approved by the Clay District School Board. How that reflects negatively on Clay Family Policy Forum is a mystery. My husband, Alan has not been affiliated in any way with SJCA in over a year and a half and his initial affiliation was no more part of CFPF policies than Ms. Kerekes' husband is of the school board.

We hope that some of your concerns have been clarified.

Sincerely,

*Mary Lib Stevenson*  
*Clay Family Policy Forum, President*