

**Comment by Mark Landreth:**

For me, the candidate interviews have been very helpful and very informative. I know those of you who were in Miami had several races clarified after we met with the candidates. In Pensacola, we were able to see a candidate I'd met several months ago who seemed nice, but just wasn't very polished. This time around he was far more polished and struck me as someone who was turning the primary into a serious horse race. In Orlando, we met a democratic candidate who could take a republican seat, depending on which of the republicans wins the primary. All in all, the FAPL candidate interviews are a wonderfully cost-effective way to see a multitude of candidates.

**Thank you to Erica Chanti, a staff assistant for Bob Levy for the following notes.**

June 13<sup>th</sup> FAPL Candidate Screenings in Pensacola

**Clay Ingram- HD2**

Info- made ballot by collecting signatures; former Escambia REC chair, served as Jeff Miller's district coordinator for HD2.

Finances- \$34,383 raised, \$3,064 in kind, spent \$9,249.

Endorsements- PDA, Florida Right to Life, Retail Federation, FMA and FNA.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: Won't cut taxes but will make cuts at the bureaucratic level not the service level. Our state is too top heavy but we have to refrain from making cuts at the service level. Medicaid is 1 of the 2 largest state expenses and we have to work harder on eliminating fraud because money is wasted there. Unfunded mandates are the biggest problem we have. We have to cut the red tape in regards to the federal government.

Q: What committees would you want to serve on?

A: HealthCare, Military and Economic Development

Q: What do you feel is the appropriate role of local government?

A: Decisions are better made by local officials and we should operate with a laissez faire philosophy.

Q: If you're running for reelection in a couple of years, what would you like to say you have accomplished?

A: Tremendously cut bureaucracy and go back to businesses (small) and show them how it has helped them improve.

Q: What can we do to keep jobs in Florida?

A: We must reduce government because we lose a lot of companies to Alabama and Georgia because of too much government involvement and taxes.

Q: What would you do at the special session?

A: Cut the red tape and make it easier for people to get resources. We need to make cuts and changes with the bureaucracy.

Q: What is your opinion on lobbyists and how would you use them?

A: They are the best policy educators and always have the most information. I have had positive experiences with them thus far and I will work with them in the future.

Q: What is your position on SB6?

A: We need to make some changes. Teachers don't have control over things that they are held accountable for. For example, students lack of attendance result in bad grades, which makes the teacher responsible.

Q: How are you connecting with voters?

A: I go door to door and have spoken with over 3000 voters.

### **David Karasek- HD2**

Info- made ballot by collecting signatures; FHP Trooper for over 30 years and retired as captain in charge of the Pensacola district; Wife and son are troopers; served as district commander in Pensacola for 17 years.

Finances- \$17, 275 raised, \$300 loaned, and \$1,452 in kind, \$11,654 spent.

Endorsements- Florida Association of State Troopers, Local Fire Department Association, FICO.

Q: Over the next 5-10 years, what are the 3 most critical things we should address within our infrastructure?

A: I am against amendment 4, we need to improve our roadwork in Florida but especially in Escambia, and we need to cut down the Department of Community Affairs.

Q: What 3 committees would you like to serve on?

A: Education, Transportation and Criminal Justice.

Q: If you're running for reelection, what are some things you would like to say you've done?

A: I worked with DCA and made appropriate cuts, made getting permits easier, and that I promoted economic development by the growth of jobs.

Q: How are you connecting with voters?

A: I go door to door and send out mail to enhance my name recognition.

Q: What are your ideas about the federal and local government's role in the BP spill?

A: The federal government has done nothing but take photo ops.

Q: What is the first bill you want to file?

A: Reducing the power of DCA and streamline permitting to make Florida more business friendly. I will not change my prolife, traditional marriage, 10<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment positions. I also oppose SB6.

Q: What is your position on Medicaid reform?

A: It consumes a huge chunk of our budget and we need to deal with Medicaid fraud by working with percentage awards instead of a steady incentive.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: We are too top heavy and our administration is getting bigger. We have to look at consolidating at the state level but without making cuts at the service level. Safety, health and education are the important services and we need to reexamine the top level of government and consolidate.

Q: What is your position on our transportation?

A: we need better stewards with energy. We need building turn around and to make the small business climate more attractive through innovative transportation.

**Greg Brown HD1**

Info- He is the namesake of the Escambia County Property Appraiser and was Peaden's aid; campaign being handled by Zubaly and Pennington, in mid to late 20s, made ballot by collecting signatures.

Finances- \$17,350 raised, \$1000 loaned, \$147 in kind, \$2232 spent.

Endorsements- FMA, PBA.

Q: What do you consider to be some of our main issues?

A: The oil spill is diverting away our tourism.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: We cannot raid trust funds. We have to reduce the corporate income tax and look at a possible streamline sales tax. We need more tax incentives for businesses.

Q: Do you have any healthcare ideas?

A: We should look more closely at the Medicaid reimbursement process.

Q: What committees do you want to serve on?

A: Agriculture, Military and Economic recovery (it's big locally). I wouldn't mind Healthcare and Education.

Q: What's your position on SB6?

A: There are no incentives for teachers to seek higher education.

Q: How do you feel about home rule authority?

A: We need to bring issues from Tallahassee to our local governments where they can be executed well. We can't generalize.

Q: How can we attract new businesses?

A: We need incentives involving property tax and property insurance. We need to play off our medical and military facilities and provide extra incentives to the border communities.

Q: How do you feel about the BP situation and what should be addressed during the special session?

A: We need to address the property values of homes that were assessed on January 1. Our country needs to go to BP to recover revenue otherwise we have to pull it from our inland homes.

**Doug Broxson- HD1**

Info-Insurance agent from FAIA; being handled by Front Line Strategies; family has been in the PNS area for over 200 years; business oriented candidate.

Finances-\$112,975 raised, \$50,000 loaned, and \$74 in kind, \$19,241 spent.

Endorsements- Air force, Associated industries of Florida, Florida Retail Association, FNA, ABC.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: Medicaid we have to reduce fraud. We need to bring overseas companies to the US (Florida) so they can employ people.

Q: What committees would you want to serve on?

A: Insurance and commerce. The best government is local government.

Q: How do you feel about amendment 4?

A: against

Q: How do you feel about the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights?

A: I haven't signed it yet but everyone in this business needs to understand risk taking. Without risk taking, we can't have businesses.

### **Ferdinand Salomon- HD1**

Info-involved with commercial real estate after retiring as a Captain in the Navy where he flew, earned a BA degree from Duke.

Finances- \$7,825 raised, \$5000 loaned, and \$0 in kind, \$3,672 spent.

Endorsements- none yet

Q: Where does your fundraising come from?

A: Friends and family. My campaign is extremely locally based and I don't have huge company backings.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: We have to separate our needs from our wants. We need to find where the state and local government duplicate in order to consolidate. If something is not done by the state, it should be privatized. We can save money by consolidating our agencies.

Q: Who should pay for growth after the BP oil spill? What does Alabama have that Florida doesn't?

A: Alabama has a local sales option tax and Florida needs to provide more incentives to generate revenue. We should focus on expanding our military based economy.

### **Mike Hill-SD2**

Info- made ballot by paying qualifying fee. Mikehill4senate.com; Consultants- Don Brown and Doug McAlarney.

Finances- \$42,635 raised, \$0 loaned, and \$3,490 in kind, \$16,623 spent.

Endorsements- War Colonel Bud Day, Local Community Tea Party's of Walton, Navarro, Niceville, Pensacola and Santa Rosa.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: Cut spending and find redundancies within our government. Attack Medicaid fraud because we are the state with the highest amount of fraud. We have a huge problem with unfunded mandates and limiting our government.

Q: What committees would you want to serve on?

A: Ways and Means, Rules.

Q: What do you think the role of lobbyists should be within the government?

A: to inform not influence.

Q: Why did you decide to run for Senate?

A: I am not a career politician and those who are in the Senate have the loudest voice.

Q: What do you think about the BP spill and tourism?

A: The government needs to partner with small businesses. We are making a mistake by focusing on the spill and not concentrating and rebuilding tourism. Demonizing BP won't solve our problem, suing them is a mistake because it prevents them from being open since everything can be used against them. The special session will be counterproductive.

**Greg Evers- SD2**

Info- made ballot by collecting signatures; consultant is Sarah Bascom.

Finances-\$284, 894 raised. \$250 loaned \$3708 in kind \$46,865 spent

Q: What do you think is the biggest issue in the panhandle?

A: How to throw the bums out and how to get people to vote. We cannot tap into trust funds either.

Q: What do you think about the property value issue with the oil spill?

A: The state needs to respond with the attorney general with BP.

Q: What committees would you like to serve on?

A: Education and medical. We need more money for charter schools and for public schools art and athletic programs. Students need to be able to be well rounded for the future.

Q: There is a projected \$6 billion dollar deficit in the 2011-12 budget. How would you cope with this? Which services would you cut and what ideas do you have to bring revenue to Florida?

A: Medicaid fraud to begin with. I am not on the managed care side. We need to get government out of businesses because of their overregulation. It's stifling our small counties and we need to be more flexible in zoning, and address the problems DCA creates.