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Levy County Commissioner John Meeks seeks re-election



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By John Meeks
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LEVY COUNTY -- Hello, my name is John Meeks and it has been my privilege to represent you as

District 1 County Commissioner for the last three and one-half years. My wife Stephanie and I have been married for 13 years. We live in Bronson with our four children Liam, 10, Carson 8, Nolan 5 and Rennie, 2. I am the son of Robert and Mary Meeks of Bronson. We attend Ellzey Methodist Church. I am currently the manager of Bronson Ace Hardware, a position I have held for the last 14 years. I graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

The role of commissioner is one I take very seriously. I am a firm believer that more is accomplished with cooperation than with conflict and controversy. I believe my position is that of a Servant Representative. I have always been available to serve the citizens of Levy County, no matter the time of day or night. The same issues that matter to you matter to me. I have fought to keep taxes affordable and control spending within our budget. Attracting jobs and tax base are important to me.

In the past two years, the Board has passed two tax incentives to attract businesses. Unfortunately, until we improve transportation corridors, high speed Internet connectivity, and infrastructure, businesses will continue to overlook Levy County. Currently I am working on solutions to these problems. In the meantime, we must continue to support and grow the small businesses and industries we do have -- like agriculture and ecotourism.

My leadership begins at the local level. I have been unanimously selected to serve as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners the last two years. I have identified local issues that needed attention and worked to correct them. These projects include; the sidewalk at Bronson High School, the Waccasassa Bay Channel Markers, and the water project at University Oaks, just to name a few. Four years ago, I made a promise to improve emergency services. I am proud to say we have added two EMS stations and a seventh EMS unit. Also, we were just recently informed the ISO rating in areas served by county fire improved dramatically. All of this was accomplished without an increase in assessments since I took office.

On the state level, I have worked hard to protect Levy county and its citizens. I serve as a member of the Gulf Consortium, a committee of all 23 Gulf Counties. I led the charge for an even split of the "pot 3" monies that were fines against BP. This resulted in over almost \$14 million instead of \$7.5 million to be used here in Levy County for local restoration and

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improvements. In addition, I serve as the co-chair of the Growth Management, Environment and Agricultural Committee. This legislative session we successfully lobbied to stop “fracking” and pass the Springs Protection bill. These are two items of major importance to us here in this county.

Other roles I perform include as a board member of Florida Association of Counties (Senate District 5), I-75 relief taskforce, North Central Florida Planning Council, Transportation Disadvantage Coordination Board (Chairman), Tourism Development (Chairman), Announcer for Bronson High Athletics, Charter Member for Sons of AmVets Post 88

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I humbly ask for your vote on Aug. 30, so that I may continue to diligently work for you, the citizens of Levy County.