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One candidate for Congress, one candidate for agriculture commissioner and four gubernatorial candidates show up for Levy County voters

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 5, 2018 at 7 a.m.

WILLISTON – Six men running for one federal elected office and two elected state offices visited Levy County a week ago Saturday (July 28).

Another 24 candidates are seeking those three spots too. The political forum was hosted by Citizens for and Engaged Electorate, and that group invited all parties running for federal, state and county offices where Levy County voters could cast their ballots.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Brandon Peters, Democrat for United States House of Representatives, Florida Congressional District 2.

Brandon Peters is one of two Democrats running to take the place of incumbent Neal Dunn as the member of the United States House of Representatives, Florida Congressional District 2.

Dunn has won the Aug. 28 Republican primary because no other Republican qualified to run against him.

Democrats will choose between Peters and Bob Ragle in the Democratic primary on Aug. 28.

Peters, who lives in Levy County, said he is running because he is tired of all of the political

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bullies.

“It’s time for leadership,” he said, “and I want to be your next congressman.”

Peters said he is running on “a very strong pro-people platform.” The AFL-CIO has endorsed him as the candidate to elect, he said.

The Democratic Labor Caucus of Florida, the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida, endorse him as well, Peters said, “... because I care about people.”

Peters will seek the establishment of a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, he said. For part-time employees, the minimum wage he wants to see is \$16.50.

Another mission on Peters’ list is to make Medicare available for every man, woman and child in the United States of America.

For a country that put human beings on the moon, revolutionized technology and defeated fascism, Peters think the United States has the ability to assure that every human in the country can have access to healthcare.

Peters also prefers lowering taxes for the middleclass working families.

“The next tax cut, people, is ours,” Peters said. “We’re OK with the billionaires and the multi-national corporations that got the last one. We get the next one.”

Peters promises to protect Social Security, and will seek to expand it. He wants people to be eligible at the age of 65 rather than the 67 years old that it stands at now.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



Jeffrey Porter, Democrat for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

Jeffrey "Jeff" Porter, a Democrat who is the mayor of Homestead (Miami-Dade County), is seeking election to be the next Florida Commissioner of Agriculture.

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The other candidates who have qualified to run for this office are Matt Caldwell (Rep.); Nicole "Nikki" Fried (Dem.); Denise Grimsley (Rep.); Mike McCalister (Rep.); Baxter Troutman (Rep.); and Roy David Walker (Dem.).

Born in Homestead, he and his wife of 24 years have lived their almost all of their lives. He has been the mayor of Homestead for five years, and served on the City Council for 10 years.

Porter said he is running because he has seen agriculture die as a viable industry in his community. There was a time when there were 30,000 acres of tomatoes grown in his part of Florida. Now that is down to 3,000 acres and in two years, he sees that crop as no longer being grown there.

Porter reminds voters that the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture is also the head of the Department of Consumer Services.

Of all 50 states, Florida is ranked as number one in fraud cases, Porter said.

Porter said the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services had problems with its part in the issuance of conceal-carry weapons licenses.

The reason to elect Porter, he said, is because he has a significant amount of experience with local government. He has been the mayor of a city with a \$200 million budget. He is over the police, water, sewer, an electric generation plant and the electric distribution center and other departments in Homestead.

He sees the need for helping agriculture remain a strong part of the economic engine of Florida.

In answering questions, Porter reminded the listeners that the Commissioner of Agriculture is part of The Florida Cabinet and will have an impact from that seat as well.

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA



The four candidates for who came to Levy County on Aug. 28 (seen here from left) are Bruce Stanley, Alex Lundmark, John Joseph Mercadante and Darcy Richardson.

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Of the four candidates running for governor, only one faces no opposition on Aug. 28.

Darcy Richardson is in the Reform Party and no other candidate in that party qualified for this race.

The other three men who showed up in Levy County to meet the people were Alex Lundmark (Dem.); John Joseph Mercadante (Rep.) and Bruce Stanley (No Party Affiliation).

The other candidates for governor who did not come to Levy County on July 28 are Don Baldauf (Rep.); Piotr Blass (Write In Candidate); Henry Choice (Write In Candidate); Ron DeSantis, Ron (Rep.); Timothy M. Devine (Rep.); Ryan Christopher Foley (No Party Affiliation); Kyle "KC" Gibson (No Party Affiliation); Andrew Gillum (Dem.); Gwen Graham (Dem.); Jeff Greene (Dem.); Raphael Herman (No Party Affiliation); Hal Johnson (Write In Candidate); Chris King (Dem.); Anthony "Tony" Knox (Write In Candidate); Bob Langford (Rep.); Monroe Lee (Write In Candidate); Philip Levine (Dem.); Bruce Nathan (Rep.) Adam H. Putnam (Rep.); John Wetherbee (Dem.); Bob White (Rep.); and Ellen Marie Wilds (Write In Candidate).