



Manatee-Sarasota Group Boca Sierra



Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress 2016 ELECTION ISSUE

Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Group Candidate Endorsements

Florida State Senate and House Candidates

Frank Alcock, Florida State Senate district 23 - If elected, Frank's top environmental priorities would include, appropriate allocation of Amendment 1 dollars, funding to address the Lake Okeechobee/St. Lucie/Caloosahatchee nutrient pollution, advocate for better growth management policies and enforcement, allocation of appropriate resource to combat climate change and protecting the state from fracking and offshore drilling initiatives. www.electfrankalcock.com

Edward James III, Florida House of Representatives district 72 - If elected, Edward's top environmental priorities would include, improved water quality standards, more funding for land acquisition, working to ensure that the Department of Environmental Protection is more proactive. He will also fight to see that the documentary tax proceeds earmarked for Amendment 1 are used to "acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation land" as the overwhelming majority of voters intended. Additionally, he recognizes climate change and sea-level rise to be urgent priorities that demand the attention of policymakers. www.ej3forflorida.com

A Sierra Club endorsement also brings with it the active support and participation of the Group's members. There are 2,400 Sierra Club households in Manatee and Sarasota Counties, possibly representing over 4,000 individuals. The voters among those households can be a decisive factor in a local race. Our voters are strongly encouraged to:

- * offer the endorsed candidates financial support
- * volunteer for a candidate's campaign work
- * spread the word among family and friends
- * post yard signs, wear t-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers
- * attend campaign events
- * get to know the candidate
- * write letters to the editor in support of a candidate

and above all..... VOTE

The Sierra Club Endorsement Process

A Sierra Club political endorsement is no small thing. It is the end result of a rigorous process developed over decades to ensure that only truly environmental candidates are endorsed, and that the candidates themselves are knowledgeable and engaged in environmental protection.

It starts with an invitation to participate. If the invitation is declined or ignored, that alone says a great deal about that candidate. The candidate who accepts the invitation fills out a detailed questionnaire and submits it. If the questionnaire seems genuine, we request an interview.

The interview takes place with the candidate, alone, and a small number (3-4) of PAC members. It covers gaps in the questionnaire, looks for more detailed answers, and confirmation that the candidate did indeed fill it out, and was not depending on staff. There are also questions that were left out of the questionnaire for extemporaneous discussion, again, to determine where the candidate's priorities are.

In order for a candidate to be endorsed they must be approved by three and some cases four levels of club approval.

Only when this last hurdle has been crossed can the candidate claim to be endorsed by Sierra Club. The process is strictly non-partisan.

NONE of our endorsed Sierra candidates are career politicians! They are concerned citizens who have worked to better their communities. Please support these citizen heroes by voting for them, telling others about them, and supporting their campaigns in any way you can.

Elect
MANNY LOPEZ

for
State Representative
District #74 • Democrat
www.electmannylopez.com

Strong supporter of ...

- Solar energy - Make Florida the Solar Energy State.
- No Fracking.
- Protect environment from development.
- Protect our drinking water.
- Insuring funds for Florida water & land conservation are spent as intended.

Ad paid by Manny Lopez Democrat for State Rep District 74

Sarasota County Charter Review Board Candidates

Arlene Sweeting, district 1 - When she moved to Florida in 1993 she joined the Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club and held various leadership positions – including Publications Chair, Publicity Chair, Conservation Chair and Group Chair. She served as the Florida Sierra Club's State Conservation Chair for two years. She also served on Manatee County's Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee for several years in the late 90s and was also appointed to serve on the Imagine Manatee Visioning Steering Committee (2002-2004).

Karen Collins-Fleming, district 2 - Her graduate studies in urban and regional planning focused on environmental planning. In her position as Environmental Services Coordinator in the Manatee County Administrator's office, she drafted several chapters of the new Land Development Code, most notably the County's wetland protection regulations, with input from a citizens' committee established to assist with the LDC process. Later, as Director of the Environmental Management Department (1992-2008), she worked on revisions to the Phosphate Mining Ordinance.

Tom Patalano, district 3 - He is against developer subsidies placed on the backs of citizens with little or no input from the public sector. He would also support an amendment to help ensure protection of property and habitat from rising sea levels.

Ray Porter, district 4 - During his time as a newspaper reporter he covered stories that shed light on the need for environmental protections. His articles dealt with the City of Venice's program to achieve lower water usage, the early stages of the county's recycling program, the county's move away from septic systems toward central sewage, the fight against deep well injection for wastewater and many other articles covering environmental concerns.

Mike Shlasko, district 5 - For seven years Mike has been a permitted volunteer with Coastal Wildlife Club, Inc. in Englewood doing sea turtle conservation work on Manasota Key. He has conducted shore bird surveys in Venice and Englewood for the past five years and participated in the Florida Master Naturalist Coastal Systems program. Mike has testified in front of the Sarasota County Commission in opposition to the gutting of the 2050 Plan and opposes unnecessary private beach re-nourishment on Manasota Key. He also supported the Wildlife Center of Venice in its opposition to irresponsible development by Neal Communities in Venice.

What's a Charter Review Board?

Sarasota is the only state in Florida to have an elected Charter Review Board (CRB). Of the state's 67 counties, 20 have charters. The remainder follow the state constitution and rely upon the state legislature for resolution of local problems, often a time-consuming and unpredictable process.

The charter is essentially a local constitution. It cannot replace the State Constitution, but it can augment it. Nineteen counties have appointed charter review boards, and only Sarasota's is elected.

The elected Charter Review Board is both feared and loathed by the five or six developers who have absolute control over local government in the county. Even though most people have no idea what a CRB is or does, the developers fear its potential for disrupting their hegemony over local politics, hence they have proposed an amendment that will make the board appointed. If it were to be passed, virtually all power in county government will be in the developers' hands in perpetuity, because the election of county commissioners is dependent on vast sums of campaign contributions, often from dark-money PACs.

If all five of the endorsed CRB candidates are elected, there will be a powerful deterrent to the antidemocratic processes that the developers thrive on, and can draft, propose and bring up for a vote amendments such as single-member districts, in which commission candidates do not have to run county-wide, but can focus on their district only – a more attainable objective for grass-roots-funded candidates.

Sarasota County Commission Candidate

Fredd Atkins, Sarasota County Commission district 1 -

He has been on the Sarasota City Council and was mayor of Sarasota for two terms. A lifelong resident of the region, and a longtime resident of the Newtown district of north Sarasota, Fredd has been actively involved with many civic initiatives, including the preservation of neighborhood parks that were slated for development. Summers spent on his grandmother's farm in central Florida helped build his environmental awareness. In his own words:

"I have always understood the relationship between people and the environment over which we are stewards ... I believe it is the responsibility of every person to protect the environmental resources we have been blessed with, and it is imperative that we consider the environmental impact of everything we do, from personal choices to governmental levels. Protecting our resources is our duty to future generations, on a local and global level."

Fredd is running against Mike Moran, the anointed successor to Carolyn Mason, who was herself the product of the five-developer cabal that controls Sarasota county government. Mike is infamous for his lines of questioning and vote regarding approval of a rezoning at Foxfire West, a Carlos Beruff development – 200 houses tightly built directly on the edge of an old landfill full of toxic waste. Thanks to Mike, Sarasota has its own Love Canal. We do not need any more of his contributions to county government. For more information, visit <http://thedetail.net/2016/06/26/sarasotas-landfill-sandwich/> and www.foxfirewest.com

Manatee County Commission Candidate

Matt Bower, Manatee County Commission district 3 -

As an attorney and fishing guide who knows the regional waters intimately, Matt's primary focus is coastal protection. Bower was a leader against the Long Bar Pointe development. In his service on the Manatee County Planning Commission he is often the only vote in favor of land, water and habitat protection on a board dominated by

development interests. He is young, focused and shares many Sierra values. His was the lone vote on the Manatee County Planning Commission against approving a mining permit and rezone for Mosaic's Wingate East Mine, a hint of things to come if he joins the county commission.



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Executive Committee meetings are held once a month. For details about date and time contact Gerry Swormstedt, Group Chair.

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This newsletter is published monthly by the Manatee-Sarasota Group of the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. The intent is to inform members and interested individuals of local activities and national environmental issues. Members of the Sierra Club subscribe to Boca Sierra through their annual dues. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$6 annually.

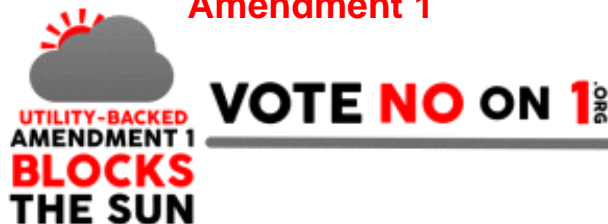
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Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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In addition to our endorsed candidates, The Florida Sierra Club is opposing Amendment 1



Fact 1 - Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar. Follow the money: Florida Power & Light (FPL), Duke Energy and other big power companies want to maintain their monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar. To date, the monopoly utilities have contributed the majority of the \$20 million collected to promote this Amendment to protect their power sales all the while claiming they are "pro-solar".

Fact 2 - Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers. The utility-backed Amendment 1 would add to the State Constitution the false assumption that solar customers are "subsidized" by non-solar customers and that non-solar customers are in need of additional protections. In fact, reputable studies in 10 states show that solar customers provide a net-benefit for the utility and all electricity customers. The large monopoly utilities are looking for ways to limit customer-owned solar and will use this false claim as a justification to implement unfair fees and discriminatory penalties for solar customers. Restrictions and unfair fees would make solar more expensive, limit the expansion of solar, and hurt consumers by denying a cost effective way to lower power bills.

Fact 3 - Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have. The monopoly utilities wrote Amendment 1 to sound good by promising that it would add new solar rights and consumer protections. Floridians already have the right to purchase or lease solar equipment and are already fully protected under Florida's existing consumer protection laws. The false promises of additional rights are designed to gain support for the Amendment, not to grow the solar market in Florida. LEARN MORE AT VoteNoOn1.org