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Business Voice Political Committee Announces Endorsement of Mayfield and Foster And Support of the 1/2 Cent Sales Tax to Fund Save Our Lagoon Plan

Melbourne, FL: The Business Voice Political Committee Board of Directors met after the August Primary and voted to support Debbie Mayfield, Republican for State Senate, and Randy Foster, Democrat for County Commission District 3, in the General Election. The group also voted to support the 1/2 cent Sales Tax to fund the Save Our Lagoon Plan.

“The state senate and the county commission have incredible impact on local economy, and we remain committed to supporting pro-business candidates who are prepared to serve,” states Kathryn Rudloff, Executive Director for the group.

“Debbie Mayfield has been a supporter of Florida businesses her entire legislative career” states the organization’s Chairman, Larry McIntyre. “She has proven to be a fighter and will continue to fight for the Space Coast up in Tallahassee.”

Business Voice members are committed to the health and growth of our regional economy and ensuring the Space Coast remains a great place to live, work and do business. The County Commission District 3 seat provided an opportunity to carefully consider both candidate's records and their plans for the county.

Randy Foster is a retired US Air Force Veteran and retired Supervisory Deputy US Marshall and since moving to Palm Bay has worked in the Brevard Juvenile Justice Department and the Brevard County School System. He has also served on the City of Palm Bay Advisory Board and participated in the County Citizen’s Academy. “Randy Foster has had an exemplary career serving this nation and our local community,” notes Rudloff. “Mr. Foster impressed our entire group with his thoughtful approach to balancing the needs of the county while respecting taxpayers and local job creators. His professional demeanor will undoubtedly make him an effective leader for the county.”

The group also investigated the challenges surrounding the clean up of the Indian River Lagoon, so they could learn more about the Save Our Lagoon Plan and the proposed 1/2 cent Sales Tax to fund it. One of the guiding principles of Business Voice is that smart growth and development should look at the region's long-term needs and require a pro-business solutions for water, energy, agriculture and infrastructure policy.

“While no one ever likes to support a tax increase, we must take ownership over this problem and come together to restore our Lagoon,” states McIntyre. “We can ask the State and Federal Government for help, but it is up to us to lead on this issue.” Seventy one percent of the Indian River Lagoon is located within Brevard County. If no action is taken, it is estimated our economy will lose \$526 million per year in lost tourism, property values and loss of local business. That number does not include the negative impact on health and quality of life factors for local residents.

These are the last two endorsements in this election season to be announced by the Business Voice Political Committee after a rigorous review of the area races, including candidate surveys and in person interviews. The non-partisan group, which includes a diverse assembly of business leaders from across the Space Coast region, is committed to supporting the most qualified candidates who will best serve the interests of the Space Coast region and local job creators. Now more than ever, we need pro-business candidates who recognize that the impact of their elected office extends beyond their district to the larger region. Business Voice members are committed to supporting candidates who are able to effectively govern and ensure that local and state government help, and not hinder,

our regional economy. Business Voice Political Committee will now work to support their campaigns and communicate directly with voters.

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Business Voice Political Action Committee, Inc. is a political committee organized and existing in accordance with Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and is an independent, autonomous organization not affiliated with any political party or political organization.

Business Voice engages businesses from across Brevard County and the Central Florida Region to provide a cohesive voice in political advocacy at the State, regional and local levels. Business Voice is operated on a non-partisan basis to promote pro-business candidates and a pro-business legislative agenda.