



The Indian River Neighborhood Association is pleased to send you our second newsletter and to present our platform of endorsed candidates.

Vol. 1 No. 2 – July 2004

IRNA ENDORSES BOWDEN, WHEELER, BAKER

On June 29, June 30 and July 1, a twelve-person interview team, drawn from the IRNA's membership across the county, exhaustively interviewed the fifteen candidates running for a seat on the county commission. Based on the results of the interview process, and the candidates' past record on key issues of importance to IRNA, the interview committee recommended three candidates for endorsement. On July 2, the 34 member Board of IRNA voted in person, and by conference call, to unanimously accept the recommendations of the interview committee. IRNA endorsed candidates are:

SANDRA BOWDEN

Republican-District 5

Sandra is a 37 year resident of Vero Beach with a long and distinguished background of public service in many key leadership roles. She served on the Indian River County School Board from 1987 until 1991. She was Vice Chairman from 1988 until 1989 and served as Chairman in 1991.

In 1997 she was elected to the Vero Beach City Council and served as Vice Mayor for 2 terms and Mayor in 2000-2001, 2003-2004.

She has played an active role on the Florida League of Cities as a member of the Executive Board, the International Relations Board, the Nominating Committee, Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Constitutional Committee.

Locally, she serves on the Indian River County Council of Public Officials where she was a former Chairman. She is a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Airport Study Committee, Emergency Services District Advisory Committee, and a

number of Republican Party organizations.

Sandra is a supporter of low rise, low density developments with open green space, preserving the integrity of residential areas, and conservation of the Indian River lagoon. She also believes development should pay its own way and is in favor of acquiring environmentally sensitive land for conservation and recreational use. She has an excellent voting record as a City of Vero Beach councilor on matters of concern to the Indian River Neighborhood Association.

GARY WHEELER

Republican-District 3

Gary has had a long career in law enforcement, starting with the police department in Horsesheads, New York in 1966. He is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Program at the FBI National Academy and was elected Indian River County Sheriff in 1992, continuing in that role until 2001. Prior to that, he was elected to the Indian River County Commission in 1986 where he served as

Vice Chairman and Chairman. He has had an extensive record of community involvement, including serving on the Vero Beach Airport Development Commission, the United Way Board, Council on Aging, and the Indian River County Public Safety Commission where he was a past Vice Chairman. He is a past President of the Vero Beach Rotary Club and has been a member for 22 years with a perfect attendance record.

In addition to our endorsement, Gary has received the endorsement of the Indian River Firefighters Association.

Gary has already served prior terms as a County Commissioner, knows the county's political structure well, and is a strong advocate of controlling county growth.

DICK BAKER

Democrat-District 1

Dick has had a diverse and accomplished career. He holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from University of Illinois. He has 28 years of experience as the Director of

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medical and entomology research laboratories in Florida, Maryland and Pakistan. He is Professor Emeritus at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, University of Florida/IFAS, Vero Beach. He is co-author of *Reflections of Blue Cypress, Photographs, History and Poems of the Headwater Lake of the St. Johns River*. He is also author of 99 published scientific journal articles and a white paper on Florida Mosquito Control.

He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, Corps of Engineers from 1959-1969.

His extensive community involvement includes an appointment by Gov. Jeb Bush as Indian River County's conservation member to the Committee for a

Sustainable Treasure Coast. He is Chairman of the Indian River County Land Acquisition Advisory Committee, President of the Pelican Island Audubon Society, and a Trustee of the Environmental Learning Center and the Pelican Island Preservation Society.

While a newcomer to politics, Dick's deep-seated concerns for the environment of our county, and his support for controlling county growth, make him an exciting candidate for County Commissioner.

CANDIDATE SUMMARY

Our three endorsed candidates are a very eclectic threesome from across the political and economic spectrum with very diverse backgrounds and experience. All three candidates, however, passionately share our concern that county growth is out-of-control

and are running against pro-growth opposition.

Bowden and Wheeler are both running in the Republican primaries against strong opposition. It is, therefore, critical that our members, who are Florida registered voters, vote for these two worthy candidates on August 31. If you are registered as a Democrat, or Independent, consider registering as a Republican, just for the primaries.

IRNA is NOT endorsing a Republican candidate from District 1; therefore Bowden and Wheeler are the only two candidates we are endorsing in the Republican primary on August 31

In the general election in November, however, we urge all of our voting members to vote for Dick Baker, who is running as a Democrat. He has especially strong credentials and we are delighted that he has chosen to run.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Now that we have endorsed three candidates, we need to get them elected. Getting elected takes money. Please consider making a contribution to our Political Committee (PC). You may contribute up to \$500.00 per person, but any lesser amount will be appreciated. Send in a check, made out to The IRNA Political Committee (not IRNA, please) at our PC address which is: P.O. Box 643623 Vero Beach, FL 32964. Please note that this is a different address from the Indian River Neighborhood Association. Our PC is a separate entity. Funds which you contribute to the PC will be used to advertise our endorsements. We also hope you will make contributions directly to our three endorsed candidates.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In March, following the Vero Beach City Council elections and before the organization went countywide, IRNA had just 800 members and only 2% were from the mainland. Today we have over 5,000 members from approximately 300 neighborhoods, and we are still adding new members each week! This is staggering growth. Sixty-two percent of the neighborhoods and 28% of our membership now come from the mainland. It is clear that the goals and concerns expressed in our mission statement have hit a strong chord of concern about out-of-control growth from a broad cross-section of our county, and not just on the barrier island. It is now time to see that our elected officials get the message. It is time for a regime change in the leadership of our county.

ABSENTEE VOTING

We are extremely concerned that only a third of IRNA members, who have indicated they will be out of town over the summer, have requested an absentee ballot thus far. This will be a difficult primary for our candidates. They can't get elected if they don't get your vote.

COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE ENCLOSED ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST NOW, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO.

Or you can download a form from our website or the Supervisor of Election's website on the back page of the newsletter. You may also request an Absentee Ballot by calling the supervisor of elections (772) 567-8000

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

County Commissioners continue to insist that 43rd Avenue is expanded to five lanes through a neighborhood area. The need to expand 43rd Avenue at all is a result of past, ill planned, reckless expansion in the surrounding areas. IRNA members have taken an active roll in supporting those who oppose any expansion.

IRNA has strongly supported the institution of comprehensive impact fees for all present and future county growth. IRNA believes that county officials have badly underestimated the rate of past, present, and future county population growth, and has underestimated the number of housing units now in the pipeline. Accordingly, we believe that a failure now to introduce across-the-board impact fees for all county services will result in a major increase in future taxes.

IRNA members have provided support to citizen action groups in Sebastian who have attempted to stop ill-conceived developments.

Several IRNA members served on the county Task Force on Growth whose report was finalized July 6. The task force was created by the County Commissioners as a concession to those who opposed Commissioner Ginn's Interim Growth Control Measures. Many of the Task Force's 81 recommen-

dations (which can be viewed in their entirety on the county website shown below) have merit, but contribute little to solving the growth problem. Worse, in the nearly five months since Ginn's proposal was abandoned, even more precious land has been lost to developers' bulldozers with no action yet taken by the County Commission to reign in rampant growth.

IRNA members have been active in support of putting a \$50 million bond issue as a referendum item on the ballot in November to be used for the purchase of environmentally significant land and cultural/heritage lands, and to buy the development rights for agricultural land. County Commissioners have recommended that the bond issue appear on the November ballot.

On July 26, 27 and 28, there will be a series of public workshops throughout the county seeking public input on growth, land use, transportation and quality of life as part of the county VISIONING PROCESS. The process will be led by the same firm that is conducting a similar process for the City of Vero Beach. The key issues for our organization are the rate of county growth and growth controls, protection of the Urban Service Boundary, zoning regulations, adequacy of impact fees, transportation and roadways, and protection of the environment, to name just a few.

IRNA MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THESE WORKSHOPS AND EXPRESS YOUR STRONG OPINIONS ON GROWTH.

Look for the exact time and location either on the county website or in the newspaper.

Volunteer recruitment for the summer continues at a great pace. Volunteers are urgently needed to man high priority polling places, to call our membership to get out the vote and to support our endorsed candidates, as well as other activities. If you have not already done so, PLEASE VOLUNTEER. Please call Kathy Smith at 231-8995 or you can write to us at P.O.Box 643868, Vero Beach, FL 32964-3868 or send us an email at info@indianriverNA.com.

It has been a very busy summer. The drum beat for change in the county government grows louder each day. There is probably no election in our collective memories that has been more important for making sure that the future of this special place, which we all love so much, changes responsibly from the path it is now on.

***MAKE SURE YOU
VOTE. WE CAN
AFFORD NO MORE
MISTAKES.***

KEY WEBSITES

To stay in touch with all the activity in the County, please note the following websites of interest:

IRNA www.IndianRiverNA.com

PRESS JOURNAL www.pressjournal.com

VERO BEACH CITY COUNCIL www.covb.org

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY COMMISSION www.ircgov.com

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS www.voteindianriver.com

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19807+1501 47

Bill and Judy Lake
601 Center Mill Rd.
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Indian River
Neighborhood
Association, Inc.
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VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32964-3868