After interviewing 16 candidates over three days, more than 20 Committee Members voted unanimously to recommend the following 8 candidates for Congress, State Senator, the Lee County Board and the Lee County School Board.

Please share these recommendations throughout your community and Estero

Francis Rooney, Representative in Congress, 19th District Republican

Francis Rooney, a Naples resident, is a very successful business owner and long time, major Republican Party fund-raiser. He is also a thoughtful, results oriented problem solver who supports bipartisan cooperation in order to get things done.

He told the Committee that he is committed to organizing the Florida House delegation and beyond in order to elevate the Everglades water problems into a national Public Works project. He is also committed to helping the government-light Village of Estero to access Federal funding for its numerous capital needs.

Lizbeth Benacquisto, State Senator, 27th District Republican

*Lizbeth Benacquisto of Fort Myers* formerly represented Estero in the Senate until Senate was redistricted after the 2010 census. The Florida Supreme Court recently overturned that map thereby returning Benacquisto to a district that includes Estero.

Lizbeth currently serves as the Republican Senate Majority Leader, the second highest leadership position in that body, as well as the Chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate committee that must approve all state funding each year.

She expressed her strong opposition to fracking legislation that would override the Village’s authority to control fracking within its boundaries. She also indicated that she and her staff would help the Village to identify state programs that can provide state funding for many of the Village’s newly identified needs.

John Manning, Board of County Commissioners, District 1 Republican

*Manning will not appear on the ballot since he has no opposition*

John Manning of Cape Coral has served Lee County for 22 years. He was interviewed by the Committee knowing that he would be elected but wishing to continue his long-standing relationship with the Estero community. The Committee endorsed Manning in 2012 and he
successfully championed our effort to stop construction of CR 951, a major north-south roadway east of I-75 through the DR/GR.

**Dick Anderson**, Board of County Commissioners, District 3 Republican

*Dick Anderson of Bonita Springs* is an environmental planner with substantial public and private sector experience. As a planner for Lee County he helped to write the County’s first Comprehensive Plan and the Plan changes that created the DR/GR. Later he played an important role in the referendum that created the very successful Conservation 2020 land conservation program.

He favors immediate restoration of 100% funding of the Impact Fee program that had helped fund County transportation projects for 20 years and school construction projects for about a decade. Since the current County Board reduced Impact Fees in March 2013 the County has lost more than $22 million for our badly underfunded transportation system. Lee County Schools have lost about $25 million that would go a long way toward paying for the new Bonita Springs High School instead of borrowing to pay for it.

His opponent, Commissioner Larry Kiker was invited to be interviewed but did not respond.

**Frank Mann**, Board of County Commissioners, District 5 Republican

*Frank Mann of Alva* is a lifelong resident of Lee County including over two decades of public service in the Florida legislature and on the County Board. He has been a consistent supporter of Estero and Lee County’s planning, environmental and conservation goals and needs. He favors the restoration of full impact fees and an effective Conservation 2020 program. He is committed to working closely with the Village Council on all regional needs impacting the Village.

**Chris Patricca**, Member School Board, District 3 Nonpartisan

*Chris Patricca, a resident of Stoneybrook in Estero,* is an attorney with three children in Lee Public Schools, seeking election to a new south Lee County School district created as part of the recently expanded 7-member School Board. She has become exceptionally knowledgeable about the District’s problems by volunteering on many advisory committees at Pinewood Elementary and the District School Board.

She if fully aware of the failure of the School Board to establish policies and disseminate information on those policies to families moving to the area, like those from the Hertz relocation. She also is a team player who wants to help the School Board overcome the certification problems caused by dissention on the present Board.

**Jane E. Kuckel**, Member School Board, District 6 Nonpartisan

*Jane Kuckel, a resident of Pelican Sound in Estero,* is a professional educator and administrator, a 12-year veteran of the Lee County School Board and an experienced team builder.

When Jane was on the Board, the Lee County School District was the only large (of the top nine) school districts in Florida that achieved academic improvement for 6 years in a row. That improvement included achieving and maintaining an “A” rating from the State of Florida, receiving
stellar financial audits, developing career academies in every high school, and reducing the drop-out rate from 7% to 1.3%. Since Jane’s departure some of these gains have been significantly reduced.

Jane is running for this two-year term to return the Board to its earlier successful path.

**Cathleen O’Daniel Morgan,** Member School Board, District 7 Nonpartisan

*Cathleen Morgan of Bonita Springs is a former banking and finance professional with a strong commitment to public schools that prepare children for success in their chosen field or trades as socially responsible adults. Before relocating to Lee County Cathleen served on a School Board that worked as a high performing team. She was served on the Lee County School Board for the last 4 years constantly trying to work together better.*

Cathleen is committed to helping the students in Lee County schools achieve grade level competency in English language arts and math; create a learning culture that fosters creativity and initiative and responsible budgeting and long-term planning.