

The President's

# Solidarity Report



**In this Issue: Vote Tuesday, VOTE TUESDAY, PCTA-PESPA Endorsed School Board Candidates, FEA lawsuit, Phone banking toward victory**

## **VOTE TUESDAY AUGUST 28, 2018**

In the 2016 primary election, 173,871 votes were cast in Pinellas. That was less than 19% of the population voting during a Presidential year. This year the number of votes cast may be even less since many people choose to only vote during presidential years.

The apathy among voters is an opportunity for educators to make a difference by voting for School Board members that will do right by them and their students. Unfortunately, educators are also prone to voter's apathy and will most likely allow this chance to slip through their fingers.

Luckily, we all have a chance at redemption since I have a good feeling that all our candidates will move on to the General Election. So, if you want to see change in our working conditions you will participate in the process. Complaints get us nowhere so let's get going and move to action. If you are not registered to vote, register! If you skipped voting because you don't have enough time, register for mail-in ballots.

This race is ours to take! Get off the sidelines and get in the game. There is no excuse to not exercise your right as a citizen of this great country.

# PCTA-PESPA 2018 Endorsed Candidates for School Board



Only educators with recent experience can truly represent our profession and our students. PCTA-PESPA Endorsed Candidates know, first hand, what has been harming public education. Our union-endorsed candidates need our support. PLEASE VOTE!

- Unfair evaluation systems
- Loss of teacher autonomy in the classroom
- Toxic testing, forced pacing guides, unnecessary paperwork
- Teacher salaries \$9,000 below the national average
- Support Professionals earning poverty wages
- Lack of Job security
- Lack of respect for veteran teachers
- Lack of consideration for current employees for transfers
- Increasing class sizes

**When we vote, we win!**

Paid political advertisement. Paid for by PCTA-PESPA PAC independent of any candidate and distributed only to members.

<b>Jeff Larsen</b> <b>DISTRICT 2</b>	<b>Carl Zimmerman</b> <b>District 3</b>	<b>Lorena Grizzle</b> <b>District 6</b>	<b>Nicholas Wright</b> <b>District 7</b>
			

## FEA LAWSUIT

The Florida Education Association has filed suit in Leon County on behalf of all its locals. The complaint is against the portion of HB 7055 that directly attacks educator unions and threatens to decertify any instructional unit local that does not have a minimum of 50% membership.

FEA attorneys will be seeking a determination on the fact that the law violates the “single subject” rule, that it treats instructional locals differently than all other classes of public employees, it violates members rights to collective bargaining and a non-members right to be represented by a union for purposes of collective bargaining and to continue to receive the benefits of the collective bargaining agreement. Okay, that last one gives me heartburn too, but if it helps us win the case, I will learn to bite my tongue.

## PHONE BANKING TOWARDS VICTORY



In two evenings, our dedicated activist members made 750 phone calls to registered union voters. They ate, drank and had a good time trying to make a difference in all our lives. Thank you my brothers and sisters.