



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Robert Agrusa
President/CEO

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
(407) 907-8082

Robert.Agrusa@CFHLA.org

**CFHLA PAC ANNOUNCES ENDORSEMENTS FOR LOCAL
SCHOOL BOARD RACES ACROSS CENTRAL FLORIDA**

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 14, 2026) – The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association’s (CFHLA) Political Action Committee (PAC) and Political Committee (PC) announced their endorsements for local school board races – across the Central Florida region - in the 2026 election cycle. This slate of eight candidates includes candidates running to serve on the School Board in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties.

These endorsements include:

Orange County School Board

Orange County School Board Chair – **Angie Gallo**

Orange County School Board, District 1 – **David Shepard**

Orange County School Board, District 3 – **Susanne Peña**

Osceola County School Board

Osceola County School Board, District 1 – **Jay Wheeler**

Osceola County School Board, District 3 – **Alyssa Noel**

Seminole County School Board

Seminole County School Board, District 1 – **Kristine Kraus**

Seminole County School Board, District 2 – **Holton Mills**

Seminole County School Board, District 5 – **Autumn Garick**

“Supporting public education is one of the most important investments we can make in Central Florida's future,” said Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area and Chairman of the CFHLA PAC and PC. “Today’s students are tomorrow’s hospitality professionals, and our industry depends on a talented, well-prepared workforce. After a thorough review

process, the CFHLA PAC and PC is proud to endorse these school board candidates because they have demonstrated a commitment to workforce readiness, fiscal responsibility, and policies that prepare students for lifelong success.”

“Education is critical for our future workforce, in order to sustain Central Florida's continued growth and global competitiveness,” added Robert Agrusa, President and CEO of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association. “As one of the largest regional employers, the hospitality industry understands the importance of developing our students and equipping them with the skills and opportunities to succeed. We are proud to support each of these candidates because they recognize the importance of partnerships with the industry, creating career pathways, and balanced leadership that will benefit students, families, and our entire community.”

The 2026 Primary Elections will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, and the 2026 General Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

For the full list of 2026 CFHLA PAC and PC endorsed candidates, please visit <https://www.cfhla.org/2026-pac-pc-endorsements>.

About Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association’s mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.

As the largest regional lodging association in the United States, CFHLA represents more than 151,000 hotel rooms throughout the Central Florida Region (including but not limited to Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole counties) and more than 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit www.cfhla.org.

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