

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message | John Kistler | June 2014

"And say, finally, whether peace is best preserved by giving energy to the government or information to the people. The latter is the most certain and the most legitimate engine of government. Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. Enable them to see that it is in their best interest to preserve peace and order and they will preserve them. And it requires no very high degree of education to convince them of this. For they, an educated public, are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

- Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, 1787

With summer now upon us, we find ourselves entering the candidate forum portion of the year here at the Taxpayers' Association. These forums, while always entertaining to observe, also serve a vital educational purpose for our members and attending guests.

One of the principles of the Taxpayers' Association is the belief that an educated public and member activism should go hand in hand. Many of our members are active here politically at the grass roots level; where we have long believed one person can still truly make a difference. Therefore, hearing from all the candidates and learning where they stand on the issues is important. So that you, the voter, can make the most informed decision possible on Election Day. As active members in our community you will also thereby be better able to educate others on the positions taken by those who are seeking public office.

It is important to remember our association bylaws require us to be non-partisan when it comes to inviting candidates to our forums. This allows us to have members of all parties at our political events. Furthermore, we do not endorse candidates. Therefore we can provide a truly open atmosphere, which leads to civil debate amongst all our participants. Members of the local press regularly attended our forums, further helping to educate the voting public in our community.

When sponsoring these events we are also always keeping an eye out for you, the taxpayer. Only financially sound decision making by our elected public officials will ensure that all of our tax dollars are used as efficiently as possible. The taxing and spending of the people's money is something we are constantly watching out for here at the Taxpayers' Association and you can be assured that the questions we will be asking of the candidates will always bear that in mind. With a keen eye towards limited government and fiscal conservatism, our organization will continue to serve our members, and henceforth our community's best interests.

Lastly, on the topic of education, our first candidate forum this year is our County School Board Forum. Not only does our local education budget comprise a large part of the entire county budget, but many of us have entrusted our most prized possessions, our children, to be educated by some part, if not all, of the school system which these candidates will be helping to govern. Please join us on July 9th in learning where the candidates stand on the issues that matter to you.

On a separate note, a heartfelt thank you to all of my fellow members and our guests who made our first luncheon at our new venue - The Vero Beach Country Club - such a huge success. It was immediately apparent that the new location was perfectly suited to our needs and the staff there did a wonderful job making all of us feel welcome. We look forward to having you join us there as we continue to grow in the future.

Thank you,
John Kistler
President - Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County