

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR BOARD APPOINTMENT

Assignment # 44
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<p style="text-align: center;">It is the applicant's responsibility to keep the information on this form current. To advise the County of any changes please contact Christine Coble by telephone at 606-5300 or by e-mail at CobleC@leoncountyfl.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Applications will be discarded if no appointment is made after two years.</p>		
Name: <i>Ben Wilcox</i>		Date: 9-08-2009
Home Phone: 850-878-0170	Work Phone: 850-544-4448	Email: benw@infionline.net
Occupation: Executive Director		Employer: Health News Florida
<p>Please check box for preferred mailing address.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Work Address: P.O. Box 171</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">City/State/Zip: Tallahassee, Florida 32302</p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Home Address 1719 Old Fort Drive</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">City/State/Zip: Tallahassee, Florida 32301</p>		
<p>Do you live in Leon County? Yes If yes, do you live within the City limits? Yes</p> <p>Do you own property in Leon County? Yes If yes, is it located within the City limits? Yes</p> <p>For how many years have you lived and/or owned property in Leon County? 55 years</p>		
<p>Are you interested in serving on any specific Committee(s)? If yes, please indicate your preference</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1st Choice: <u>Citizen Charter Review Committee</u> 2nd Choice: _____</p>		
<p>If not interested in any specific Committee(s), are you interested in a specific subject matter? If yes, please check those areas in which you are interested, or describe other areas not listed:</p> <p>Human Services __ Housing __ Health Care __ Science __ Library Services __ Growth Management __</p> <p>Tourist Development __ Transportation __ Bicycle/Pedestrian __ Parks & Recreation __</p> <p>Code Enforcement __</p> <p>Other Areas _____</p>		
<p>Have you served on any previous Leon County committees? No</p> <p>If Yes, on what Committee(s) have you served? _____</p>		
<p>How many days per month would you be willing to commit for Committee work? 4 or more</p> <p>And for how many months would you be willing to commit that amount of time? 6 or more</p> <p>What time of day would be best for you to attend Committee meetings? Day or Night</p>		
<p>(OPTIONAL) Leon County strives to meet its goals, and those contained in various federal and state laws, of maintaining a membership in its Advisory Committees that reflects the diversity of the community. Although strictly optional for Applicant, the following information is needed to meet reporting requirements and attain those goals.</p> <p>Race: <u>Caucasian</u></p> <p>Sex: <u>Male</u> Age: <u>55</u> Disabled? <u>No</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Persons needing a special accommodation to participate in an Advisory Committee should contact Christine Coble by telephone at 606-5300 or e-mail at CobleC@mail.co.leon.fl.us</p>		

In the space below briefly describe or list the following: any previous experience on other Committees; your educational background; your skills and experience you could contribute to a Committee; any of your professional licenses and/or designations and indicate how long you have held them and whether they are effective in Leon County; any charitable or community activities in which you participate; and reasons for your choice of the Committee indicated on this Application. Please attach your resume, if one is available. I am the Executive Director of Health News Florida, an independent online news service focusing on health issues in Florida. For the last 10 years, I was the Executive Director of Common Cause Florida, a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocate for governmental reform and accountability. I was a registered lobbyist and represented the position of Common Cause in the Florida legislature. I have extensive experience in public policy. I was also responsible for fundraising and grant writing for Health News Florida and Common Cause. Prior to Common Cause, I was the news director for the Florida Public Radio Network and WFSU-FM, the public radio station in Tallahassee, Florida. I worked there for 23 years and supervised a staff of six reporters producing news coverage of local and state government.

References (you must provide at least one personal reference who is not a family member):

Name: Walter Dartland Telephone: 850-562-2086

Address: 2086 Wildridge Road, Tallahassee, Fl. 32303

Name: Peter Butzin Telephone: 850-385-0795

Address: 1628 Woodgate Way, Tallahassee, Fl. 32308

IMPORTANT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

AS A MEMBER OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, YOU WILL BE OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW ANY APPLICABLE LAWS REGARDING GOVERNMENT-IN-THE-SUNSHINE, CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS, AND PUBLIC RECORDS DISCLOSURE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THESE APPLICABLE LAWS INCLUDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES, CIVIL FINES, AND THE VOIDING OF ANY COMMITTEE ACTION AND OF ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. IN ORDER TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THESE LAWS AND TO ASSIST YOU IN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW, YOU MUST COMPLETE AN ORIENTATION BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION IS DEEMED COMPLETE.

Have you completed the Orientation? No

Are you willing to complete a financial disclosure form, if applicable? Yes

Will you be receiving any compensation that is expected to influence your vote, action, or participation on a Committee? No If yes, from whom? _____

Do you anticipate that you would be a stakeholder with regard to your participation on a Committee? No

Do you know of any circumstances that would result in you having to abstain from voting on a Committee due to voting conflicts? No If yes, please explain _____

Do you or your employer, or your wife or child or their employers, do business with Leon County? No
If yes, please explain _____

Do you have any employment or contractual relationship with Leon County that would create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict with regard to your participation on a Committee? No
If yes, please explain _____

All statements and information provided in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Ben Wilcox

Please return Application to
Christine Coble, Agenda Coordinator
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Attachment 44
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BEN WILCOX
1719 Old Fort Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone (850) 544-4448
E-mail benw@infionline.net

Professional Experience

Health News Florida
Executive Director
June 2009 – Present

Responsible for management and development of a nonprofit Florida health online news service. Developed and managed a \$180,000 budget and maintained legal records and documents. Responsible for developing resources including grant writing and reports, relations with funders, advertising, sponsorships, and major donor fundraising. Organized and prepared materials for monthly Board of Director's meetings.

Common Cause Florida
Executive Director
September 1999 – April 2009

A lobbyist responsible for representing the position of Common Cause Florida before the Florida Legislature, state agencies, the Governor's Office and the Cabinet. Well known in the Capitol as an advocate for election reform, campaign finance reform, open government, reapportionment and ethics reform. Thoroughly knowledgeable about the legislative process and the people who work in it.

Well regarded spokesman for Common Cause Florida before civic groups, national and state media, the Capitol press corps, newspaper editorial boards and radio and TV broadcasting. Responsible for writing press releases and op eds. Edited and managed the organization's website and conducted Internet advocacy and communications.

Responsible for management of \$160,000 a year budget, fundraising, grant writing, writing and production of newsletters, state board support and development and membership recruitment.

Florida Public Radio Network/WFSU-FM
News Director
November 1978 – August 1999

Responsible for the operation and management of a state public radio news network and the WFSU-FM news department. Planned, produced and hosted all news programs broadcast to the 12 member public radio stations throughout the state. Responsible for the production of Capital Report, a nightly program focusing on the day's activities in the Florida legislature. Planned and supervised all local news broadcasts on the Tallahassee public radio station WFSU-FM.

Hired, trained and supervised a staff of 6 reporters. Assigned and edited news stories aired on the Florida Public Radio Network and WFSU-FM.

Researched news stories, interviewed newsmakers, wrote and produced news reports on the Florida Legislature, state government, Florida politics, the arts and cultural events. Won numerous journalism awards for reports, programs and documentaries.

Professional Memberships

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
Board Member
January 2000 – Present

Florida First Amendment Foundation
Board Member
March 2000 – January 2006

Education

BS Mass Communication
Florida State University
August 1972 – May 1976

Skills

Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Power Point, Excel).

References available upon request.