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July 10, 2017

CONTACT: Mari Riba, Campaign Manager

Mari@Hooper4Senate.com

PASCO SHERIFF CHRIS NOCCO ENDORSES ED HOOPER FOR FLORIDA STATE SENATE

CLEARWATER - Another week, another endorsement for Ed Hooper! This time Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco has come out in support of Ed Hooper for Florida Senate District 16. Hooper, a Clearwater businessman and former House lawmaker, is campaigning for the Senate seat being vacated by Senator Jack Latvala, who is leaving due to term limits.

Sheriff Nocco said the following about Hooper: "I have known Ed Hooper both as a member of our community and from when I worked as the Deputy Chief to Speaker Marco Rubio over ten years ago. Ed Hooper will do an outstanding job representing all Pasco residents. As a career first responder, Ed clearly understands the need to protect our community. As I have seen firsthand in the past, Ed will ensure public safety will be a top priority in Tallahassee. His service and record demonstrates that he will be an effective leader in the Senate."

"What can I say? When the county's top cop supports you, it is very humbling," said Hooper. "I am truly appreciative of his support. I have always been a strong supporter of law enforcement. Law enforcement officers go out every day to protect and serve the public knowing that they may not return home. They put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. That is true public service."

Ed Hooper was born in North Carolina and moved to Clearwater in 1972. He attended St. Petersburg Junior College where he studied fire science and emergency medicine studies. Hooper retired from the Clearwater Fire Department after 24 years of service. He was previously elected to the Clearwater City Council and spent eight years in the Florida House before retiring in 2014 due to term limits. Hooper, who currently spends his time as a consultant, has a long history of involvement in the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Pinellas, and the Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee. He and his wife Lee live in Clearwater. They have four children and ten grandchildren.

Florida Senate District 16 includes northern Pinellas County and southwestern Pasco County. Other recent endorsements include Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, State Senator Jack Latvala, and Tampa Bay area Senators Jeff Brandes and Dana D. Young.