



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE WILL WEATHERFORD ENDORSES ED HOOPER

Clearwater – Former Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford has endorsed Ed Hooper for the State Senate.

"Ed Hooper was an important member of my leadership team when I was Speaker of the Florida House. I could always rely on him for good counsel," Weatherford said, "I also relied on his ability to navigate the land mines of special interests in the Capitol to accomplish our conservative agenda. Ed Hooper will be an outstanding member of the Senate and that is why I endorse him."

Will Weatherford served previously in the House of Representatives representing Pasco County. He served as Speaker of the House in 2013-14. After leaving the Legislature, Weatherford formed Weatherford Partners, a strategic business advisory firm based in Tampa.

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 State Senators Jack Latvala, Jeff Brandes and Dana D. Young, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, and Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco.

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