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**BACPAC Announces Endorsed School Board Candidates**

**CHARLESTON, SC** – The Business Advocating Change Political Action Committee (BACPAC), announced their candidate endorsements for three seats on the Charleston County School Board. After interviewing the two candidates running for the one seat West Ashley and three candidates seeking the two East Cooper seats, the BACPAC Board voted to endorse the following candidates:

**West Ashley**

Michael Miller

**Mt. Pleasant**

Craig Ascue

Everett Wilcox

“I believe the three candidates that BACPAC endorsed convinced us they will make decisions that are in the best interest of the 43,000 students in Charleston County School District,” said Neil Whitman, BACPAC chairman and President of Dunhill Staffing Systems. “They showed a commitment to preparing our students for the workforce, support the Superintendent and the strategies for improving education that have been put into place and displayed a willingness to work with the members of the existing board to continue to improve education outcomes of students. We are excited about these three candidates.”

“Additionally, the positions and philosophy of these three candidates best match the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce’s position in support of public education. The Chamber is a strong supporter of public education in our region. BACPAC looks for school board candidates that support the Chamber’s views on public education as well as look for candidates understand the relationship between education and economic development. All three of these candidates do that,” said Whitman.

BACPAC’s endorsement process includes asking all school board candidates to participate in the BACPAC interview process. Candidates are provided interview dates that best meet their schedules and are then emailed a questionnaire and asked to complete prior to the interview. The purpose of the questionnaire is for BACPAC board members to have some background information prior to the interview on each candidate. The questionnaire asks candidates their views on governance, the role of a board member, accountability and performance and school choice.

Board members are split into teams to interview candidates and use the questionnaire as a guide to help them evaluate each candidate. A team leader is selected for each board interview team to facilitate the interview process which takes about 30 minutes for each candidate. The board then discusses the interviews as a group and decides who, if any candidates they will endorse. As outlined in the BACPAC By-Laws, in order to endorse a candidate, a two-thirds majority of the board must be present or a simple majority present with proxies representing the remaining members.

**About BACPAC:** Established in 2000, as the political arm of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, BACPAC is a political action committee organized to support candidates at the local level who contribute to the region’s economic vitality and prosperity. BACPAC is an independent organization, governed by a Board of Advisors, made of up of 16 representatives. Membership, which is obtained through making a financial contribution to BACPAC, is open to any member of the Chamber.

BACPAC was created to enhance the Chamber’s public policy initiatives and to create an avenue for the region’s business community to have a louder voice in the halls of government. Since its creation, BACPAC’s endorsements have focused on school board candidates to improve public education and help educate the future workforce in the Charleston region which is a top priority for the Chamber. Since 2000, two-thirds of BACPAC’s endorsed candidates have been elected.

For more information on BACPAC visit [www.BACPAC.biz](http://www.BACPAC.biz).