

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Brevard County Education Facilities Authority: Submitted

Col. William C. Potter
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name

wlpott@yahoo.com
Email Address

1005 SOUTH SHANNON AVENUE
Home Address Suite or Apt

Indialantic FL 32903
City State Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 412-6829
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

50 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

N/A

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

Chairman, City of Melbourne Airport Authority

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

Retired attorney, having practiced law in Brevard County for more than 40 years. Twice served as Chair of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce. Member of the Brevard Economic Development Council for more than 20 years, including 5 terms as chair. First chair of the Economic Development Council of Florida' Space Coast. Served on board of Health First for 29 years. Served on Board of Florida Institute of Technology for more than 40 years, including 7 years as Chair. Served in the Florida Air National Guard for 34 years, including 20 years as Judge Advocate General.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

Graduate of Brown University (BA) and University of Michigan Law School (JD). Member of Florida Bar since 1965. Admitted to practice before Supreme Court of Florida and Supreme Court of United States. Former Municipal Judge and Military Judge. City Attorney for 3 municipalities.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

N/A.

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Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree

CURRICULUM VITAE OF WILLIAM C. POTTER

WILLIAM C. POTTER was born in Flint, Michigan on November 21, 1940. Mr. Potter has been married to Wendy L. Potter since December, 1964. They have lived in Florida since 1965. They have three children. Their oldest child, Alison, is a 1992 graduate of Emory University and received her Masters degree from Rollins College and currently directs strategic planning and academic performance at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy. She is married to Dr. E. Scott Bell, a dentist in Indialantic. Their son, Andy, graduated from Emory University in May, 1995, and is of a software solutions firm in Dallas, Texas. Their daughter Carrie graduated from Furman University and received her Masters degree in New York City. She is currently employed as a child life specialist in the pediatric intensive care unit at Johns Hopkins Childrens' Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have a granddaughter, Laura Bell who is a mechanical engineering graduate of Southern Methodist University employed by L3 Harris in Texas, and two grandsons, Davis Bell, a senior at Auburn University, and Wil Bell, a freshman at Rose-Human Institute of Technology. Amina Bilajac, a former citizen of Bosnia-Herzegovina, lived with Mr. and Mrs. Potter from 1998 to 2002, when she graduated from Florida Institute of Technology. She is currently a U.S. citizen, living near Philadelphia and working for the New Jersey Hospital Association.

EDUCATION

Mr. Potter was educated in the public schools in Flint, Michigan and graduated from high school in Jackson, Michigan in 1958. At Jackson High he was an honor student, a senior class officer, and lettered in football and swimming. He graduated from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in political science. At Brown, Potter played freshman football, numerous intramural sports and was President of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He was a member of Brown Youth Guidance, the Interfraternity Council and a Dean's List student. As a member of the Interfraternity Council, he led a move to prohibit fraternities from restricting membership due to race or religion. In December, 1964, Mr. Potter graduated from the University of Michigan law school with a Juris Doctor degree. During law school, Mr. Potter was an officer of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity and played a variety of intramural athletics.

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Potter retired as a partner in the law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP in 2002. Mr. Potter was the president of Potter, McClelland, Marks & Healy, P.A., attorneys at law, in Melbourne, Florida, from 1984 until February, 1999. Prior to that time, Mr. Potter was a partner in the firm of Nabors, Potter, McClelland, Griffith and Jones, P.A., with offices in Melbourne, Titusville and Tallahassee, Florida. His practice consisted of commercial litigation, real estate, banking, corporate and governmental law.

Mr. Potter has served as chairman of the grievance committee of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Potter received the Brewer Award for outstanding public service from the Brevard County Bar Association. He was a Master of the Vassar B. Carlton Chapter of the American Inns of Court, having been one of its founding members.

Mr. Potter has been rated by Martindale-Hubbell as an "A" attorney, its highest rating, for more than 35 years. He has been admitted to practice before the Florida Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was also certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a mediator.

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Mr. Potter has served as a member of the board of directors of several businesses. Mr. Potter served as a member of the Board of Directors of United National Bank from 1973 to 1976. Mr. Potter served as a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Finance and Loan Committee of the Bank of Brevard from 1976 until 1981. From 1981 to 2010, Mr. Potter was an Advisory Board member of First Union National Bank of Florida, now Wells Fargo bank.

Mr. Potter served as a member of the Board of Directors of DBA Systems, Inc., a publicly traded defense electronics firm, from 1980 until it was acquired in 1998. It is now part of L-3 Harris. In 1988, Mr. Potter headed a committee of the Board to select a new chief executive officer. DBA was engaged in electronic imaging and image processing for a variety of customers, primarily U.S. defense and intelligence agencies. From 1989 to 1998, Mr. Potter served as a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Potter also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Medicomp, Inc., a medical electronics firm which manufactured ambulatory cardiac-monitoring devices, from 1984 through 1988.

Mr. Potter also served a member of the Board of Directors of Southern Assurance Company, a casualty insurance company which specialized in insuring long haul trucking companies.

Mr. Potter currently serves as Chair of the City of Melbourne Airport Authority. He authored a book about the airport titled *Melbourne Orlando International Airport: A History from 1928 to 2022*. In 2017, the Florida Department of Transportation recognized him with its Distinguished Aviation Service Award.

MILITARY

Mr. Potter enlisted in the Florida Air National Guard in January, 1967. In 1970, Mr. Potter received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant. In 1972, Mr. Potter became the Staff Judge Advocate for the 125th Fighter Group at Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Potter served in that capacity until 1981 when he became the Staff Judge Advocate for Headquarters, Florida Air National Guard. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1983 and to the rank of Colonel in 1990. Colonel Potter served as Judge Advocate for the headquarters from until his retirement in October, 2000, and assisted as FLANG grew from one unit in 1981 to the seven units that now exist. Colonel Potter also

headed the legal team which transitioned the First Air Force from the active duty Air Force to the Air National Guard. Colonel Potter is a graduate of the Squadron Officers School, the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. In 1995, Colonel Potter completed the Army Civil Affairs course. He also graduated from the Civilian Military Cooperation course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from the military in October, 2000.

Mr. Potter has been a member of the Brevard County Civilian-Military Community Relations Council for more than 50 years and served as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Potter was seconded by the United States Department of State to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe to serve as an international election supervisor in Bosnia and Herzegovina during November, 1997. Mr. Potter again served in that capacity during the elections of September, 1998, and April, 2000. In October, 2000, Mr. Potter served as an international election supervisor in Kosovo as a representative of the Department of State.

From March, 1999, to September, 1999, Colonel Potter served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). During that tour, Colonel Potter served as legal advisor to the military cell of the Office of High Representative (OHR). In that capacity, Colonel Potter served as a legal advisor to OHR and to the government of BiH on matters relating to civil aviation, the Standing Committee on Military Matters and state intelligence agencies.

DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE

From August, 2002, until January, 2005, Mr. Potter served as head of the Rule of Law Department in the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that capacity, he was in charge of all rule of law activities of OHR in its efforts to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement. That position required him to supervise and manage over 200 judges, lawyers and criminal investigators from more than 15 different countries. The activities of the Rule of Law Department during that period of time included drafting and enacting most of the primary legal codes of the country, the complete restructuring of the court system, removing and reselecting judicial and prosecutorial personnel throughout the country and the restructuring of the police throughout the country. In addition, the department included two units of lawyers and criminal investigators dedicated to investigating and prosecuting war crimes, organized crime and corruption. In this capacity, Mr. Potter worked closely with the High Representative, Lord Paddy Ashdown, as well as all of the senior government officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ambassadors of many different countries and representatives of various international organizations. Mr. Potter is a member of the International Network to Promote the Rule of Law, an organization sponsored by the U.S. Institute for Peace. His

book about his experiences in Bosnia, entitled *A Bosnian Diary*, was published by the Florida Historical Society.

LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE

In 1969, Mr. Potter was appointed by the Brevard County Commission as a member of a committee to study the feasibility of consolidating several municipalities in south Brevard County. Mr. Potter was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee to draft a charter for a consolidated city. He then advocated the passage of the legislation in the state legislature and headed the organization formed to urge its adoption by referendum. The result of this effort was the consolidation of the cities of Melbourne and Eau Gallie.

He has drafted several other local acts for introduction to the state legislature and assisted in lobbying passage of this legislation. He has also worked in Washington regarding various issues related to airports and to economic development.

GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Potter has served as city attorney for the cities of Cape Canaveral, Indialantic and Melbourne Village and as municipal judge of the town of Melbourne Village. He served as attorney for the City of Melbourne Airport Authority from 1976 until 2002. He was attorney for the Brevard Transportation Authority. For several years, his firm served as attorneys for the Brevard County Board of Commissioners.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Potter has been involved in a number of economic development activities. In 1971, Mr. Potter was appointed by the Brevard County Commission to the Brevard Economic Development Council and served as a member of that public agency for a period of 20 years, including four terms as chairman. When the agency became a private agency in 1990, Mr. Potter was elected as the first president of the private organization now known as The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. For his efforts in economic development, Mr. Potter received outstanding volunteer awards from the Florida Industrial Development Council and from the Southern Industrial Development Council. He also received a special proclamation from the Brevard County Commission for these efforts. Among the companies which located in Brevard County during his tenure on the council were Collins Avionics, Northrop/Grumman, Dictaphone and the headquarters of Harris Corporation. In 2019, Mr. Potter was awarded the Gary Cunningham Award by the Economic Development Commission in recognition of his service in economic development.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Potter has been active in a number of educational institutions. Mr. Potter served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Florida Institute of Technology, the largest private technological university in the southeastern United States from 1990 until 1997. Mr. Potter has served on the Board of Trustees of Florida Tech since 1981 until the

present time. In 1988, he chaired the Search Committee to hire a new president of the University. He chaired the Athletic Advisory Committee. He currently chairs the Governance Committee and the Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees and is a member of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Potter also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Florida Air Academy, a preparatory school in Melbourne, Florida.

In 1992, the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida presented Mr. Potter with the Champion of Higher Independent Education in Florida (CHIEF) Award.

Mr. Potter also served as Vice-Chairman of the Central Florida Educational-Industrial Consortium, an organization consisting of most major employers and all of the post-secondary educational institutions in central Florida. This organization was designed to enhance communication between local colleges and universities and major employers in order to insure that colleges were educating students in a manner to meet the needs of local employers.

In 1998, Mr. Potter served as Chairman of the Search Committee which initiated the search for a new president of Brevard Community College. The Committee recommended a slate of three candidates to the college's Board of Trustees which, in turn, selected one of these finalists as its new president.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Potter has served in a number of public service organizations.

In 1972, he served as president of the Brevard County Unit of the American Cancer Society. Later, he served as a member of the Florida board of directors of the American Cancer Society.

He was a member of the board of directors of United Way of Brevard County for more than ten years. He has served as general counsel of the United Way in a pro bono status for more than thirty years. In 2017, United Way recognized him with its Bridge Builder Award..

He served as a member of the board of directors of Junior Achievement for several years. During 2016, Junior Achievement recognized him by inducting him into the Business Hall of Fame.

He was director and president of the Melbourne Y.M.C.A.

He was a founder of and served as a director and two terms as the first president of the Community Foundation of Brevard County.

In 1990, the Melbourne Jaycees awarded him its Outstanding Community Service Award.

He has been president of the Melbourne Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club has also awarded him its highest award for community service.

In 2013, Space Coast Daily awarded him its lifetime achievement award for public service.

Mr. Potter served as Chairman of the East Central Florida Health Care Forum.

From 1999 until 2019, Mr. Potter was a member of the Board of Trustees of Health First, Inc., a health care provider which operates four acute care hospitals, a health insurance company, a large physicians' group and other ancillary health care entities. In that capacity, Mr. Potter served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of two of those hospitals, Holmes Regional Medical Center and Palm Bay Hospital. He also served on the board of Health First Medical Group, Inc. He was Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Health First.

He was also chair and a member of the Board of Directors of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation ("AMF"). He currently serves as a Trustee of AMF and its pro bono legal counsel.

Mr. Potter was a member of the Board of Directors of the King Center for the Performing Arts and served as its Chair.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Potter served as an advisor to Congressman Lou Frey for 6 years. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Brevard County Republican Party. He served two terms as Chairman of the Republican Council of 100 and as the first chairman of the Brevard County Republican Eagles.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Potter was active in the Greater Melbourne Area Chamber of Commerce for over 30 years, including more than 16 years as a member of the Board of Directors. Twice he served as its Chairman. He has been awarded the Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Community Service Award in 1971 and again in 1991. In 2005, the Chamber awarded him its lifetime achievement award. In 2020, the Chamber awarded him the William R. "Bill" Ellis Legacy Award.

ENVIRONMENTAL

In 1968, the Brevard County Commission appointed Mr. Potter as the Chairman of a citizens committee to examine various issues relating to the shorelines of Brevard County. This committee worked for two years and ultimately revoked all dredge and fill permits throughout the county and ended all development seaward of the mean high water mark, the most significant action taken to that time to preserve the natural resources of the county.