



Matt Shirk
221 N Hogan St. #325
Jacksonville, FL 32202

August 8, 2016

Frank Denton
1 Riverside Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Denton,

I am writing you today to discuss my interview with the Florida Times-Union Editorial Board which took place the morning of July 28, 2016. I am shocked and disappointed that an “unbiased” and “non-partisan” newspaper would invite Hank Coxe, who is one of my opponents’ leading fundraisers, to join the Editorial Board and have the opportunity to interrogate me.

Not only has Hank Coxe donated money to my opponent, but he has been an aggressive fundraiser for my opponent. He has sent multiple letters soliciting donations to my opponents’ campaign. There can be no question that Hank Coxe’s well documented personal and professional dislike for me, coupled with your inclusion of him during my interview, has compromised the entire process.

In light of this pall that surrounds your interview of me, I do not see how the Times-Union can possibly present themselves as a neutral arbiter in the Public Defenders race. The only course of action you can now take, if you are to maintain your status as objective journalists, is to decline to endorse in the race for Public Defender.

The citizens of Northeast Florida deserve a fair and impartial media; one that does not allow personal biases to influence how they report the news. Now that the personal biases of members of the Editorial Board are on full display, I call on you to restore a sense of fair play and remain neutral in the Public Defenders race. The voters of Nassau, Duval, and Clay Counties deserve that.

Respectfully,



Matt Shirk