



210 S. Jefferson Street  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
Phone: (540) 983-0700  
Fax: (540) 983-0723

**Executive Committee**

Larry Jackson – Chairman  
Rick James – Past Chairman  
Robert Archer – Vice Chair: Salem  
Ken Lanford – Vice Chair: Botetourt  
Ken Randolph – Vice Chair: Roanoke County  
Lee Wilhelm – Vice Chair: City of Roanoke

**Board of Directors**

Vickie Bibee  
Abney Boxley  
George Cartledge III  
T. Joseph Crawford  
William Farrell  
Robert Fralin  
Dr. Victor Iannello  
Nathan Kerr  
Mark Lawrence  
Robert C. Lawson, Jr.  
Sam Lionberger III  
Mark Lucas  
Wendy Lucas  
Paul Nester  
Neil Wilkin  
Barton J. Wilner

**Founders**

Edwin C. Hall  
Stan Lanford  
G. Michael Pace  
John B. Williamson III

Contact: Larry Jackson, Chairman  
(540) 985-2690

FOR RELEASE: October 3, 2022

**Business Leaders Endorse Baugess, Bowers, Keller, and McGuire for Roanoke City Council; Foley and Saunders for Salem City Council**

The Business Leadership Fund (BLF), a local political action committee representing our regional business community, is pleased to announce its endorsement of the following candidates for local office:

- **City of Roanoke:** Dalton Baugess, David Bowers, Maynard Keller, and Peg McGuire (special election)
- **City of Salem:** Randy Foley and John Saunders

After an extensive interview process that included candidate questionnaires and in-person meetings with fourteen candidates for Roanoke and Salem City Councils, the BLF supports these pro-business candidates that will:

- Expand both cities roles in regional partnerships
- Promote economic development policies
- Support investment in education and community development

BLF Chairman Larry Jackson stated that “The Business Leadership Fund had a unique task this year in choosing from so many qualified candidates in Roanoke and Salem. With the many challenges facing our area on workforce development, business recruitment and retention, and crime, the Board of Directors believes the region will benefit from a mixture of fresh perspectives and experienced incumbents.

The Business Leadership Fund was organized in 1998 to strengthen the voice of the region’s business community in the public policy arena. Members of the BLF represent businesses in localities across the region. Candidates endorsed by the BLF have demonstrated key knowledge of local issues and have committed to policies that will help our region grow.

Jackson continued, “we appreciate the dedication to public service that each candidate commits to when running for public office. This is an important election for the future of our region, and the business community should be an active participant. Early in-person voting in advance of election day on November 8th has already begun, so please consider voting early and supporting our pro-business candidates.”

###