

# 2018-2019 FGFOA CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES

## Secretary/Treasurer (1 Candidate)



**Jamie Roberson, CGFO, Chief Financial Officer, Osceola County Property Appraiser**

### **FGFOA Activities**

- FGFOA Board member (2014-Present)
- FGFOA member (15 years)
- Certification Committee (2015-2016)
- Legislative Committee (2016-2017)
- Member Development Committee (2013-2015); served as Chair
- School of Governmental Finance Committee (2012-2013)
- Technical Resources Committee (2011-2012)
- Webinar Committee (2017-2018)
- Central Florida Chapter, Member
- Central Florida Chapter, Board Member (2009-2010)
- Central Florida Chapter, President-Elect (2010-2011)
- Central Florida Chapter, President (2011-2014)
- Membership Involvement Ad Hoc Committee (2012-2013); focused on recruiting students to our organization to develop the organizations future leaders. I held the sub-chair for student outreach on this ad hoc committee.

- Social Media Ad Hoc Committee (2016-Present); assist the FGFOA with their social media platform.

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

14 Annual Conferences, 7 School of Government Finance, 1 Leadership Boot-Camp

**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

Yes, Annual Conference & School of Government Finance, Speaker & Moderator (2012-2017)

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

Yes, I have provided newsletters for the local chapter as President, committee reports and emails as chair (2011-2015).

**What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

I have been a member of FGFOA since I was first employed by Osceola County Government in 2002. I have attended and participated in various events and programs over the last 15 years. I am currently serving as one of your Board of Directors for the FGFOA. I have served as a Board Liaison, Committee Chair, sub-chair and volunteer for several committees. I have been the Board Liaison for the Membership Development Committee, Certification Committee, the Legislative Committee and Education & Webinar Committee. I was a Committee Chair and Sub-Chair for the Membership Development Committee. I have served on the Technical Resources and School of Government Finance committees. I was in the first group of Mentees when the FGFOA launched its mentoring program and have participated as a coach/mentor for new program. At the local chapter level, I have contributed as President for three years, President-Elect one year, and Board Member for one year. At the local level, I was able to develop and implement a modified CPE policy as well as procedures for accountability. I have also encouraged the use of technology with our "Going Green" effort. I am very enthusiastic and

focus on a recruiting strategy to bring young members into FGFOA to enhance the future sustainability and energy for our fine organization. I feel that my greatest contribution to the FGFOA is my personal dedication to this organization. That dedication encompasses my energy, eagerness, passion, determination and willingness to serve wherever needed.

**Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

GFOA, Member 2008-Present; Michigan Estates Home Owner's Association 2010-2014; St. Cloud Youth Football 2010-2013; Predator Basketball 2010-Present; Kissimmee Friends of Park 2015-Present; Shock All-Star Cheer Booster Club 2016-2017.

**Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

At the local level, I serve on several committees that provide county-wide recommendations for employee benefits. I work hand in hand with various departments from the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners.

**Education/Certifications**

- Associate of Arts, Accounting, Santa Fe Community College (1996-1999)
- Business Administration, Accounting, University of Florida (1999-2000)
- Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Accounting, University of South Florida (2000-2002)
- Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO), November 2008

**What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

The Florida Government Finance Officers Association objective should continue being a member's professional resource that provides opportunities through Education, Networking, Leadership and Information. However, I believe that the business environment is continuously changing; therefore, the delivery method of achieving these goals will change over time. The association is currently exploring

opportunities to educate and network through the use of technology and social media at a reduced cost to the membership. This is critical and should continue in the future. Leadership development of future leaders should be emphasized with a more active membership recruiting program. This recruiting program should focus and exploit all membership level opportunities. The method of recruitment solicitation may be different for each target group such as students vs. a seasoned professional. The organization needs to continue to be innovative in the decision making process to achieve current and future goals for all types of government agencies and the professionals who benefit from the FGFOA.

### **Why do you want to be the FGFOA Secretary/Treasurer?**

I want to be a member of the FGFOA Board as Secretary/Treasurer because I am passionate about the association's mission. I would like to inspire and motivate the FGFOA membership through innovation to educate, network, lead and disseminate information relevant to government finance professionals at all government levels. Over the last 15 years, I have significantly benefited from educational materials, networking opportunities, leadership development opportunities and I want to offer my services to ensure this opportunity is available to current and future members of FGFOA. I believe my experience, dedication, and passion in my education, career, and involvement in the local and state chapters of the FGFOA will allow me to become an asset to the FGFOA board and I would be honored to serve the association and its members.

## **Directors (5 Candidates & 4 Open Positions)**



**Nicole Gasparri, CGFO, Organizational Program Manager, City of Boca Raton**

### **FGFOA Activities**

- FGFOA Member (23 Years)
- FGFOA Board member (2015-Present)
- Conference Program Committee (2010&2015), served as Chair
- Information Technology Committee (1998)
- Membership Development Committee (2014)
- Palm Beach County Chapter, Member

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

Approximately 25

**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

Multiple Leadership programs for the past 15 years at both the School and annual conference and local chapters; about 5 times per year (2004 to present)

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

Conference Program Committee Chair, AD Hoc Leadership Committee, and the School of Govt Finance (2014-2017)

**What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

I am currently a FGFOA Board Member. I have been on the Board since 2015. Being a Board Member I have visited many of the local chapters to speak on Enhancing your own Personal Performance and Effective Communication. While being a board member I have been the Sub Committee Chair of the Ad Hoc Leadership Committee, as well as the liaison for the School of Government Finance. I was the Conference Committee Chair for the 2015 annual conference as well. I have been a speaker for the FGFOA at the school and conference on-going for the past 15 years. With an average 5 times per year.

**Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

I participate in FPPTA – I am a CPPT; I have been a volunteer leader for Landmark Education as a seminar leader and coach. I also teach a free Zumba class for the community.

**Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

FPPTA

**Education/Memberships**

- Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO)
- Bachelors of Business Administration/Accounting, Florida Atlantic University (1992)

**What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

I believe that the objective(s) of the Florida Government Officers Association should be several;

- To set the standard of what it means to be a Government Finance officer.
- To remain abreast to changes happening in the State and Federal Government that are directly or indirectly affecting governmental organizations.
- To create training and development opportunities to maintain and exceed the professionalism that is expected of the finance professional.
- To create opportunities to be mentored, or mentor professionals in the organization.
- To maintain the fiscal responsibility of the FGFOA while providing the best services possible to the members.

### **Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?**

I am currently a FGFOA Board member. I have been on the Board since 2015. That in combination with over 22 years in local government in various Management roles has given me a unique perspective and one that all me to see the “big picture” and bring that view to the Board. I have also, trained and coached managers at different levels in a variety of Municipal Governments, and non-profits to successfully run efficient, and effective organizations. As a Board Member I have visited many of the local Chapters to speak on Enhancing your own Personal Performance and Effective Communication. I also have been the Sub Committee Chair of the Ad Hoc Leadership Committee Chair for the 2015 annual conference as well. I have been a speaker for the FGFOA at the school and conference on-going for the past 15 years. With an average 5 times per year. I would be honored to continue to serve the FGFOA members.



**Michael "Mike" Gomez, CPA, Audit Manager, Florida Auditor General - Tallahassee**

**FGFOA Activities**

- Member of the 2017-2018 Board of Directors
- FGFOA member (8 years)
- Conference Program Committee (2013-2017)
- Big Bend Chapter, Member (Since inception – 5 years)
- Big Bend Chapter, Director (2015-2016)
- Big Bend Chapter, Treasurer (2016-Present)

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

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**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

- Annual Conference (2008 & 2009)
- School of Governmental Finance (2013 & 2015)

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

Newsletter – prepared updates on speakers for 2016 conference program (2015-2016).



### **What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

By participating in the Conference Program Committee for three conferences, as well as this year's conference, and chairing the 2016 committee, I strived to select speakers that were interesting, discussed topics that were relevant and timely, and added value to the profession. Also, I am a charter member of the FGFOA Big Bend Chapter, served as Director, and currently serve as Treasurer. Additionally, currently serving a 1 year term as Director on the 2017-18 FGFOA Board of Directors.

### **Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

The Gideons International (Tallahassee North Camp), serve as secretary.

### **Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

FICPA, member of the State & Local Government Section, speaker at various FICPA conferences; member of the AICPA; member of the Association of Government Accountants and local chapter.

### **Education/Certifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Florida State University
- Associate of Arts & Associate of Science in Accounting, Miami-Dade College
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

### **What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

I believe the objectives of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) should be to equip government professionals so that they may succeed in their work endeavors. As articulated in its mission statement, the FGFOA, through the availability of its professional resources, is in a position to provide opportunities for creating balanced and cost effective educational programs; establishing relationships with other organizations/individuals; recruiting, mentoring, and

promoting leaders; and communicating technical and legislative issues. As such, the FGFOA's objective should be to strengthen and enhance skills used in individual members' work life.

**Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?**

I want to be a member of the Board of Directors because I feel it is important to give back to an organization that I have personally benefited from and to also support an organization that has such a worthy mission. With many years of accounting, auditing, and management experience with small and large governments, it would be gratifying to utilize these skills and experiences to the benefit of the FGFOA and its members.



**Jason S. Loschiavo, CPA, Director of Finance & Administration,  
MetroPlan Orlando**

**FGFOA Activities**

- FGFOA member (14 years)
- Nominating Committee (2014)
- Ad Hoc – Social Media Committee (2017); Served as Chair
- Ad Hoc - Election Committee (2018)
- Central Florida Chapter, Member
- Central Florida Chapter, Board Member, Secretary, President-Elect, President, and Past President (2013-Current)

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

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**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

No

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

No

**What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

Most of my service has been with the Central Florida Chapter including serving on the board since 2013. During that time, I streamlined the process for membership and CPE distribution. I also created the Central Florida Chapter website. To ensure that the website could be used by future board members, I created detailed instructions on how to handle membership, meeting notices, dues collection, and CPE distribution. I have also helped other Chapters set up websites using the same template. My largest contribution to the FGFOA was chairing the Social Media ad hoc committee where we defined the role of social media for the organization and helped implement policies, guidelines and benchmarks for success.

**Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

No

**Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

No

### **Education/Certifications**

- Master of Science, Accounting, University of Central Florida (2009)
- Bachelor of Science, Accounting, York College of Pennsylvania (2003)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) (2012)

**What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

Very simply, the FGOFA should be a resource for government finance officers and employees in the State of Florida. While the needs may change, the need itself will always remain. The resources I see as most important at this time include training and education, networking, and providing tools for the success of all governments, no matter the size. Training and education help not only the individuals but also their governments. Networking allows for the flow of ideas and passing on of expert knowledge to the next generation of finance officers.

Each government has its own unique challenges but commonalities exist. Providing tools to help the simplest of problems to the largest complexities is beneficial to all. Each government shouldn't have to reinvent the wheel. The resources mentioned above make each finance department more efficient, more agile, and ready to meet the needs of the future.

### **Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?**

The Board of Directors of the FGFOA plays an important role in the evolution of the organization. Strong leadership is needed to manage today's responsibilities and anticipate tomorrow's needs. As the world of government finance changes, the Board must be ready to act so that the FGFOA is ready to meet new challenges. At the same time, the Board must recognize its core values and tried-and-true solutions that must remain in place to ensure the success of all involved. I believe I have the necessary qualifications and vision to do just that. I will strive to keep the aspects of the organization in tact which has helped make it successful for the last 81 years while always welcoming inevitable change and meeting that change with solutions that will help propel the FGFOA for the next 81 years.



**William V. Spinelli, CPA, Controller, Office of Business and Financial Services, City of Orlando**

**FGFOA Activities**

- FGFOA member (10 years)
- Conference Program Committee (2012-2016); Served as Chair
- Small Government Committee (2012-2016)
- Central Florida Chapter, Member
- Hillsborough Chapter, Member
- Gulf Coast Chapter, Associate Member
- Nature Coast Chapter, President (2014-2015)

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

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**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

- Annual Conference (2014 & 2016)
- School of Governmental Finance (2010, 2011 & 2012)

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

Yes. While serving as the Conference Program Committee Chair and the Nature Coast Chapter President

**What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

Served as chair for the Conference Program Committee. I was the Nature Coast Chapter President. I served as a member of the Uniform Chart of Accounts White Paper Task Force. I have been both a speaker (6 different occasions) and a moderator (6 different occasions).

**Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

City of Leesburg – Morning Rotary Club; Member of the GFOA; Member of the AICPA; Retired from the United States Naval Reserves as a Chief Petty Officer (23 years of service).

**Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

Chair and member of the FL Certified Public Accountants State and Local Government Committee.

**Education/Certifications**

- MBA Finance, St. John's University
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting, St. John's University
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

**What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

I truly believe in the mission of the FGFOA – “To be your professional resource by providing opportunities through Education, Networking, Leadership, and Information.” Those of us working in the financial sector face similar issues in our day-to-day activities and responsibilities. The FGFOA is a beneficial resource; one that has the potential to help us improve individually and collectively; help us

sharpen our skills and become more valued members of the institutions we serve. My goal would be to ensure that the FGFOA continues their mission and are able to grow in membership and in resources each and every year.

**Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?**

I have been actively engaged with the Florida Government Finance Officers Association since I relocated to Florida in 2006. Through my membership with the FGFOA I have been provided with a multitude of invaluable training and networking opportunities and have had the pleasure of connecting with fellow financial officials throughout the state. It is now my time to give back to the Organization. Working for a CPA firm and three different cities in Florida, I have a very diverse governmental background. I would like to help to FGFOA become a resource to anyone and everyone who works in governmental accounting. Being decisive and forthright I am able to offer a unique perspective which I believe will help benefit the organization and its future endeavors.





**Kelly Rae Strickland, CPA, CGFO, Director of Financial Administration,  
City of Sarasota**

**FGFOA Activities**

- FGFOA member (Approx. 20 years)
- Certification Committee (2015-2018); Served as Chair
- Southwest Florida Chapter, Member

**How many FGFOA Annual Conference or Schools of Governmental Finance have you attended?**

At least 10

**Have you ever been a speaker at an FGFOA training program?**

Yes, CGFO Review Instructor for AFR (5x) and Treasury (1x) from 2012-2017.

**Have you prepared material for an FGFOA newsletter or research project?**

Yes, Certification Newsletter and Committee Agenda Item from 2016-2018.

**What significant contribution have you made to the FGFOA?**

I have been the Chair for the Certification Committee for the past 2 years. During this time, I have attended the FGFOA board meetings and have had input on various topics. I have also volunteered as an instructor for the past 4 years for the CGFO

review courses. In 2016, I was part of the inaugural FGFOA leadership class. I have also volunteered for moderating at various FGFOA events. I encourage my staff to become involved in FGFOA and obtain the CGFO certification. I continue this encouragement at our FGFOA chapter meetings also.

**Do you participate in any other professional organization and/or civic/fraternal/public interest activities?**

I am very active in my church.

**Do you participate in any other noteworthy state/local public finance-related activities?**

I am working on obtaining my Certified Public Pension Trustee designation with the Florida Public Pension Trustees Association. I have passed 2 of the 3 levels, and will be taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> exam in the Fall.

**Education/Certifications**

- Bachelor of Accountancy, University of West Florida - 1990
- Associate degree in Business, Young Harris College - 1987
- Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) - 2003
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) - 1999

**What do you believe should be the objective(s) of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association?**

I believe that the FGFOA serves an important function in the career of the Florida Government Finance Officer. In my personal career, the first CPE that I attended as a government accountant was a seminar for Arbitrage. Prior to that seminar, I had no idea what arbitrage was, but I did know after the seminar. The single most important function of the FGFOA is to provide leadership in the education of Florida government officers. The CPE that FGFOA provides for Florida Government Officers encourages the highest standards for Governmental Accounting and Reporting. As a Finance Director, I look for potential employees

that have passed the Certified Government Finance Officer's (CGFO) exam and have been active in the FGFOA. These qualifications convey a sense of professionalism, proficiency and pride in the Governmental Accounting profession. In addition to education, I believe that the FGFOA provides a network of peers. This networking function provides governmental accountants with assistance on common issues, as well as provides a mechanism for career advancement. The leadership opportunities, such as moderating, teaching, serving on a committee, also provides valuable experience for growing career paths. In summary, the FGFOA encourages higher proficiency among governmental finance officers as well as an opportunity network with peers which altogether promotes the highest of standards for Florida Government Finance Officers.

### **Why do you want to be a member of the Board of Directors?**

When I started working at the City of Sarasota, it became evident that the FGFOA was a very important part of the City Finance Office. My finance director at the time, Chris Lyons was on the FGFOA Board and his prior finance director Gibb Mitchell was a prior FGFOA president. During Chris's tenure on the Board, I saw how much the organization meant to him and the difference that he made to the FGFOA. Chris got me actively involved by suggesting me as an instructor for a CGFO review course. After that, I joined the Certification Committee and started paying attention to the makeup of the FGFOA. I was able to co-teach a review course with Sarah Koser. Sarah provided the mentoring that I needed to step up and look to the future of the FGFOA. She saw that I really cared about the CGFO certification and what that means to governmental accountants, so she chose me to chair the Certification Committee. I was also selected for the 1st FGFOA leadership conference. These experiences gave me a glimpse at what it takes to make the FGFOA successful. During my 2 years as Certification Chair, I have been able to interact with the Board and attend the FGFOA Board meetings. It always amazes me at the dedication that the board members have for the volunteer organization. These people care about the FGFOA organization, they

care about the proficiency of all Florida Government Officers, and they care about the State of Florida governments. I want to be a part of that group. I am the type of person that does not just do a job to get it done. I want to be the best at what I do, and I most enjoy working with others that feel the same way. I feel that if I am elected to the FGFOA Board, I can make a difference.