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Ramon Alexander

He's right for county District 1

At an age when most soon-to-be college graduates are thinking about their first "real" job, Ramon Alexander is running to unseat incumbent Bill Proctor as the District 1 representative on the Leon County Commission.

Mr. Alexander, who turns 22 in October, is a former Florida A&M University student-body president and university trustee. The native Tallahasseean envisions accomplishing through hard work and diplomacy more for District 1.

One of the leaders of the Martin Lee Anderson boot-camp protest at the Capitol, Mr. Alexander makes up in passion for what he lacks in life experience. He deserves the strong support of voters in the southeast and central urban district.

His candidacy in this nonpartisan campaign is largely motivated by frustration with the incumbent's style of leadership, which Mr. Alexander portrays as counterproductive and polarizing.

Several community leaders - including former county commissioners Henry Lewis and Anita Davis, state Rep. Curtis Richardson, City Commissioner Andrew Gillum and neighborhood activist Edwina Stephens - have endorsed Mr. Alexander.

Contractor Weser Khufu also is seeking to oust Mr. Proctor, about whom Mr. Khufu has the same complaints.

Mr. Alexander's platform includes many challenges familiar to District 1: building coalitions to create more educational and economic opportunities; promoting more homeownership and affordable housing; addressing neighborhood problems such as flooding and inequity in services.

The key difference between him and the incumbent, however, is that Mr. Proctor has proven over a decade that he isn't effective at building coalitions that could help him be more beneficial to his district.

Young as he is, Mr. Alexander has displayed a zest for political organizing and principled action. Of the three candidates, he's District 1's best hope.
