



## **ANA CRUZ AND TODD JOSKO JOIN BALLARD PARTNERS**

*~ Seasoned government relations professionals to expand Tampa Bay area practice ~*

**TAMPA, Fla.** – Florida’s top government affairs firm, Ballard Partners, today announced veteran Tampa Bay government relations professionals Ana Cruz and Todd Josko will join Ballard Partners.

“Ana and Todd bring a wealth of experience and longstanding relationships with government officials and community leaders across the greater Tampa Bay region and throughout the state,” said Brian Ballard, president of Ballard Partners. “I am thrilled to welcome these outstanding professionals to the Ballard team and to grow our Tampa Bay practice.”

Ana Cruz will serve as the Managing Partner of Ballard Partners’ Tampa office. Cruz brings more than 20 years of experience in public affairs and Florida politics, and has built a premier local practice successfully representing a broad range of clients such as HOST HMS, Avis Budget Group, the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, InBev, Verizon, the Orlando Magic and many others. Cruz was recently named one of the “most influential” people in Florida by *Influence Magazine* and she serves as a political analyst on *Bay News 9*.

Prior to her work as a government relations professional, Cruz served as the Executive Director of the Florida Democratic Party, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, aide to former State Representative Bob “Coach” Henriquez and continues to advise numerous local, state and federal campaigns.

Todd Josko also brings more than 20 years of experience in public affairs, government relations, strategic communications and political strategies. As founder of a Tampa-based public affairs firm that he led for 15 years, Todd helped Fortune 500 companies and associations successfully resolve governmental and regulatory challenges, particularly on issues affecting growth, transportation, economic development and water quality. Notable clients have included the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, NAIOP Tampa Bay, Florida Turfgrass Association, AT&T and TruGreen.

Josko formally held a senior level position with an international strategic communications firm and advised many national, state and local Republican candidates. Josko also previously served as the Florida West Coast Field Director for Jeb Bush’s successful 1998 gubernatorial campaign, Florida West Coast Field Director for U.S. Senator Bob Dole’s 1996 presidential run and as a legislative assistant within the Florida House of Representatives.

“I am delighted to join forces with Brian Ballard and his exceptional team throughout Florida at Ballard Partners,” said Cruz. “The Tampa Bay region is exploding with growth and new business opportunities, and with these opportunities come many critical government relations challenges. I look forward to working with Ballard Partners to help resolve these challenges for new and existing clients.”

“Ballard Partners is recognized as Florida’s top government relations firm, with offices across the state and team members regarded as the top of their profession,” said Josko. “I’m excited to join these talented professionals and look forward to expanding the Ballard brand of excellence across the greater Tampa Bay region.”

###

### ***About Ballard Partners***

*Ballard Partners has been named by state and national publications as the leading government affairs firm in the Sunshine State. The Florida-based lobbying firm, with offices in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa, combines extensive experience in government affairs with unwavering advocacy to maximize results for the clients they serve. Visit <http://ballard-partners.com> for more information.*