



# Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

### *Daytona Beach's Special Election Recap*

Four candidates have officially qualified to fill the vacant seat in the Daytona Beach special election to replace now-former Commissioner Aaron Delgado, who resigned due to a conflict with residency requirements. The qualifying period formally opened on Monday, August 16th, 2021, and closed at noon on Friday, August 20th. Qualified candidates needed to live in the zone, pay a \$261.50 filing fee and get 25 petitions signed by voters who live in Zone 2. Kristine Gray, Larry McDermott, Tony Servance, and Ken Strickland are the four candidates who officially qualified to fill the seat vacated by Delgado.

Kristine Gray was a Daytona Beach firefighter and the first female battalion chief from 1994 to 2014. Gray filed a lawsuit against the city after being demoted to lieutenant in 2008. Gray was accused of mishandling the response to a fire.---

--- Gray's demotion was rescinded after a legal battle in 2011, and she was promoted to deputy chief; she was paid nearly \$100,000 for the next three years, and the city paid her legal fees of \$235,000. Gray's promotion was on paper only; she was required to stay off Fire Department property and retired in 2014.

Larry McDermott is a first-time candidate for elected office, a retired vice-president of Intercoastal Bank, who grew up in Daytona Beach, graduating from Seabreeze High School. McDermott is a father and grandfather who has been active in the community serving on many local boards. McDermott has served on the Stewart Marchman Act Foundation, Halifax Preservation Foundation, Affordable Housing Advisory Board for the City of Daytona Beach, City of Daytona Beach Economic Development Advisory Board, Volusia Volunteers in Medicine, and the executive committee of the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD).

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Tony Servance is now making his third attempt for City Commission, losing to Arron Delgado in 2016 and again last year. Servance is a city Planning Board member and a life skills coordinator. Servance moved to Volusia County in 1990; he graduated from Bethune-Cookman University with a political science and public administration degree. Servance also served as a board member of the local Save Our Neighborhoods Group. Servance, in his last, election laid out that his priorities were infrastructure, economic development to expand the market's living wage, transparency, and diversity within the city government on all levels.

Ken Strickland is not new to running for a City of Daytona Beach seat; he has run two times for Mayor of Daytona Beach, losing to Mayor Derick Henry. Strickland is a retired businessman who has lived in Daytona Beach for more than 30 years. Strickland describes himself as "a grassroots candidate dedicated to unifying the community and making residents and small businesses a first priority." Strickland outlined his priorities as transparency and accountability.

The Special election primary will occur on September 21st. If no one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the top two candidates who receive the plurality of the votes will move onto the November 2nd general election. The Zone 2 race is a nonpartisan race open to any voter in Zone 2 who is registered to vote. The winner of the Zone 2 election will finish out the remaining three years of Delgado's four-year term.