



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:
SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** The foundation of any thriving community and economy is public safety. My top priority as sheriff will always be the safety and security of our residents, visitors and businesses. That means attacking crime from every possible angle, taking advantage of innovative technology to solve cases, and providing my deputies, detectives and staff with all the tools and support they need to do their jobs at the highest level. A key component of that is continuing to build the public-private partnerships that helped us establish our Training Academy, the Volusia Family Resource Center, and so many Volusia Sheriff's Foundation initiatives that have provided our deputies with additional equipment and training.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** After 10 years as Daytona Beach Police Chief, I felt prepared for a new challenge that would allow me to stay in this community that I love and have an even greater impact on the entire county. In the past, the truth is I never saw myself running for office. In the lead up to the 2016 election, I was approached by so many people who encouraged me to run for sheriff, I began to see the signs that I could make a real impact if I ran. I'm so glad I did, because we have accomplished more than I ever imagined.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** I've been fortunate to assemble an outstanding executive command staff with decades of experience in law enforcement and a deep commitment to this community. I consult with my command staff on a daily basis, but I also look to every level of the organization for input on what my employees need to succeed. It's important for me to stay engaged. I take pride in being accessible and responsive to the public. I attend as many community events and meetings as I can, answer calls, texts, and emails at all hours, and constantly seek out feedback on what people need and expect from the Sheriff's Office. I would be remiss if I didn't also mention a key advisor of mine is my father, who spent 55 years in law enforcement and is always willing to share advice!

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** The only regulations I'm focused on as sheriff are those that deal directly with crime and public safety. That said, the best deterrent of crime is a thriving economy where businesses are creating jobs and workers can provide for their families. So just as I believe our economy depends on a foundation of public safety, it's a two-way street. We have to create an environment where businesses can succeed, and in turn reduce crime.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** I have to defer to our policymakers on our local councils and commissions on the structure of local taxes and fees. I do believe they should listen carefully to feedback from those in the business community who are directly affected by policy decisions.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Absolutely. First, the success of a local business has an obvious direct impact on its surrounding area. Those successes build off one another and can help transform a community. Second, I truly believe public-private partnerships with our business community have been essential to the success of the Sheriff's Office. The business community sponsored our VSO Training Academy (which has revolutionized our recruiting and taken hiring to a new high) and the Volusia Family Resource Center (which is screening all youthful offenders and identifying areas where they need services to help turn their lives around).
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** My role is to make Volusia County an uncomfortable and inhospitable place for criminals so that the rest of us can enjoy all this community has to offer. With the right approach to law enforcement and public safety, we'll maintain an environment where new businesses can begin, existing ones can expand and innovate, and the whole community benefits.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** I just think that business owners need to know they can reach out to an accessible and responsive Sheriff when they need something addressed. I believe I've made that a priority, whether the issue is an immediate crime problem

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like a burglary or a car break, a long-term concern like drug activity and its effects on quality of life, or a request for training on active shooter response. We have to approach all of these with the same attitude - that we are here to solve problems.

6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** I think business growth is an obvious positive for our community, and it also presents challenges. When businesses expand or new companies arrive in Volusia County, that naturally creates more demand on law enforcement and public safety services. We have to be able to anticipate that growth and always be looking ahead to future needs. We make an effort to tour and evaluate many of the major facilities in our jurisdiction just in case deputies need to respond to an incident at that location. I always encourage businesses and organizations to reach out to us if we haven't had a chance to do that yet!
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** My responsibility to the business community (and the public as a whole) is to respond quickly and thoroughly to crime, and to proactively address public safety issues. But on a personal level I believe I've been a good friend to the business community as I travel all over this county. I remember back when covid affected so many local businesses, I used my platform (since people know and trust the Sheriff) to announce I'd deliver pizzas and other takeout orders to customers who ordered from local restaurants. It was one small way I could try and boost local businesses at a time they were struggling and hopefully inspire others to do the same.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** I will once again have to stick to law enforcement and defer to the experts on tax structure and policy. But I believe our city and county government leaders have to listen to the business community on issues that directly affect them and think about the unintended consequences that are always possible when you take uninformed action.

RESILIENCY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. **Given our geographical area, what do you believe are some best practices for resiliency, and how do you believe our businesses can play a role?** I believe if you try to battle with Mother Nature, she's going to win. We have all seen the devastating potential of storms, flooding, wildfires and other natural events. I think from a business perspective, it only makes sense to take a realistic view of those events, and plan accordingly for the future. From my perspective as Sheriff, having been through several of these, we just have to continue to stay vigilant, prepared for the worst-case scenario, and ready to assist when needed.
2. **Climate resiliency is becoming a heated topic of discussion as it relates to our community given the natural events that occurred over the past two years. If elected, how do you see your office assisting to alleviate and reduce some of the detrimental effects of such occurrences?** Ian and Nicole gave us a really tough one-two punch in 2022. Before Nicole arrived, we were out there helping to evacuate people from condos. Afterward, I will never forget the devastation in places like Wilbur-by-the-Sea, where homes collapsed. In other areas we sent high-water trucks and our SWAT Bearcats into flooded neighborhoods to help rescue people and bring them to shelter. We also devoted a huge law enforcement presence to prevent looting and other criminal activity while our residents and businesses were recovering. I can't prevent these disasters from occurring, I can only work to get people out of harm's way and on the road to recovery.

WORKFORCE HOUSING / LIVE LOCAL ACT / EMPLOYMENT

1. **There have been conversations about workforce housing in our area, and the need to keep those that are working in the community, living within the community. Where do you see the need? And what are your thoughts on the Live Local Act?** I agree that our workforce must have access to safe and affordable housing in order to drive our economy forward. As Sheriff, my focus is on the safety aspect. As more housing developments and mixed-use projects are approved, and more residents come into our area, we have to be ready to evaluate and redirect law enforcement resources wherever the demand exists. That can change on a day-to-day basis, depending on crime trends and hotspots. That's already our approach through CompStat (a constant evaluation of crime trends and allocation of resources), and it will continue as we see housing development expand across Volusia County.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** At the Sheriff's Office we have seen that people from all over the country want to come work

*Note: Candidates were given a maximum of 250 words per question.
Responses have been copied and pasted directly from Google Forms.*

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here. Part of that is due to the reputation of VSO and our extremely competitive pay and benefits package. But another part of it is the area we live in, with all the beautiful natural resources it has to offer. I think when you're promoting your organization to prospective new hires you have to show them where their career could take them in 5, 10, 20, even 30 years, and help them see all the ways they can build a life here in this community.

* ** For State Candidates Only ** *

PROPERTY INSURANCE (STATE CANDIDATES ONLY)

- 1. Name ways that you believe your office can assist with the cost of property insurance.**
- 2. Do you believe current measures taken to lower insurance, such as, reducing frivolous lawsuits, will have a positive impact? If not, how so and how can it be fixed at the local level?**