



# QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME:  LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. **While in office, what will be your top priorities?** Keeping our city safe, clean, welcoming while maintaining a low tax rate and addressing infrastructure needs. Addressing the Police officer shortage to keep our city safe.
2. **What influenced you to run for office?** I've always been heavily involved in our local community. I was influenced by the opportunity to be a bigger part of a city that has so much going for it and has so many opportunities. Ormond Beach is a great place to grow up and then raise a family as I am. I want to be a voice for the citizens, bringing a common-sense perspective and someone who won't be afraid to ask the tough questions or speak up when our community needs it.
3. **Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** Elected: Commissioners Sargent, Tolland; Councilmembers Kent and Reinhart, Representative Leek. Non-elected: Charlie Lydecker, Peggy Farmer, Lewis Heaster, Hyatt Brown.

## GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

1. **What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** Government regulations are a necessary evil in any environment, business or otherwise. But I do believe the intrusion posed by local governments on our small businesses should be as minimal as possible.
2. **Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** Taxes and fees in Ormond Beach are beyond fair. We have low rates on water, sewer, and property taxes. I will be a vote to keep it this way, while also recognizing the core responsibilities we have to our citizens. In short, while I will not commit to NEVER raising taxes, I will need a compelling reason to ever do so. Other cities should take their cues from the way Ormond carries itself on taxes and fees.
3. **Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Absolutely. Businesses that line our major roads, like Granada, Nova, and US1 are the backbone of our commercial sector. Not to mention the jobs they create and the needed services they provide to residents both in and around our city.
4. **What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** I would view my job as a Commissioner, should I win in November, to be a voice for small businesses. As a small business operator in Ormond Beach, I know how vital it is to have elected officials that both understand and support the business community.
5. **What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** The most pressing need in Ormond Beach as it relates to business is for the community at large to address infrastructure needs, mainly smart planning on traffic, so that businesses along our major roads are easily accessible. Heightened exposure for local businesses is key.
6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** I believe in responsible and timely growth. Growth in business, at least in Ormond, means making our airport property all it can be so businesses will want to locate and expand there. It also means working closely with the developers of Ormond Crossings in the decade ahead to ensure a diverse, prosperous selection of commerce in this critical gateway region of the city.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** I have been a part of our local business community for 14 years, working and speaking up for small businesses as part of the 40 under 40 group, and being a longtime participant in our Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. I periodically spotlight local businesses on my social media, as well as attend ribbon cuttings with the Chamber.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** The business tax structure in our city are as fair as they can be, given Florida law. Keeping a low millage rate as we have gives our businesses an edge when compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

FIRST NAME: Kristin LAST NAME: Deaton

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO: Ormond Beach City Commission Zone 3

### 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?** Coastal restoration has proven to be a challenge and will continue to be each hurricane season. I am not 100% sure of how the City can best assist Ormond business owners when this challenge inevitably presents itself in a future storm, other than to be flexible and helpful on permitting and code requirements when connected with storm damage.
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?** I believe Climate Change is real, but I do not accept that there is much we in one city (population of 42,000), in one state (population of 22 million), in one country (population of 350 million) can do to offset or prevent the effects of it without the express cooperation of the rest of the world. That said, as a coastal city, we have to do what is necessary to harden our defenses and work effectively with neighboring communities, as well as the state and federal governments as Mother Nature takes its continued toll on us.

### 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?** The Live Local Act is, in concept, a great idea that could be beneficial to all businesses and their employees. But my fear is that, at least so far, and as it relates to Ormond, it has been abused and become more of a leverage tool to squeeze local government on development proposals, rather than what it was actually designed to do. We need to look no further than the threats made during both the Triumph Oaks and Tymber Creek Apartment proposals to see how this new tool is being misused. It is my hope the legislature will address this in 2025 to adjust what started as a noble idea but has yet to yield new, affordable homes for our community.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** Attracting stable, bigger businesses to the community will drive salary higher and bring more quality employees to our area.

\* \*\* 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.** I don't believe there is much at the municipal level to affect property insurance rates but am open to ideas and input from anyone.
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?** NA