



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

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

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. **While in office, what will be your top priorities?** Transportation infrastructure, coastal resilience and keeping low taxes and a business friendly environment.
2. **What influenced you to run for office?** I have been serving NE Volusia County (specifically Ormond Beach) for over 20 years and when HD 28 became an open seat it was the right time to take advantage of the knowledge and skills I have obtained to continuing serving in a new and different capacity. I believe I am best prepared to lead/serve our area in the Florida House.
3. **Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** My parents, my wife, my pastor and then friends from the business community/chamber who have been trusted advisors for the last two decades. Tom Leek, Frank and Peggy Farmer, Charlie Lydecker, Mori Hosseini, Hyatt Brown

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

1. **What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** As limited as possible and generally only for life/safety/welfare concerns.
2. **Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** I think the conservative legislature has made a great deal of progress on this over the last several years and I would seek to protect the progress made and make incremental advances in reducing taxes and fees whenever and wherever possible.
3. **Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Absolutely and my belief is evidence based having witnessed the positive effect the business community has had in our area over the last twenty some years.
4. **What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** I've used the following analogy for years that government sets the table and occasionally buys some of the ingredients but business are the true chefs who do the hard work to create jobs, fund initiatives and prepare and serve the meal which is a true buffet in the community. Low taxes, only necessary regulation and convenience with permitting are some of the ways that governments accomplish this.
5. **What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** 1. more reciprocation on out of state licensing. 2.less restriction on licensing of trades that don't pose physical risk. 3.loser pays on civil suits between businesses and consumers.
6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Organic and inorganic included I think it relates to the overall size of a business, revenues, market share and profitability over time as well as jobs created and impact in the community should all be considered.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** We have worked hand in hand with our local Chamber in Ormond Beach on a number of items to improve/enhance the business community. Lower taxes, less regulation and easier permitting improvements have been made. Also specifically during the pandemic we encouraged signage and take out/sidewalk changes to make it easier for our restaurant industry. I've worked hard to make Ormond Beach as business friendly as possible and will do the same for Dist 28
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** As mentioned previously we have a pretty favorable tax structure in Florida and I would work to maintain and improve that wherever possible.

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 would continue to work with FDEP as required by Florida Statutes chapter 163 et al on programs for both planning and implementing coastal resilience measures. I think the business community can support and encourage these efforts by using their combined voice via chambers etc to

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encourage cities to participate. Also the Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook is a great resource and I know many of our coastal cities are currently undergoing vulnerability assessments that will have action steps needed when completed. I look forward to championing those as much as possible.

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?** When it comes to Mother Nature the old Yiddish saying men plan and God laughs comes to mind. As mentioned previously I would encourage/champion the implementation of the recommendations that come out of the currently ongoing vulnerability study and do my best to help the county/cities with funding for these resilience initiatives.

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 need is all around us particularly for those spending more than 30% of their total annual salary on housing. I would like to hold for a couple years to let the live local act play out. Once we see the impact of this transformational legislation we can decide how best to move forward when and if needed.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** I would say know what your company needs, create/advertise detailed job descriptions, prepare well structured interviews, test for required skills, look beyond the resume at the interests of the individual, ask for references of course and offer competitive salaries/benefits and work environment. Our area sells itself as a place to live so using smart hiring practices is the best way to attract good applicants.

*** 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'm one vote out of 120 and a member of one half of the legislature so my assistance would likely be limited to advocating for continued measures as needed to encourage adequate protection for homeowners along the lines of what has already been implemented by the legislature.
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?** Yes and I think we are seeing some positive results on this already with new companies coming to Florida to provide insurance.