



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** My top priorities in office will be ensuring a fair and equitable justice system for all residents of Volusia County by investing in the most vulnerable members of our community. Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform starts at the local level. Regardless of prior history, we must ensure all people in need are eligible for re-entry into society by accessing their government resources.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** All people have an equal claim to advise and consult on the decision-making process in a democracy, but I believe the people most affected by the policies implemented should be the most involved. In Volusia County, local advocacy groups and community center leaders are my preferred resources to advise and consult on decisions that affect the public, in addition to employees of The Clerk's Office.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** As the daughter of a Naval officer, my family raised me to respect and cherish the rights we are granted in the United States. Early in my education and now in my career, I have maintained engaged in civic organizations to protect our rights, but after the shameful U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the following implementation of Florida's abortion ban, I knew I could no longer stay out of the fight. We are at a critical juncture in our history and we must all work to strengthen our democracy and promulgate the ideas that benefit all people in Volusia County.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** The government must ensure business regulations are followed and enforced to protect workers and customers from corrupt business practices. Labor, environmental, financial, and many more types of regulations are mandatory for the purpose of serving the public good. We cannot allow any big corporations or greedy business owners to value profit over the economic security of everyday people.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** Taxes are necessary for the proper functioning and management of government. I believe in a progressive tax code that benefits the majority of working-class individuals. Sales tax in Volusia County is 0.5%, which is $\frac{1}{3}$ the rate of Duval and Orange counties and $\frac{1}{2}$ that of Brevard County. We must eliminate our local sales tax. Sales taxes are not progressive and disproportionately place an economic burden on lower income and working families. By reforming our tax code, we can base taxes to wealth so that the rich pay their fair share and everyday people can prosper.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** I believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community, particularly minority-owned and operated businesses. Minority-owned and operated businesses have a unique history that demands hard work and often produces time-honored pillars of their community. These companies help shape the lives of people who interact with them on a daily basis. These businesses' long-standing commitment to serving our community is a testament to the pivotal role they play.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** I believe in fair competition between companies. Allowing businesses to compete on an equal footing is the key to helping good businesses grow. The Clerk of Court is the ex-officio County Recorder and in that capacity, I will expand access to public information, specifically deeds, liens, mortgages, plats, etc., that benefits all people and businesses.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** The most pressing local business-related issues concerning The Clerk's Office are local businesses evading or disregarding fees and penalties to maximize profits. If elected, we will ensure a timely collection of payments due and will not hesitate to further court action on violators regardless of an individual's or business' wealth.
- 6. What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Growth in business means growth in trust in a business from customers and its reciprocal. When businesses operate fairly and honestly, people are more willing

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to trust them and spend their money. This in turn generates economic growth for the company and the community which incentivizes good business over corrupt practices.

- 7. What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** As a former service worker and minimum wage employee, I know firsthand the difficulties of working for a company that is trying to stay afloat in an economy that's failed businesses and customers. In our campaign, we have met and worked with many business leaders to provide information and guidance on the resources that are available to them.
- 8. What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** We must reintroduce the Volusia County business tax receipt to ensure accountability and transparency in the private sector. Many cities in Volusia County still require a tax receipt for businesses and this divided system is confusing and serves as a disincentive for investment. I fundamentally believe workers are the real wealth creators. Businesses use many taxpayer-funded projects (infrastructure, tax credits, schools, etc.) to generate profits and it is the governments responsibility to ensure these corporations pay back the community they profit from.

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?** Volusia is a vulnerable county in an state projected to be most affected by a worsening climate and continued climate change is only exacerbating the most dangerous effects. We must take ample measures to protect people from these potentially life-threatening consequences. I believe we must combat the current climate crisis through closer coordination with the county government, local businesses, and community leaders. We must ensure all infrastructure and future real estate developments are prepared for sea-level rise, storm surge, and coastal flooding. The Volusia County government, municipal governments, and businesses will also avoid needless liabilities and lawsuits with simple improvements and preparations.
- 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?** If elected, The Clerk's Office will become the foremost champion of climate resiliency in the county government. This issue affects every resident, yet, disproportionately, poorer residents are burdened with the most severe effects. We will work to provide information to all residents on how to access their resources from the state and county government to alleviate and reduce the strain on themselves and their families.

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?** Volusia County is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis that affects nearly every person in our community. I believe Housing is a Human Right and the Live Local Act is a half-measured first step towards solving this problem. We must work to streamline the process of building new and affordable housing and expand access to public housing options through a Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Incentivizing businesses is important, but allowing residents a choice for affordable housing will promote competition and produce better housing options.
- 2. Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** Workers are at their best when companies value and respect their contributions to the company. To attract better applicants, companies need to improve their culture and business model to meet the standards of the employee applicants. Better business creates better employees.

* ** 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?**

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