



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. **While in office, what will be your top priorities?** Continue to reduce taxes for the citizens of Volusia County and continue to find innovative ways to bring in revenue to this county in order to complete that goal.
2. **What influenced you to run for office?** I worked for the County of Volusia for over 30 years in the Law Enforcement sector. I wanted to continue my public service to my county. I was successful in that endeavor in 2022 and am seeking re-election.
3. **Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** I always seek the advice of our citizens first. I stay involved in our community in an effort continue to be informed to assist in that measure.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

1. **What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** I believe the only involvement government has is to assist our local businesses in lieu of regulating them so much. What I mean by this is to assist with possible reduction in government involvement. An example of this is how Volusia County Council recently voted on the elimination of the BTR (Business Tax Receipt). Of course, this only applies to businesses within the unincorporated parts of Volusia County. Hopefully with this measure, our 16 municipalities will follow with our example.
2. **Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** I believe we can always do better. This year will be difficult due to receiving the Sun Rail project from FDOT. However, we recently reviewed the County of Volusia's five year forecast and next year we are predicting a "partial rollback". This means our millage rate will remain flat (same as last year) or rollback (lower than last year) in all of our taxing funds.
3. **Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Absolutely. Not only do our local businesses play a pivotal role in providing services to our community, but they also bring communities together to help local economies thrive. I love how some local businesses help other local businesses succeed.
4. **What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** Continue to reduce taxes and continue in finding ways to review ordinances that will help with their sustainability.
5. **What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** As mentioned previously, finding new ways to assist with local business sustainability.
6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** There are over 1,000 people a day coming into the State of Florida. Many of those people are seeking areas like Volusia to live, work and play. In addition to this we have six universities in the area, and I want to see those graduating stay in Volusia and work in Volusia. Therefore, supporting local businesses is vital in order to remain successful.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** Reduce taxes; elimination of the business tax receipts in unincorporated Volusia County; promotion and support of local businesses.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** Keeping our millage rate low and elimination or revamping of local ordinances will help.

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?** Our business community are doing an exceptional job in working with local government to assist in our resiliency efforts.

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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?** We have already approved two extremely large dredging projects to assist with our beach renourishment project. I have also sought for a Federal NOAA grant to assist with the purchase some very large greenhouses to be placed at our local correctional institution. We are planning on growing beach friendly plants that will be planted in our dunes to assist with the sustainability of our dunes. This not only assists with that measure but teaches our inmate population a trade. I would also like to use some of these grant funds to fabricate sand fencing which will also assist in this endeavor.

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?** There is definitely a need for workforce housing in our area. We need to continue to work with our local municipalities in achieving that goal. At the County level we recently set aside some property that I believe ideal for this purpose.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** Higher paying jobs will always benefit in bringing in better applicants. We have an excellent Economic Development Division in Volusia County, and they are always communicating with larger businesses to come to our area. Also, with the six universities in our area that helps with this. An example of this is the recent success of Embry Riddle bringing in Boeing. Continuing that trend in addition to working with our municipalities and their Economic Development teams.

* ** 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?**