



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** To ensure accurate and relevant free public records access; to improve the processing speed of court and Official (land) record filings; to advocate for improvements in the protection of victim information in court records; and to achieve adequate staffing levels to ensure expert, caring customer service.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** I am the current Clerk of the Court, and I love the office and this community. I am the only local and qualified candidate with the education, experience, and accomplishments necessary to be successful in this role.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** It depends on if it's a particular segment of the public being affected. If so, I look to representatives of the specific group affected, such as consulting with a local landlord association when making changes to the eviction intake process, or working with the paralegal association when making changes to our case creation process for new case filings. Generally, I consult with our department leadership who deal with the public daily, and ask what they experience and how they predict our public customers would be impacted. I also consult with other Clerks, other elected Constitutional Officers in Volusia, and other similar local and state public agencies when appropriate for the issue.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** Though my position has no direct influence or role in this matter, my personal thoughts are that as little as possible should be regulated (reserved for safety and fraud prevention measures) in order to allow businesses the space they need for innovation and growth.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** Luckily, the Clerk's office is largely funded from statutorily set fees for our services and the collection of fines for traffic and criminal cases, and not tax dollars directly. However, case fees, fines, and costs are already expensive for the public and over time, with rising costs and stagnant fees, the revenue produced is insufficient to fully fund Clerks of Court. However, I'm not specifically involved in the business tax structure in my role.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Of course, due both to the gainful employment opportunities they provide to our residents and the goods and services they provide to the community locally. Many local businesses also go above-and-beyond to support our local community's unique goals and needs. In my experience, the businesses in Volusia County are vibrant and incredibly involved.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** While I don't have a direct role in growing business, the efficient recording of documents in the Official Records (land deeds, mortgages, and liens), and the timely processing of court case filings, does help businesses smoothly handle time-consuming and important issues that may otherwise hold back progress. Having access to timely litigation processes is important especially to large and complex businesses and employers. The best candidate for Clerk will be focused on ensuring the timely provision of our core essential functions without fail despite revenue and staffing challenges, instead of focusing on novelty programs that are purely self-promoting with no real benefit to residents or businesses.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** Timeliness of the litigation process is a high priority always, and it benefits businesses to have ready access to hearings and judicial decisions when needed. We are continually focused on obtaining and training sufficient staff to handle a rising work load, and to automating processes when possible to speed processing times. Having adequate trained, expert staff available and streamlined automated processes are the key to supporting our local businesses with their needs.
- 6. What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Growth to me means that existing businesses are able to risk innovation and expand current goods and services to new areas, having the means and support to do

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so. Also attracting new businesses to the area that provide those goods and services most desired by our community is positive growth, especially where local needs are the main driver in the types of businesses that make their home in Volusia.

7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** I have offered extensive, free public records access to support our business community's needs, and ensured that we have expert, service-oriented staff to answer questions and assist with attentiveness and care. I also attend local business events, support their drives and efforts, and partner in local causes.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** My role as Clerk has no influence on this issue.

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?** As the records custodian for the County Official Records (land records) and the records of the court system in Volusia County, I focus on the best practices of records retention and adequate record backups, so that businesses are able to move forward with recovery efforts quickly without being hindered by inability to satisfy documentation and administrative requirements.
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?** By consistently using impeccable records preservation practices, my office is a reliable resource for important, accurate information, readily available even after loss and tragedy. Our technology advancements and local system development team of technology programmers make us particularly agile in our responsiveness to the judiciary and the community's needs before, during, and after such incidents. For example, our above-and-beyond service model allowed us during the COVID crisis to serve the public without closing for even one day. We served the public from a walk-up-window in order to allow citizens to seek injunctions and obtain marriage licenses, and to allow businesses to record land sales and notices of commencement so that construction and home improvement projects continued without interruption in Volusia, unlike most surrounding counties. People came to us from surrounding counties seeking help.

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 experience the need for workforce housing with my own Team Clerk staff members. The Clerk's office has staff in up to eight locations throughout Volusia County any given day. Our numerous locations and extensive duties require a highly-skilled, experienced staff of individuals to be locally available at all times. We have critical duties that are performed 7 days a week, 365 days a year! As costs of living and housing have risen, the funding to adequately raise wages to meet these expenses has fallen short. We do have employees who struggle to afford housing, and we have many employees who commute some distance to work with us. Advancements in ensuring that our workforce can afford to stay locally and work locally will benefit my office and many businesses, improve the quality of life for local employees, and reduce traffic congestion due to commuting.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** "I've found the best way to attract and hire good applicants is to be very clear about the type of person you're looking to hire. If a job seeker resonates with what you're looking for, those that fit and have the same vision will be attracted and want to work for you. We are extremely clear that we value dedication to hard work and taking risks, and service to the TEAM over self protection and self focus. We persistently explain that we are only successful at the Clerk's office because "We Love Helping People