



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** As the Mayor of Port Orange my priorities will always be to maintain strong Public Safety services for our community, continue to work on improving Quality of Life features and place a concentrated focus on infrastructure maintenance and improvements. While vision priorities are important to have as you enter this position, it is equally important to realize that you must be flexible with priorities, as needs and wants of the community can change very quickly as I have found in the past.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** I have thoroughly enjoyed my more than 30 years of Public Service, and serving my community is truly a passion and what drives me. During my time serving in the City of Port Orange I have encountered countless residents and business owners that have encouraged me to "run for Mayor" and serve in that role. It is a great feeling to have so many in the community calling for me to represent them as their next Mayor.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** The best people to get advice from in regard to decisions that will affect the public is the public themselves. Having been part of the Port Orange Community for more than 35 years, I have immersed myself in social groups, non-profits, businesses and neighborhood organizations. Having this daily face to face relationship with so many diverse groups in our community is extremely beneficial in the decision-making process. If you are going to lead the community, you must truly be part of the community!

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** In Port Orange we will continue to welcome and embrace the entrepreneurial spirit of small local business owners. Our building and development standards will continue to be held at a high standard for the betterment of all residents and business owners alike. I will continue to support the concept of free market enterprise and allow the community interest, supply and demand to be the bar for all businesses. As mayor, I will strive to stay well connected with local business owners and Chamber of Commerce Reps in order to solicit ideas and feedback that will help all of our business to thrive and succeed.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** City Government is much different than Federal Government, and we must all realize that. Cities cannot just print more money when and if they need it, and we cannot function in bad debt that would be detrimental for businesses and residents alike. In Port Orange we will continue to maintain one of the lowest property tax mileages in the County, and do so without sacrificing services. We will also have utility fees that are consistent with what it takes to maintain our infrastructure at a reliable level for today and the future. I hear from business owners all the time that "you get a lot back from the investments you make as a business owner in Port Orange."
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Of course. You really cannot have "community" without businesses. Residents do not want to leave their city in order to get the things they need for daily life, and to enjoy themselves when it is time to relax, shop, dine out or be entertained.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** The biggest role for the Mayor is to promote local, and always be positive about our businesses, but stay out of their way when it comes to them running their businesses as they need to. Business owners take the risks and should reap the rewards, government should not tell a business how to run their business. It is incumbent on the business owners themselves to provide a wanted, needed and quality products or services that the community will support.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** Many businesses are struggling to fill vacancies and hire quality employees. Especially our local restaurants and retailers. As Vice Mayor I initiated the first every City of Port Orange Job "Hiring" Fair at the Port Orange REC, in partnership with the POSDCOC. The target was designed to coincide with local high school graduations and get graduating seniors right into the local work force. It was a huge success and we will build off of that next year in a effort to continue helping our businesses find the employees they need.

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6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Supply and demand. Business owners themselves are best at determining the rate of business growth and what the market is able to support when it comes to new business development in a competitive market place.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** Promote local businesses, created a social media page to promote special business events (Check It Out Port Orange), participate in Chamber of Commerce events and get to know my business owners personally. I also support incentivizing businesses to re-invest in the older business areas of Port Orange and take advantage of our CRA benefits. And it is working!
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** Keep taxes as low as possible without sacrificing quality and services.

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?** In order for businesses to be resilient I believe that they must immerse themselves into the community in every way. They need to know their support base and consumer market. They need to build strong relations with the residents, non-profits, schools, other businesses, etc . . . They should stay on top of trends in their industry and always be looking to improve their products and services.
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 you are going to live or own a business in a sub-tropical climate like our area, then you have to understand the risks of severe tropical storms and hurricanes. We must also understand that sea level rise is occurring and is a real thing. Business owners should do their due diligence to understand the topography around them, low lying coastal risks, build accordingly, renovate appropriately and maintain good insurance coverage. Volusia County cannot be elevated, and when you are essentially surrounded by water there are only so many options when major storm and rainfall events occur. When riverbanks overflow and the tide is incoming, there is very little that can be done during major storm events to mitigate potential flooding with current regional infrastructure. Self-preparedness should always be a business's priority. As Mayor I will always continue to seek ways to improve storm water services and fight for infrastructure grant funding, especially for older business areas not built to the codes of the past 20 years. We must also work with other cities, the County and State to collectively come up with regional solutions.

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 support the Live Local Act and the incentives that it provides to promote workforce housing in the Volusia County region. Keeping the workforce working and living with the community is essential for both the residents and the businesses.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** If you want to hire "the best" employees, then businesses must find ways to provide competitive salary and benefits, as well promote a very positive work place environment. I believe that local government's role is to provide a community that is safe, has good schools, promotes a high quality of life and is desirable for the workforce to want to live in. We have done that extremely well and will continue to do so.

* ** 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.** N/A
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?** N/A