



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

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

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** 1. Working with all of our cities to improve the way we are developing. 2. Continue to work on water quality improvements through County projects and as Chair of the Indian River Lagoon Council. 3. Continue the progress I have made to lower our millage rate to reduce property taxes. 4. Continue to encourage the council to only fund our core responsibilities.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** The push for the 1/2% sales tax increase which I worked to defeat. The need to change our development pattern which is unsustainable for our aquifer and quality of life.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** I spend a lot of time in prayer and my first consultant is my wife. I read all the time especially books by Quint Studer and Charles Marohn, Jr. As a current public servant I meet with the public in Town Halls all over the county to hear their concerns. They are my best consultants.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** They should be reduced. In County government, Code Enforcement needs a more streamlined and fair process. The council has a workshop planned to look the ordinances we control that code enforcement must apply. We need to eliminate those that have nothing to do with public safety. We should eliminate parking requirements.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** I do not like property taxes and will pursue a community conversation about other ways to fund County government. Until that conversation and changes can be made we need to continue to cut spending and fund only our core government responsibilities so property taxes can continue to be reduced. Taxes are too high and too many people are struggling to keep their homes and an acceptable quality of life. Targeted user fees are fairer since they affect only those who need the service.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** They are essential and we need to encourage business growth and higher paying jobs. Landing the Boeing Corporation at Embry-Riddle was a huge win that can lead to more defense and space based businesses.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** Since being elected I have worked with the Economic Development department in the county. I asked them to stop using tax payer money, much of it from local businesses, to bring new businesses in. That practice can actually tax one business to pay for a competitive business to come to our county. Our focus has changed to supporting our existing businesses and improving our county to be inviting to all business. We should be the clean business destination of America with adequate infrastructure, public safety, clean water and environment, and vibrant communities that offer a plethora of activities for all ages and interests. Volusia has everything we need but we can't just say that. We need to continue to make improvements in these areas. Too much of our focus goes to new developments that drain our resources and add to the maintenance list we can't keep up with now.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** Getting the county and cities to work together to make it easy for entrepreneurs and new businesses to get established. The permitting process is too complicated and spread out over to many jurisdictions. We need an omnibus office to walk businesses through through the layers of government regulations and required permits. I asked the Round Table of Elected Officials to all work together to make this happen my first month in office. Our residents need better paying jobs and growing businesses also help to relieve the stress on home owners property tax bills. Continuing to improve our County, as I have listed above, benefits us all and makes us attractive for companies who want their employees to be safe and happy. It also attracts your entrepreneurs who thrive in exciting downtown communities.

FIRST NAME:

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6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** We need to do everything we can to improve our business and community climate, as I have already stated, to help our current business grow. Doin that will also make us attractive to other high tech and research based businesses.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** I continuously ask all local governments to work together to be a business friendly environment without any losing their unique character. I have worked personally with numerous business to help them navigate through code issues. It is expensive, daunting, and way to complicated. The current council has scheduled a work shop to deal with this challenge and I am confident we will make progress.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** All of our taxes are too high and the way we levy taxes need to be reevaluated. That will require businesses, the chambers, elected public servants, county and city managers to all work together. I will propose this as something that could be spearheaded by Team Volusia and the various chambers in the County.

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?** The most important thing we can do is reevaluate our current development standards. Flooding has become a major issue in the State and certainly in Volusia County. A developer following all the required laws and stormwater management requirement still end up with developments that contribute to flooding in surrounding neighborhoods. We also need a comprehensive beach front policy to protect property and A1A from storms and hurricanes. Neither dunes nor armored seawalls alone are the answer. They must be used together which means a consistent coastal development setback line must be clearly defined and followed. Development in low lying areas and wetlands must be halted.
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?** Answered above. I would add that it would not be wise to spend an inordinate amount of our resources on fixes for problems attributed to causes that are not clearly established like the cause of sea level rise. Many believe it is from the use of fossil fuel while an impressive number of scientists maintain it is being caused to cyclical sola events man has no control over. For now being more responsible with our growth pattern and protecting coastal properties are our best investments.

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 Live Local Act is flawed and is a detriment to local governments self control. Recent efforts to improve it are helpful but need to be continued. We can create an industry for small developers in Volusia County simply by changing our zoning to accommodate small houses, reduce parking requirements, allowing homes to be converted to duplexes or triplexes, with approval, in single family home neighborhoods. Affordable housing projects are too expensive and temporary to solve the problem. We can change our our requirements and unleash an army of craftsman to help solve the problem while protecting the integrity of existing neighborhoods.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** We can make Volusia County a place where graduates from Bethune Cookman University, Daytona State, Embry-Riddle, UCF, Palmer Chiropractic, and other area institutions of higher learning want to stay after graduation. We can do that when the cities and county work together to make every district in the county a vibrant community. We can also hold on to our talented high school graduates with trade and management skills in the same way.