



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

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

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** To hear and understand the voices of the people of New Smyrna Beach. I am committed to preserving the character of our historic town while at the same time also being open-minded to conservative, smart, responsible growth. We need to take back our beach or renegotiate better terms with the county. We need creative solutions to our parking, traffic and infrastructure issues. The budget needs to be balanced without burdening our citizens with higher taxes. It is time for New Smyrna Beach to be for New Smyrnans.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** I'm tired of the usual local politics - say one thing and do nothing. I would like to be able to take my family to the beach - our beach - that we cannot even access on most days. I'm a father of 5 wonderful children and do not wish to see them leave town to start their lives because there is no opportunity here for them to make a living for themselves. That is one of the issues plan to address.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** The local voters, families, and business owners from all parties and political opinions.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** I believe that regulations that are directed to a certain problem or industry can be both necessary and effective, however, blanket regulations can lead to bloated budgets and too much government interference. The red tape and bureaucracy, growth still runs rampant. We need to improve and streamline our government processes.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** I do not like taxes or fees any more than any other Floridian, it just a necessary evil. While I understand some taxes and fees are necessary, I also think exorbitant taxes and fees are counterproductive. They also disproportionately impact year-round citizens versus our seasonal residents. There is no reason for an increase in taxes - property values are at all-time highs and so are tax revenues. We need to explore the idea of reinstating impact fees and make developers and non-resident owned business pay for growth.
What is your opinion on the current structure? Our local government needs to treat the budgeting process with a little more respect for the taxpayer. It is easy to get out of hand spending when you are dealing with "other peoples' money."
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** Absolutely. Local businesses define small towns. I believe that local-owned businesses are on the foundation that any strong market is built on and it's prudent not to forget that. Commercial taxation represents only about 9% of our revenue, which means there is a lot of room for growth. I have a few ideas of how to entice more professional higher paying jobs to the city and to give local businesses the ability to compete and earn a decent living again.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** I believe that regulations that are directed to a certain problem or industry can be both necessary and effective, however, blanket regulations can lead to bloated budgets and too much government interference. The red tape and bureaucracy, growth still runs rampant. We need to improve and streamline our government processes.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** While I understand that I cannot achieve any changes unilaterally as Mayor, I can certainly use the platform to advocate for more common-sense measures to alleviate the problems that affect all of us every day. Simply put, Growth and parking have not been addressed by the current administration. If there is nowhere to park, customers cannot patronize small businesses. If the growth and the parking issues are not addressed, businesses cannot thrive.
- 6. What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** Growth is inevitable, but how we plan for that growth is the most important function of local government. Planning for dealing with parking, congestion, and making sure that the developers pay their way - not saddling the taxpayers and business owners with the costs of growth.

FIRST NAME:

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7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** I am currently the only candidate in this race that runs a small business that I am aware of – We have dozens of employees, and a positive impact on the economy. I run a budget every single day. I make HR decisions, legal decisions, financial decisions, hiring decisions. I am the CEO of a small business that contributes greatly to the local economy.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** There needs to be more short-term abatement programs in place for locally owned business that create local jobs.

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?** We need to invest more in the waterways, historic Canal Street and our wonderful north causeway leading to and including the beachside. The additional growth into other industries would be better placed on our 44 corridor and west of 95
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?** I believe we need to trust math, science, facts and the experts that provide that data. I have seen a lot of plans to make changes that cause more harm than good at the taxpayers' expense. I believe these are serious issues and not taken lightly. We need to remember it took time to get where we are, and it will take time to get back.

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?** This is a tough one but while campaigning it is probably not a good idea to point out problems that don't have a really good answer. Maybe better said --I think "Live Local" is a good idea and we should have conversation about bringing this before the voters. I don't see the position of Mayor implementing a program without input from the citizens.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** Frome strong leadership and appropriate pay and a wonderful place to live and call home. Its New Smyrna beach time to shine !

* ** 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?**