



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** My top priorities in office will be to restore trust in The Office of the Clerk by prioritizing transparency, efficiency, and service. In addition to ensuring a safe community, we must also guarantee equal access to justice, responsible spending, technology innovations, and exceptional constituent service to improve the lives of Volusia County residents.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** As a proud son of Volusia County, born in Daytona Beach, I have always loved my home. I enjoy helping people and giving back to my community in any way I can and after I began the process of becoming a soldier in the Florida State Guard, I still felt the need to do more. When I saw a problem that wasn't being addressed I always worked to make the situation better. After many such experiences, my family and friends convinced me to serve the people of Volusia County.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** The first people I always look for advice from are trusted advisors. People I know and trust to give unbiased professional opinions always help adjust my perspective. After trusted advisors, I look for advice from people with useful and area-specific experience to guide a more panoptic vision. Finally, I look for advice from local non-profits and other charitable organizations that focus on the specific issue at hand.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** General government regulation of business is necessary for public safety and welfare, however, I fundamentally believe government does not create jobs - only businesses create jobs. Regulations that inhibit innovation and growth only negatively affect our economy and I will work to ensure de-regulation for businesses and residents.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** Florida is the fastest-growing state in the nation and Volusia County is primed for future growth. We must incentivize investment through tax breaks. The current tax structure works, but can be improved upon. By expanding tax credits, reductions, exemptions, refunds and rebates, we reduce the financial burden on businesses and generate more jobs, more money, and happier residents of Volusia County.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** By fostering economic growth and creating jobs for residents, businesses are the backbone of our community. When companies continue to grow, they bring further investment and more jobs to our community which stimulates local commerce and benefits all involved in the marketplace.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** As a business owner, I believe all government agencies have a unique responsibility to help foster a competitive business environment. All businesses must be treated equally under the law. We must remember to appreciate the mostly positive impact large companies have employing hundreds or even thousands of people in Volusia County. However, small businesses and large corporations are still to be treated with the same respect at The Clerk's Office and given access to the same resources regardless of business size.
- 5. What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** Understanding the resources available to residents and businesses in Volusia County is one of the most pressing issues The Office of the Clerk can address. We must facilitate a comprehensive process to inform businesses how they can access the resources the state and county provide for them. We will start "information drives" at The Clerk's Office to bring in local business leaders to help spread the knowledge to as many individuals and businesses as possible.
- 6. What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** As it relates to business, growth can be defined as the expansion of a customer base with a simultaneous increase in revenue or products. This model of growth is fair and allows consumers the ability to decide which companies they want to grow based on their personal experiences. Efficient and productive companies will thrive in our community.

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7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** As a small business owner, I'm a job creator. I know how first-hand the process of founding, owning, and operating a new company. Businesses are a great resource to grow and reinvigorate a community. By working with other small businesses as the leader of a business-oriented institute of a non-profit, I've been able to provide assistance and instructions on federal, state, and local business resources that grow our economy and strengthen its business communities.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** The current tax structures in Volusia County are competitive and subject to change, rarely. This allows businesses to plan long-term in Volusia County without the threat of unexpected expenses. Accordingly, companies are more likely to remain located in Volusia County, hire employees locally, and purchase business materials in our community.

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 must implement resiliency practices in Volusia County to protect our native ecosystems for future generations. Storm surge and flooding is a specific issue in Volusia County and I believe businesses play a crucial role in upgrading their facilities to higher standards to meet the changing needs of Florida's environment. In doing so, companies can avert litigation and uphold their moral obligations to their customers.
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?** Florida is a naturally disaster-prone state that will see changes in its environment for the foreseeable future. We must adapt to inclement weather by making the necessary preparations to ensure the safety and security of all Volusians. The Clerk's Office will coordinate with state and local government agencies to better monitor the situation. We will also promote helpful information on how to access your state and local resources that can assist in alleviating the detrimental effects of such occurrences.

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?** Volusia County has seen rapid expansion of affordable housing options in the past five years alone. The Live Local Act, which incentivizes large development corporations to build affordable housing, has gone too far. Every Volusia County resident is displeased by the increase in population, traffic, lessening resources, and loss of natural beauty. I understand the need for more affordable housing and more resources for locals, but the builders are not moving into the communities that are intended for them. Our campaign has been to dozens of work sites in Volusia County and found almost all workers do not live in Volusia County and are not trying to move here. The Live Local Act was a good attempt to create more affordable housing, but too many companies took advantage of the opportunity and creating an even larger problem. Thousands of people are employed in construction and the economic fallout of cutting-back their labor is unacceptable. Now, there is animosity between Volusia residents and development companies which will negatively affect our community for years if not decades.
2. **Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** We must lead by example by promoting a friendly and professional business environment. If businesses hold employees to higher standards they will ensure the quality of the employee. Businesses taking their time in hiring people is a proven method of attracting and maintaining good applicants without overlap.

*** 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?**

*Note: Candidates were given a maximum of 250 words per question.
Responses have been copied and pasted directly from Google Forms.*