



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** Governmental Transparency, Fiscal Conservatism, and Protection of Natural Resources. Expanding more generally, I want my constituents to have their voices be heard, so whatever are their priorities will be what I want to address. Right now, that is keeping taxes low, stopping urban sprawl, better traffic safety and flow, and protecting the rights of our people. See my website, www.SavePortOrange.com, for more details, or to contact me directly.
- 2. What influenced you to run for office?** Seeing my City do nothing while the state pushes for a terrible and costly I-95 Interchange at Pioneer Trail which threatens the Spruce Creek ecosystem and our quality of life. Over the last decade, I have seen our city go from a unique place that feels like home to something unrecognizable, with over-development running rampant. It seems that every time locals speak out, they are not supported by their elected officials, who seem to represent special interested over those of residents. I saw this firsthand when, as a non-lawyer, I led a challenge against the devastating Pioneer Trail Interchange and WON in court, only to have the State ignore the Judge's decision, and my own City spread misinformation about it, which continues today. We can't afford to continue to endanger the lives of residents by building in wetlands which will increase flood risk, and we need to be smarter about where and what we build overall, before we completely turn into an undesired large city.
- 3. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** First and foremost, I'll listen to the people I represent. Second, scientists and unbiased experts.

GOVERNMENT / BUSINESS REGULATIONS

- 1. What are your thoughts on government's involvement with regulations for businesses?** The government's role should be as small as possible. However, since the government is in theory simply the "people," their protection is paramount. Wherever I see unfair implementation, I shall rectify it, and whenever I see bullying of our citizens or corporate negligence, I shall not let that go unchallenged.
- 2. Where do you see yourself on taxes and fees? What is your opinion on the current structure?** The current structure is not working in Port Orange. Taxes have been disproportionately placed on long-time residents, while new developments get unfair breaks. I shall do everything I can to bring that back into balance, and make sure all projects pay their fair share. If a new local project wants to shift these burdens to tax-payers, I'll do everything in my power as Mayor to have the City stand up for itself, even if it means bringing legal action. I am open to going after these bad actors retroactively as well and recuperating money that is owed to the people of Port Orange, whether it be for traffic, environmental, school, or other fees that these cut-and-run developments failed to pay. I find it laughable that the City is now looking to impose a new "Parks & Rec" tax on residents, while just in the last few years, they approved project after project, most west of I-95, that failed to collect proper taxes for that very cause. They claimed, and I kid you not, that the city had a "surplus" of parks, which was clearly a sham to help the special interests not have to pay their fair share. This is wrong, and as Mayor I'll fight to get this money back in the pockets of residents.
I also plan to eliminate other fees on residents, including the unnecessary fee at the Port Orange "Pavilion," and unfair HOA "violation" fees that infringe on home-owners' privacy and rights.
- 3. Do you believe businesses play a pivotal role in our community?** That is up to them. There are many businesses that choose to help their community, and those I applaud. There are others that look to exploit our people for a quick buck. What I hope to encourage is more business that truly supports our community, whether that be taking a stance against bad government projects (like the costly Pioneer Trail Interchange which will harm our local economy and way of life), paying their workers fair wages, or doing little things like reducing one-time plastic use to lessen waste. I would like to see more certified "B Corporations" in our city, and would like to see taxes on businesses who care about our future to be lessened. I am also in favor of making "rent-free" or "low-rent" tax areas to encourage local businesses and entrepreneurs to call Port Orange home.
- 4. What role do you see for yourself in helping to grow businesses of all sizes in your position?** As I noted above, lowering or eliminating taxes on local businesses is important. However this question is looking at things a

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little wrong, and inherently assuming that "growth" is "good" for business, when any wise economist can tell you that is not always the case. What businesses need to do is find something sustainable that people want, and simply market to that. "Growth" does not itself benefit business nor its workers, and oftentimes leads to bubble economies like Florida experienced about 15 years ago in the Housing market. I believe the role for elected officials is to anticipate and have the foresight to prevent such catastrophic events from ruining the lives of its citizens, and that is what I plan to do.

5. **What are the most pressing issues in the office you are seeking as it relates to local businesses?** I plan to stop bad-for-business project like the disastrous and wasteful \$120+ million Pioneer Trail Interchange which will destroy our ecotourism by harming Spruce Creek, lead to increased congestion and pollution along Pioneer Trail, and overall destroy the quality of life for residents and businesses alike. We need to spend tax-payer dollars better, and I promise to do that.
We need to start by identifying which businesses are truly local and supporting those as much as we can, primarily by keeping taxes low. But it is also important to note that not all businesses are "for profit" businesses, and many of our local non-profits are facing unnecessary regulation preventing them from achieving their missions. For instance, when a local environmental non-profit and I tried to hold a park clean-up in Port Orange recently, the City wanted us to take out a Million-dollar insurance policy before anyone was allowed to pick up a single piece of trash. That ridiculous level of bureaucracy is something I would stop, because the key to a thriving city is one that is healthy, both in its people and environment. This includes the mental health of its citizens, which is why listening to them and supporting them will strengthen the community, and therefore the economy.
6. **What does growth mean to you as it relates to business?** As noted in earlier answer, growth for the sake of growth is never good. It has to have purpose. I want to see our businesses be sustainable, but unfortunately, over the last decade or so, our City Council has cared little about building a long-term economy, and instead makes excuses as to why they have to approve ill-conceived projects.
7. **What have you done to enhance the business community in your area?** I have founded or co-founded multiple non-profits in our area which help vitalize our community, enhancing tourism and the health of our community. I have led several tree planting initiatives which help keep our water and air clean, and also volunteered my time picking up trash to help beautify our city. Please visit www.SaveSpruceCreek.org to learn more.
8. **What are your thoughts on tax structures for local businesses?** My main approach to tax structure is one of fairness. As the non-incumbent in the race, I don't have all the information behind the scenes on what the city does, but I do think that it has in recent years followed a bad strategy of annexing for the sake of more tax revenue. I am against raising taxes, and am open to the idea of even de-annexing places to lower their tax burden. At this point, it really does not seem like Port Orange is a coherent City anymore, and I am looking to consolidate and build internally before stretching its resources, including police and fire, beyond its means.

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?** Businesses need to understand if what they are doing is hurting Florida's environment, because once that is gone, there will not be any business left to have. This means knowing how much waste they are generating and where it ends up, conserving energy wherever possible, and standing up for good practices like flood protection zones. Unfortunately, I continue to see our City essentially push businesses in the wrong direction, but I hope to change these incentives and reward businesses that do the right thing for Florida.
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 helped found the local chapter (Daytona Beach Area) of the Climate Reality Project because this is a big deal, especially for our State. In the next few decades, we can expect to lose thousands and thousands of acres of land to sea-level rise, and even if it happens in other places of the State, that still drastically affects us. Hurricanes are becoming deadlier because of increased heat energy in our oceans, and we need to do more to stabilize our shorelines (with natural dunes and mangroves), keep our aquifer clean, and limit the "heat island" effect from clearing too many trees. This is why I personally have planted or given away hundreds of trees in our city, because if everyone does what they can on a local level, the impacts will be massive and meaningful.

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

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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?** From my days as a graduate student at the University of Florida, I have become a bit of an expert on affordable housing. I know that Florida has a glut of homes that are too expensive, and not enough that are affordable, especially to families just starting out. There are several ways to fix this on a State or Federal level, and I would support such policies which prevent unscrupulous hedge funds from buying up homes or apartments just to sell them back to citizens at higher rates. I believe that only families and individuals should own homes, not businesses looking to make an unfair profit at their expense. I also support zoning approval for smaller homes or apartments as one affordable option, where appropriate. That can also lower the homeless population. I think programs which promote living where you work are beneficial, as they will reduce commute times, costs, and pollution. I support local governance and oppose top-down preemption mandates that hurt our citizens. In my local role, I promise to spend government money wisely, and would make sure any expenditures are 100% transparent, so everyone can help point out and eliminate government waste together.
- 2. Workforce housing is only a part of the problem. How can we hire the best employees? How do we attract good applicants?** Florida needs to stop passing laws that make it unattractive to live here. Too many people don't want to come or don't want to stay here because they hear that politicians in Tallahassee are passing laws taking away people's right to protest, right to privacy, or right to a clean environment. These have to stop, and as a City Mayor, I'll fight hard to send Tallahassee that message. I also would like to point out that we should be able to find enough workers internal to Florida, and should not be promoting additional people to come here. Locals should be given preference whenever possible, including hiring in the City government itself.

* ** 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?**