

Pinellas Voter Guide – Local Races General Election – November 8, 2022

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Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Seven commissioners sit on the Board of County Commissioners in Pinellas County. Three of the commissioners are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. The Board governs all unincorporated areas of the county, and is responsible for setting the millage rate (the amount of tax levied on real estate or other property) for the entire county. The Board approves the budgets of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Sheriff, and the Supervisor of Elections, and serves as the Emergency Medical Services authority, the Fire Protection authority, the Countywide Planning authority, the Water & Navigation Control authority, and also manages countywide Mosquito Control Services.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$104,725

County Commission District 2 - At Large

Brian Scott



Party:Rep

Campaign Website: <http://votebrianscott.com>

Campaign Email: brian@votebrianscott.com

Campaign Phone: 727-201-5472

Campaign Mailing Address: 9800 4th St. N. Suite 200 St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Education: 1986 Graduated Seminole High School, 1990 AA Degree St. Pete College, 1994 - 1998 Attended USF, Studied Business

Professional Experience: 2008 - Present, President/Owner of Escot Bus Lines, LLC, 1998 - 2000 President Florida Motorcoach Association, 2005 - 2007 Chairman United Motorcoach Association, 2008 - 2010 Chairman International Motorcoach Group, 2006 - 2016 Board Member Global Passenger Network, 2018 - Present, President TRAX Insurance, LTD., Leadership Pinellas Graduate 2009

Public Service: Board Member - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Board Member & Vice Chairman - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Board Member - Citizens Advisory Committee Forward Pinellas, Board Member - Parks and Conservation Advisory Board

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4brianscott/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brianscottfl>

Why are you running for this position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? To bring common sense business decision making to the Pinellas County Commission. Less government is better government, lower taxes are better than higher taxes, and more freedom is better than less freedom. Focus on economic development and affordability by lowering taxes, reducing regulations that hold businesses back, improving transportation infrastructure including re-envisioning transit services delivery, and enacting term limits.

What specific ideas do you have to increase the supply and quality of affordable housing and to preserve existing affordable housing? How would you propose these ideas be funded? Greater emphasis on down payment assistance. For new multi-family rental projects, consider a public land use model where the county continues to own the land for new development, reducing the real estate tax burden to the improvements only, ensuring the property does not go to market rate after its first 15 to 30 years, which happens with privately owned land. The county can also streamline the permitting process to make it less expensive and faster to complete projects.

Considering preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, on which issues do you think the current relationship is most problematic? Local government is closest to the people, best understands resident's needs, and local challenges, and opportunities. Home Rule does not allow for complete autonomy to local government and cannot conflict with state or federal law. Elected officials need to ensure constituents have a voice in the process, and as a business owner, reducing regulations to encourage regional commerce, competitiveness, and innovation that create more, less expensive consumer options in the marketplace are essential

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections? Harden our infrastructure, diversify our energy sources, ensure adequate water resources, and educate the community on ways of reducing waste in their personal lives, and on energy savings/reduction strategies in their homes and businesses.

Among a great number of community needs, how would you prioritize competing funding priorities? What would be your top funding priorities? Public health and safety, Economic development, Transportation infrastructure, Water quality, Affordable Housing, Quality of life

Patricia Gerard



Party: Dem

Campaign Website: <http://gerardforpinellas.com>

Campaign Email: patgerard2022@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 727-422-3912

Campaign Mailing Address: 2308 Seton Lane Largo, FL 33774

Education: MA - Rehabilitation Counseling, BA- Psychology, University of South Florida

Professional Experience: 40 years in human services, mainly administration. Mental illness, victim advocacy, domestic violence, children and families.

Public Service: Elected in 2000 to Largo City Commission. Served as Mayor 2006-2014. Elected to County Commission - 2014,

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PatGerardforCountyCommission>

Why are you running for this position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Serving in local elected office is a labor of love for me. I feel that I have a lot to offer my constituents, including my experience in human services and in elected office. I have excellent relationships with other elected officials and have served on many boards and committees that have given me insight into some of the more complex issues we face as electeds. Two compelling issues for me to continue to work on are the cost of housing in our area and transportation alternatives.

What specific ideas do you have to increase the supply and quality of affordable housing and to preserve existing affordable housing? How would you propose these ideas be funded? I am a strong advocate for affordable and workforce housing and have supported an aggressive use of the Penny for Pinellas funding that we have set aside, as well as for diverting some of the ARPA funds to this use. We have funded 9 affordable housing

projects in the last 2 years and have several more in the works that will soon come to the commission for approval. In addition, the county utilizes state and federal sources to provide funds for maintenance and repair of existing homes.

Considering preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, on which issues do you think the current relationship is most problematic? In recent years, the Legislature has increased efforts to preempt home rule, making it difficult at times for local governments to reflect the will of the people to shape their own community. The inability of local governments to regulate short-term rentals and home-based businesses are two examples of preemptions that directly impact our constituents and create nuisances in their neighborhoods over which we have very little control.

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections? Pinellas County is "ground zero" for the impact of sea level rise and it must be considered in any development decisions that we make. Our natural environment is a large part of what attracts investments here and we must protect it. To do so, we must direct growth away from sensitive areas, preserve green space, and focus residential growth around transit and employment corridors to reduce CO2 emissions.

Among a great number of community needs, how would you prioritize competing funding priorities? What would be your top funding priorities? The majority of what the County Commission oversees is infrastructure; roads, bridges, sidewalks, sewers, stormwater management, parks, solid waste, and utilities. Those must be our highest priorities. Delaying maintenance makes repair much more expensive. The county also has a commitment to several physical and behavioral health programs that are important. Priorities shift, but this year I believe we should focus on the growing need for affordable and workforce housing.

6th Circuit State Attorney

The State Attorney is responsible for representing the State of Florida in criminal proceedings before county and circuit courts. The State Attorney conducts legal proceedings against individuals charged with crimes that occur in the judicial circuit that the State Attorney serves. There are 20 Judicial Circuits in Florida. The Sixth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Pinellas and Pasco counties. It is the job of the State Attorney and Assistant State Attorneys to review charges and complaints to determine whether the facts warrant prosecution, to determine what criminal charges to file, interview witnesses and victims, litigate pre-trial motions, and prepare and try criminal cases.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$192,105

Click link to view Sept. 20th, 2022 State Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit (Pinellas/Pasco) Virtual Candidate Forum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKV9mf9I6Tw&t=425s> with Bruce Bartlett and Allison Miller.

Allison Miller



Party: Dem

Campaign Website: <http://www.MillerforStateAttorney.com>

Campaign Email: allison@MillerforStateAttorney.com

Campaign Phone: 321-945-7615

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18001 Clearwater, FL 33762

Education: B.A. in 2005 from the University of Notre Dame; J.D. in 2008 from FSU College of Law

Professional Experience: 13 years as an Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Circuit; currently in private practice with the law firm Ripley Whisenhunt, PLLC doing capital defense across the state

Public Service: 13 years as an Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Circuit; I also worked for the Office of the Public Defender for the Second Circuit in Tallahassee during law school

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MillerForStateAttorney>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AFMiller2021>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/millerforstateattorney/>

Why are you the best candidate for this position? I have been working in the trenches as a public defender for 13 years. Supervising offices. Defending people charged with everything from misdemeanors to capital crimes. I have also been a victim of violent crime. And most fundamental to who I am and what I stand for, I am a mom. As State Attorney, I will bring all that I have learned as a public defender, victim advocate, instructor, neighbor, wife, friend, and mom to make our community fairer and safer.

How will you approach prosecution under the state's abortion laws? A prosecutor's role is to promote justice, safety, and well-being of the people and communities she serves. As jurists and lawmakers here in Florida mount an all-out assault on our fundamental rights, I'm more committed than ever in the fight against the blatant criminalization of women, and as State Attorney, will not prosecute providers, doctors, or those who access reproductive health services in our jurisdiction. Reproductive freedoms are an economic and human rights imperative.

How do you intend to modernize the State Attorney Office and resolve issues such as staff shortages and huge caseloads? We are going to stop prosecuting things intended to criminalize homelessness, poverty, drug addiction and mental illness, and focus on prosecuting the crimes that need to be prosecuted to keep us all safe. For example, my office will not be prosecuting simple possession of marijuana, thereby freeing up the cost and man hours currently expended to prosecute marijuana. I am also actively recruiting women and people of color, two groups completely overlooked in leadership, to work at the SAO.

How do you propose to reform the State Attorney Office with respect to non-violent offender prosecutions? Currently, the SAO's focus is entirely on accountability with very little attention to prevention. I believe there should be a greater focus on prevention to reduce the necessity for accountability. Incarcerating offenders for low level non-violent crimes, often related to the offender's own mental illness, drug dependency, poverty, etc., serves only to grow rates of recidivism and specifically recidivism that leads to violent crime. I want to be in the business of solving problems.

Do you believe there is a need to address systemic discrimination in the criminal justice system? If yes, what measures would you take? Yes. The current leadership of the State Attorney's Office operates under the "I don't see color" mantra, which is frankly, untrue, and also, never going to correct the existent problems. I am not going to violate the Civil Rights of the defendants I prosecute. I am going to measure racial parity at all angles where prosecutorial discretion is afforded and correct the current imbalances. I am also going to make all of this data publicly available on a dashboard on my website.

What is your approach or criteria with respect to prosecuting juveniles as adults? I believe we share a moral and ethical responsibility to rehabilitate children. I will not prosecute children as adults, unless legally required and of course, reviewing each case on a case-by-case basis. If we put a child in prison, he or she is far more likely to reoffend after release by committing a crime of violence than if the child had not been sent to prison. I believe treating children as children benefits not just the child and his or her family, but keeps the community safer.

Bruce Bartlett



Party: Rep

Campaign Website: <http://www.votebrucebartlett.com/>

Campaign Mailing Address: info@votebrucebartlett.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBruceBartlett>

Why are you the best candidate for this position? Candidate declined to respond

How will you approach prosecution under the state's abortion laws? Candidate declined to respond

How do you intend to modernize the State Attorney Office and resolve issues such as staff shortages and huge caseloads? Candidate declined to respond

How do you propose to reform the State Attorney Office with respect to non-violent offender prosecutions? Candidate declined to respond

Do you believe there is a need to address systemic discrimination in the criminal justice system? If yes, what measures would you take? Candidate declined to respond

What is your approach or criteria with respect to prosecuting juveniles as adults? Candidate declined to respond

County Judges

Each county has a county court. The number of county judges varies with the population and caseload of the county. Sometimes referred to as "the people's court," a large part of this court's work deals with traffic citations, misdemeanors and civil disputes involving \$30,000 or less. Judges are selected via nonpartisan election.

Term: 6 Years

Salary: \$ 156,377

County Judge Group 1

Della Cope



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://Della4Judge.com>

Campaign Email: Vote@Della4Judge.com

Campaign Phone: (727)369-6070

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20252 St. Petersburg, FL 33742

Education: University of Florida College of Law, Juris Doctor May, 2004; University of Florida, Bachelor of Arts December 2000; Major: English/Minor: German

Professional Experience: Jan. 2019-Present Cope, Zebro & Crawford, P.L., Shareholder, civil plaintiff's litigation and municipal defense; Sept. 2014-Dec. 2018 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Senior Associate Counsel, Federal civil rights defense and state court defense; Aug. 2004-Sept. 2014 Pinellas County State Attorney's Office, Assistant State Attorney

Public Service: Active member of the PTA and frequent volunteer at my son's school; SPCA

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DellaCopeforJudge>

Instagram: http://instagram.com/della_4_judge

Name three personal traits that describe the knowledge and disposition you would bring to the court.
Integrity Patience Experience

Describe how you would manage and prioritize large caseloads. Experience. During my 10 years as an Assistant State Attorney, I managed a large caseload, handling hundreds of felony cases at any given time. I also supervised the entire County Court division, making filing decisions on thousands of cases while also training and supervising over 30 county court attorneys. Through my nearly 18 years of experience, I have become very skilled at time management and prioritization.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury, how recently, what area(s) of the law, and how many cases? I have tried over 70 jury trials, mostly in criminal court as a prosecutor, specializing in Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, and DUI Manslaughter trials. I have tried many non-jury trials, including 23 non-jury civil trials in the last 2 years representing the PCSO. There is a huge difference in jury trials and non-jury trials. Because a County Court Judge presides over a large number of jury trials, it is important that a candidate for County Court Judge has experience in front of a jury.

What is your preferred method of funding the courts in Florida? The issue of Court funding is a matter for the Florida legislature. As a County Court Judge, I will follow any laws regarding funding as set forth by the legislature.

Do you believe all Florida citizens and residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access? Many individuals who appear in County Court are not represented by counsel and have little experience in Court; it is therefore a Judge's responsibility to

ensure meaningful access. I have much experience working with unrepresented individuals and understand what it takes to help guide them through the court system with patience and respect. I will use that experience on the bench and work tirelessly to ensure that every person in my courtroom has equal access to justice under the law.

What factors would you consider in granting and setting bail amounts? What do you believe is the primary consideration? I will dutifully follow the law and consider each of the required factors established in FSS 903.046. The purpose of bail is to assure the appearance of the defendant in court and to protect the community. Thus, it is important for the Court to consider severity of the offense, ties to the community, any previous failures to appear, and criminal history. My experience as a prosecutor will aid me in evaluating a fair and lawful bail in every situation.

Megan Roach



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://meganforjudge.com>

Campaign Email: info@meganforjudge.com

Campaign Phone: 727-871-0290

Campaign Mailing Address: 5308 Central Avenue St. Petersburg, FL 33707

Education: Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Minors in Spanish and History from the University of Florida; Graduate of St. Petersburg Catholic High School

Professional Experience: Partner at Zinober, Diana, & Monteverde, PA; St. Petersburg Bar Association, immediate past Chair of the Civil Trial Section; formerly an attorney with Marone Law Group and Albertelli Law; Certified Legal Intern at the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit

Public Service: Former President of the Junior League of St. Petersburg; former Board member for Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay dba Hero to a Child; former President of the Patrick Brett Foundation; Mainsail Art Festival Committee; Drug Free America Foundation Gala Committee

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/meganroachforjudge>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/meganforjudge1>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/meganroachforjudge>

Name three personal traits that describe the knowledge and disposition you would bring to the court. Hard working, Organized, Passionate - I am hard working and dedicated to putting in the time and effort necessary to ensure that Pinellas County residents have fair and timely access to our Courts. I am organized and well-prepared. I will be able to efficiently handle a large docket of cases without compromising the quality of access to Court for parties or practitioners. I am passionate about protecting our legal system here in Pinellas County and about serving this community where I grew up.

Describe how you would manage and prioritize large caseloads. I have a lot of experience with successfully managing a high-volume caseload as an attorney. Organization is key and preparation is essential. Judges should always come prepared to hearings, having thoroughly read all case materials and case law in advance in order to make the best use of parties' and attorneys' time and resources. In doing so, dockets can move more efficiently, and large caseloads can be managed and handled efficiently without impeding anyone's access to the Courts.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury, how recently, what area(s) of the law, and how many cases? I have tried over 200 civil bench trials before judges across Florida from 2013 – 2016, learning from that experience what the most effective strategies are for handling large dockets well. I have tried 5 cases in front of a jury. 3 criminal trials as a Certified Legal Intern in 2012 and 2 week-long civil trials in 2018 and 2019. I have also handled many dispositive Motions, evidentiary hearings, arbitrations, and mediations to resolve matters effectively and efficiently outside of trial.

What is your preferred method of funding the courts in Florida? As long as our Courts are adequately funded, I do not have a preferred method, although diversity of funding is important for all organizations, industries, and institutions.

Do you believe all Florida citizens and residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access? The Florida Bar, its members, and the community have done a good job supporting legal aid organizations and clinics to ensure access to the Courts to all

Floridians. Capable attorneys must continue to build upon that to ensure that adequate access to legal help is maintained here in Pinellas.

What factors would you consider in granting and setting bail amounts? What do you believe is the primary consideration? When considering bail, I would consider the factors set forth in Florida Statute 903.046, as required by law. I would consider each of the enumerated factors, which are unfortunately too lengthy to list, as proscribed by the statute. It is imperative that judges follow the law as written. The subject statute requires that judges consider a specific list of factors. The statute does not distinguish which of these factors is primary, so each one of them should be considered each and every time.

Pinellas County School Board

The Pinellas County School Board is responsible for the administration of the county's schools in accordance with state law and the rules put forth by the State Board of Education. The School Board adopts policies and sets priorities for the district. It also adopts and oversees the annual budget, hires and evaluates the superintendent, and manages the collective bargaining process for employees of the district. The School Board consists of seven members: three who are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four who are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. All seven Board members will represent the entire district upon their election. The Board appoints a superintendent who serves as chief administrative officer of Pinellas County Schools. The Board also employs the School Board Attorney, who reports directly to the Board.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$ 47,085

School Board Member District 3 - At Large

Keesha Benson



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://www.bensonforschoolboard.com>

Campaign Email: info@bensonforschoolboard.com

Campaign Phone: (727)490-8581

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 16065 St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Education: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) & Master of Social Work (MSW) - UNC Chapel Hill; Master of Business Administration (MBA) & Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration - Florida A&M University; High School Diploma - Lakewood High School, CAT

Professional Experience: Principal Owner - Providence Group International, LLC.; Lecturer - Rutgers University; Chief Learning and Evaluation Officer - Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg; Director, Thrive by Five Pinellas - ELC Pinellas; Manager, Grow Smarter - St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce; Assistant Professor & Faculty Fellow - Temple University

Public Service: Mayoral Appointee - Vice Chair of the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), Citizens Advisory Committee. Former - COQUEBS School Readiness Committee; St. Pete Promise Leadership Committee; Grow Smarter Education and Workforce; Court Appointed Special Advocate; Philadelphia Council for Fathers and Families, etc.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bensonforschoolboard>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/bensonforschoolboard/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? Voucher schools accept public funds for private education, or transportation, based on student need. Charter schools are public schools that operate under a monitored performance contract, where they are accountable for academic and financial results. Public schools are publicly funded and available to all students. Students are "zoned" to a specific neighborhood school; or have the option to apply for the District Application Program (lottery) or a Special Assignment to a non-zoned school.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff? Bring systems leaders, funders, and

community partners to the table to find innovative ways to augment district resources. PCS is one of the largest land owners in Pinellas County and could offer affordable housing in partnership with municipal support as an incentive. I would also advocate for safety, adequate mental and physical health options, pay parity, flexibility, and a transparent understanding of state legislation's impact on district decisions (e.g., raises, curriculum, etc.).

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views? There must be a reciprocal sharing of information, clear feedback loops, and continued opportunities for input from school stakeholders. Stakeholders should have transparent access to the curriculum, but that access should not allow censorship of valid educational material. Clear processes and engagement pathways must be in place with opportunities for school stakeholders to meet and discuss issues and work toward collaborative solutions to ensure a quality, safe and equitable education for all.

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? From a disease mitigation standpoint: data dashboards, clear safety plans, and consistent communication. As it relates to active shooters: continued annual safety assessments, increased mental health services and age-appropriate, culturally relevant, trauma informed training. Environmental justice: education and advocacy for communities experiencing negative disparate environmental concerns. Vulnerable youth, staff, and families: inclusive and transparent policies and access to resources.

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? PCS's Strategic Plan includes a focus on equity with excellence for all. The district's equity initiatives cover hiring and professional development; ESSA gaps; EL, ESE, SES resource needs; and ensuring equity in resource allocation across the district. One aspect of equity includes the Bridging the Gap Plan which was created to close the achievement gap between Black students and their peers. Improvement has been shown in some of the key goal areas, while inequities still exist in several.

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Curriculum should contain age appropriate and culturally-relevant representation of the world that we live in, with historically accurate information from the United States and globally. Curriculum should include life skills, social emotional learning, financial literacy, and experiential learning opportunities where students apply learning to real world situations. It must be robust and engaging, while allowing scaffolding opportunities to meet students' needs and support critical thinking.

Dawn Peters



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://VoteDawnPeters.com>

Campaign Email: VoteDawnPeters@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 7274338630

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 20252 St. Petersburg , FL 33742

Education: College degree with additional certifications including: preschool substitute teacher, Personal Trainer, Sports Nutrition

Professional Experience: 15 years in property management of multi family housing, PCS mentor liaison, Personal Trainer and sports nutrition

Public Service: charity event coordinating, volunteer service to veteran & active military, PCS mentor, PTA officer,

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/VoteDawnPeters>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? Candidate declined to respond

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff? Candidate declined to respond

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views? Candidate declined to respond

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Candidate declined to respond

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? Candidate declined to respond

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Candidate declined to respond

School Board Member District 6 - Single Member

Brian M. Martin



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://votebrianmartin.com>

Campaign Email: Brian@VoteBrianMartin.com

Campaign Phone: 9418124725

Campaign Mailing Address: 5721 Denver St NE St Petersburg, FL 33703

Education: Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

Professional Experience: As a chemical engineer I have spent the last 14 years designing water treatment and process separation equipment at power plants, refineries, and other industrial facilities. I am an expert at working on difficult problems requiring complex and detailed solutions. I am a team player that has worked with interdisciplinary engineering teams.

Public Service: I grew up as a member of the Boy Scouts surrounded with a culture of volunteering. I am an active member of my children's parent teacher associations and participate in local Keep Pinellas Beautiful cleanups with my family. I think it's important to show our children the benefits of giving back to our community.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBrianMartin/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/votebrianmartin>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/votebrianmartin/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? My understanding is that the private schools that receive vouchers are not under the local supervision of the school board. Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract. Charter schools don't have to follow many regulations surrounding our traditional public schools, but they are monitored by the school board to ensure their academic and financial responsibilities.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff? Florida ranks in the bottom 5 nationally in teacher pay and increasing teacher pay is a legislative effort. School board members can improve the quality of life of our teachers and staff. Mr. Hendricks' promoting a culture of positivity is a great first step. We need to listen to our teachers and make them feel valued. We reduce ancillary paperwork burdens to free up planning time. The board is working to increase pay for bus drivers, which will go a long way in reducing current shortages.

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views? Parents informed with curriculum allows them to be a more collaborative part of their child's education. Many of the divisive topics currently in the news are already addressed with current Pinellas County School Board Policy. The best way to address diametrically opposed parental concerns is

to listen to both sides and consider what is best for our students, families, teachers, and staff. Take all views into consideration and make a board decision explaining how and why the decision is made.

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Our schools have a number of excellent school safety programs in place. Every school has a school resource officer, every school has a number of programs related to the Sandy Hook Promise, and every school has a team collaborating with the local police department trained to address concerns, threats, and warnings. The biggest deficiency is in the access to mental health services. The number of counselors, social workers, and psychologists are far below recommended standards and need increased.

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? The district has a detailed bridging the gap plan in place to address the systemic gaps in education faced by our black and brown students. Over the last five years we've seen tremendous growth in our graduation rates reducing the gap from 30% to 7%. There is still work to be done, but we are seeing great success. Other areas of the plan have not been as successful and we need to refocus our efforts.

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? There are many life skills that our graduates may initially struggle to possess, but money management is vitally important for financial stability. Looking at the differences between renting and owning a home and the financial hardship that short term loans may cause. Early investments can help accrue wealth over time, especially if consistent contributions are made. Many adults struggle with these skills and students may not have role models in the community or future workplace.

Stephanie Meyer



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://www.votestephaniemeyer.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteStephanieMeyer/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? Candidate declined to respond

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff? Candidate declined to respond

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views? Candidate declined to respond

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Candidate declined to respond

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? Candidate declined to respond

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Candidate declined to respond

City of Dunedin Commissioner, Seat 2

The City of Dunedin operates under a Commission-Manager form of government that combines the political leadership of elected officials in the form of a City Commission with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. Four Commissioners and a Mayor are elected by the registered voters of Dunedin under a staggered system that ensures that the city will have a degree of experience serving on the Commission at all times. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to 9 volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all eight City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$11,500/year

Rob Walker



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: MBA, San Diego State University; MS Chemistry, San Diego State University; BS Chemistry, University of the Pacific

Professional Experience: Owner/Operator of a Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) focused on Defense, Aerospace and Veteran Affairs; Defense Executive running large and small businesses, managing technical programs, budgets in excess of \$500M, hiring and recruiting talented and highly skilled workforce. USCG Licensed Captain

Public Service: 30+ Year Career in the United States Navy. Navy Commander serving on Nuclear Fast Attach Submarines, Carrier Strike Groups. Community volunteer; Rotary Member, Lifetime VFW Member; Endorsed by the Fire Fighters Local #2327 and the Sierra Club

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I am a Leader and a Fiscal Conservative. I am a retired US Navy Submarine Commander, having served our Country with distinction. I am the owner and operator of a Veteran Owned Small Business providing management and leadership solutions for Defense and Aerospace companies through management of large technical programs, managing budgets and diverse workforces. I have made a career out of service.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Budget Management and City Transparency are the most important issues based on feedback that I have received. Through the course of my meeting with the residents I have heard their frustration about how large budget decisions are being made by the city without input from the residents. We have a responsibility to communicate with the residents. I will bring the Government back to the people.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Climate change is causing water levels to rise which is presenting a significant impact to our infrastructure. As water levels rise, land-based run off has more access points to further impair our local waterways through fertilizer and pesticides. As water levels rise, our storm water infrastructure is struggling to keep up. I will work to ensure that we make an investment in our infrastructure.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) I believe that local decisions need to be locally made and I will fight to maintain home rule and limit the State influence on decisions that are uniquely Dunedin. In 2022, legislators attempted to extend their

preemption authority far beyond vacation rentals. Those efforts were defeated. We need continue to be vigilant to ensure that Dunedin decisions are made in Dunedin.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) I strongly support Public-Private partnerships where each entity has an equitable stake in projects that provide affordable housing for the community. Dunedin is not an entitlement city, and subsequently will need to apply to Pinellas County for highly competitive tax credits to fully fund these types of projects. I will work with the developers, county and city officials to address this issue.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) The largest infrastructure need is the replacement of the Main bridge and Tidal Relief bridge. The project will be conducted by Pinellas County in conjunction with Florida Department of Transportation. I will work with County Officials to ensure that the concerns of Dunedin are addressed. There needs to be coordination to ensure there is no impact to residents' access or interruption to services.

Stephanie D. Joines



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: Virginia Tech, Double Major in Marketing Management and Communication Studies, minor in English

Professional Experience: Realtor, 2012-present; 22 years in banking to include management, loan origination and underwriting and investment analysis and sales.

Public Service: President Visit Dunedin, First VP Dunedin Council of Organizations, Past President DDMA, Past VP Dunedin Showcase Arts Foundation, previous service on City of Dunedin committees

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) My Board positions for multiple organizations and 22 years in the banking industry gives me the knowledge to make sound financial decisions. 20 years of leadership on various Dunedin committees allows me to have a true understanding of our citizens' desires. As the only commissioner with a full-time job, I have insight and understanding of our small businesses and workers and their needs.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) The top two challenges are affordable housing and compatible development. I will discuss my passion for affordable housing in more detail in a separate question. Regarding development, it is critical that the city staff and commissioners work with developers to ensure their commitment to maintaining the small-town, eclectic atmosphere of our city. Our character and charm must be protected.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) I support the city's environmental action plan and the Ready for 100 initiative to run city operations on 100% clean, renewable energy by 2035. To achieve our goals, the city must collaborate with businesses and residents to require sustainable landscaping, increase green space setbacks, sponsor area clean-ups, eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals and reduce use of single-use plastics, etc.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) The balance of power between state and local governments is absolutely not addressing local issues. Even though our state's constitution grants home rule, the state too often preempts the local government's authority. Since the local government is closest to the residents, it is important that they retain enough power to remain reflective of our Citizen's desires.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) As a Director for the Pinellas Realtor Assn, I will forge partnerships with the County to promote projects in north county. Working at local and state levels, I am discovering successful projects in other communities so we can mirror those initiatives in Dunedin. I would explore options of rezoning the Coke plant into a mixed-use development and an analysis of zoning density issues and ADUs.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) I would advocate the county to secure grants to fund replacement of the functionally obsolete bridge in accordance with plans that were completed after consultant analysis and citizen input for a mid-level bridge. I would ensure the county honors their agreement to underground electricity on the causeway and support planned FDOT improvements to the intersection of Causeway Blvd and Alternate 19.

City of Dunedin Commissioner, Seat 4

The City of Dunedin operates under a Commission-Manager form of government that combines the political leadership of elected officials in the form of a City Commission with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. Four Commissioners and a Mayor are elected by the registered voters of Dunedin under a staggered system that ensures that the city will have a degree of experience serving on the Commission at all times. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to 9 volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all eight City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$11,500/year

Jeff Gow



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: BS degree, Economics Florida State University

Professional Experience: Jeff has over 20 years experience in the financial services industry including CEO of Marion County Credit Union and Director of Consumer Loans with GTE Financial.

Public Service: Jeff is currently in his first term as a City of Dunedin Commissioner and running for reelection. Prior to his term as a Commissioner, Jeff has a history of public service and civic engagement including teaching at Dunedin Middle School, and being an active member, board member and president of several non profit organizations.

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Jeff is a current City of Dunedin Commissioner seeking a second term. Jeff was born and raised in Dunedin graduating Dunedin High School. He has a bachelor's degree in Economics from Florida State University. He has over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry including CEO and Director of Consumer Loans. He has also been involved on many community boards and committees.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Our biggest challenges are maintaining our charm, character and uniqueness and affordable housing. We have reduced building heights from 7 stories to 3 stories in our downtown and an overlay in our South Dunedin district to ensure development or redevelopment is to scale. We need to look at smart intentional growth that increases our housing stock and reduces the need for cars.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Signed on to the Ready for 100 campaign to transition to clean renewable energy, Developed our Dunedin Resiliency Environmental Action Master Plan to make Dunedin resilient and sustainable. We have a solar rebate

program to encourage residents to go with solar, provide incentives to developers to include resilient and sustainable features, purchased 125 acres for preservation and much more.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Dunedin is community driven and together work hard to remain delightfully different. Our success is measured by the residents who love where they live and the other cities that want to be like us. The preemptions by the state removes our ability define ourselves. I have received the Home Rule Hero Award the last two years for my advocacy for Dunedin through engagement with our state legislators.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Affordable housing is complicated. Recently Dunedin used ARPA money for an affordable housing project. We are working with the county and state for grant opportunity. The competition for grant money is tough being awarded to only one project in the county and the project is contingent on the grant. There is little land left in Dunedin to work with so we have to be creative working with others.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) We got the state to widen their entrance to the state park to reduce traffic along the causeway. We are waiting for state funding on a new bridge which will allow bike lanes to encourage other forms of transportation. We are working with Forward Pinellas for a redesign of the intersection at alt. 19 and Curlew Rd to include bicycle infrastructure and move more vehicles on and off the causeway.

Jeffrey Michael Miller



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: BS in Business Administration

Professional Experience: I own several businesses in Dunedin dealing with insurance, property management, commercial property owner, licensed Real estate Agent, Previously work for Fortune 500 companies in Finance

Public Service: Dunedin Cares, VFW Auxiliary Member Post 2550, Honor Flight Volunteer, wounded warriors, Friends of the Library, Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, Dunedin Merchants Association, Friends of Island Parks, Dunedin History Museum, Dunedin High School booster

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) I would start by evaluating all of the needs and then rank them in importance based on safety and then evaluate what we can do to maximize our tax payers money while listening to our citizens input and hearing them.

City of Largo Commissioner, Seat 2

The City Council consists of the mayor and six council members elected at large by all qualified electors of the City. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to the various volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$13,453.60/year

Curtis A. Holmes



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Professional Experience: see attached

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Until semi-retiring I spent 45 years in the insurance business starting out as an agent, then a general agent, agency owner and finally a third-party administrator. governmental; previously I served 11 years on the Largo Commission. I also served on the following advisory boards; finance, audit committee, code enforcement, environmental services/public works. and library.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Money and money. A money crunch in municipal government is not unusual and that is why having a detailed understanding of governmental income and spending is extremely important to any/all elected decision makers. I have read many budgets including cafr's and pension portfolio's and understand them thoroughly.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) There are few subjects that I have studied more than "climate change." I have read reports by the deniers and the gloom and doomers, both have merit but the jury is still out on both. Pity the 400 character limit because I had a detailed response ready to post.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) I think the state has a tendency of thinking one size fits all then enforcing it with an iron fist but I suspect I know why...very few members of the Florida House or Senate have served on a municipal or county dais. The best option, thus far, to address the issue is through the Florida league of cities.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) According to former property appraiser Pam Duvoe, Largo already has the highest percentage of affordable housing in the county but we should continue working with Habitat for Humanity and subsidizing some home loans.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) If Largo could get 8th Ave

SW four laned between Clwr/Largo Rd and Seminole Blvd, and redirect W. Bay traffic there, we could do to West Bay redevelopment what Dunedin did when they moved SR580, make W. Bay two lanes, pedestrian friendly and 15 mph speed limit. this would be the beginning of a dynamic downtown Largo but until something like that is done, we'll continue being a pass-through to the beaches.

Maria Kadeu



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD - BA in Political Science; BA in Philosophy, 1995

Professional Experience: More than a decade in nonprofit grant writing, grants oversight, budget management, advisory board management, leadership, and development, long term and strategic planning, followed by twelve years as a Realtor in Pinellas County through several market shifts, protecting property owners rights. I am solution-based, and strive to be out-of-the-box.

Public Service: 25 years of public service, from Army National Guard post-college as combat medic & mental health specialist, followed by extensive community involvement in both St. Petersburg and Largo: various advisory boards, leadership programs, citizens academy, charter review, affordable housing committee, Rotary Club of Largo, Pinellas Ed Fndn, Largo HS SAC

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I have been involved with public service for decades and offer diversity and a well-rounded background with work, military, and community leadership experience while raising my two girls who were deeply rooted in Largo's parks & rec offerings, and as a wife to a firefighter husband. As I proudly promote the City as a Realtor, I am passionate and knowledgeable on issues concerning residents today.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) 1. Rising property insurance rates. Continued investment in stormwater management, floodwater planning, as well greater city-county partnerships will help lower our CRS score. 2. Increasing influx of homeless who are brought to Safe Harbor in east Largo from other communities who end up straining resources in other areas. Outstanding partnerships already exist but should be reviewed and expanded.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) This issue will continue to be of major concern in the coming years. Largo has spent millions of dollars in stormwater management and infrastructure projects that increase our capacity and reduce inflow of rainwater and groundwater into our sanitary sewer system and overflows caused by rain events. Enhanced city-county partnerships are needed, as well as education to residents on home continuity.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Largo leaders have done a tremendous job to hold strong our home rule status. The ability to make changes without prior state approval is incredibly important as our city grows and local government best understands local needs. As home rule doesn't allow for complete self-governing, the balance of power between city-legislature-governor is an integral, fluid relationship that must be maintained.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) I support decent, budget-friendly housing, as well as support the complementary industries of transportation and childcare. Due to our Affordable Housing Committee, Largo increased its Home Improvement and Home Repair Program, expanded partnerships with local agencies to provide connections to higher paying jobs, and increased the tiered maximum amounts for down payment assistance Sold-on-Largo.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) Largo is the 4th largest city in Tampa Bay with 83,000 residents; we are growing stronger with targeted annexation. Our residents and existing and future businesses deserve a thriving, vibrant downtown center, one anchored by the new Horizon West Bay city hall complex. I envision a safe, walkable, multi-modal downtown area filled with quality restaurants, specialty shops, breweries, retail, and a 300-space parking garage with EV charging stations. It is important to vote YES on the charter amendment re: Horizon's 5-year lease extension so we can attract quality tenants.

City of Largo Commissioner, Seat 5

The City Council consists of the mayor and six council members elected at large by all qualified electors of the City. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to the various volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$13,453.60/year

Kai Rush



Party: N

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Public Service: Largo Recreation, Parks & Arts Advisory Board Chair, Keep Pinellas Beautiful Pinellas trail Steward, Hurricane Shelter volunteer, City of Largo & Safety harbor volunteer

Professional Experience: 22 veteran teacher and professor, 3D printing & Educational Consultant business, National teacher trainer, Author-five books, published poet & academic articles

Education: Ph.D & MS- Instructional technology, Education, BS-Social Science Education

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I have been a teacher and professor for 22 years, which I bring a unique expertise of education and technology to the board. Secondly, as the chair of the Recreation, Parks and Arts Advisory board, I care about green spaces and preserving them. We have surveyed many people throughout the years and the one thing people love about Largo is its green spaces!

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) We are in a fight to save our green spaces in Largo. There must be an advocate on the board to make sure to preserve green spaces for our future residents. With all the new development we have in Largo of residential buildings, we must make sure to provide the resources needed to keep our city clean. We must keep Largo Clean and Green!

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) We, also, must protect our green spaces that provide us clean air, stormwater treatment and a place for wildfire to thrive. Most of all, Largo must be partners with Clearwater and other cities to save our beaches and ocean life. Tourism is our biggest industry and we must protect what draws tourists. As a green business owner, I am doing my best to teach people to leave less of a carbon footprint.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined?

(400 character limit) This simple case can be seen in our roadways. Our roadways are packed with traffic and the state says that our roadways are fine. Tampa Bay has some of the deadliest roads in the nation. We, Largo, need to protect our drivers, bus riders, pedestrians, school children and bikers with safer roads. We need to be able to tell the state what our residents need, not the other way around.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) We must think about subsidizing rental owners to offset their cost to bring down rental prices. Right now, we have a waiting list for affordable housing vouchers. Instead we should help rental owners subsidize their cost, so they can bring down their rates for affordable housing. This way we help people stay in their rental homes and apartments and help new renters find affordable housing.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) I love the Horizon building and think it will put Largo on the map! This is a Green-certified building with solar panels, charging stations for cars and a rainwater collection system. It is not just a city hall, but a meeting place with shopping and restaurants. Not to mention, a parking garage, which is needed for our famous, big events that draws people from all over Tampa Bay! It will make Largo the place to be after the beach!

Donna Holck



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL, ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Professional Experience: Nail technician, Salon Owner, Educator at Lorraine Academy and Unique Nails, Inc., Owner of DGH Tax Consultants

Public Service: Largo City Commissioner, Board of Directors COC (Homeless leadership board) Board of Directors for My Hope Chest

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Being in the beauty business for 35 years prepared me to be a listener. I feel it is important to listen to the Citizens. Their wants and needs are the reason for this position. While I have been a Commissioner, I try my best to reach a compromise on situations that have several components. I believe in being fair and balanced.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) I feel two of the challenges our City faces are affordable/workforce housing and homeless population. As a city we have continued to offer tax initiatives to builders to bring in more affordable housing. This is something I have always supported. Homelessness has progressed since Covid. It needs to be addressed to assist Veterans, families, elderly and those that are mentally ill.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) As a Commissioner we voted for 100% sustainability by 2035. We hired a sustainability coordinator and work closely with her and will continue to do so.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) We as a city have stayed on top of this issue. Our City is a member of the FL League of Cities. We have actively been pursuing & addressing the importance of Home Rule. The state does not know what is best for our city & it should not have the ability to make decisions for our citizens. Largo Commissioners went to Tallahassee prior to the Legislative Session to talk with our Representatives.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Continue partnerships with the county and offering tax incentives to developers. If we all work together, we can continue in a forward motion of progress.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) The downtown area has always been on my Radar. I have said since day one, build it and they will come, as in The Field of Dreams. We are finally going to be a destination city. Live, Work and Play! Shop, have dinner, go to a performance at Central Park Performing Arts. There will be plenty of parking with the parking garage for other events. I am really excited about the progress we have made in the downtown area and looking forward for more to come.