



Voter Guide – Pinellas County Races November 5th, 2024

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Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Dist 1 At Large

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: \$119,439

Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy



Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Professional Experience Small Business Owner 38 years

Education Bachelor of Science Public Policy & Administration St. Petersburg College, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Planning & Zoning, FEMA Emergency Management & Preparedness Certification, Pinellas Sheriff's Department Community Policing Graduate

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Public Service Mayor, City of Indian Rocks Beach, Barrier Island Governmental Council President, Forward Pinellas Chairperson 2022, Pinellas County Tourist Development Council, Pinellas County Red Tide Summit Moderator, IRB Veteran's Day Ceremony, Home Rule Hero Recipient

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?

Public service is a calling. It's more important than partisanship. It's envisioning, creating, and implementing policy for everyone, especially future generations. Most of my life has been spent in public service. My focus has been helping businesses thrive and improving the quality of life for all citizens. Beach Renourishment is the first line of defense for public health & safety. I want to continue the work I began as Mayor of IRB as a leader concerning this issue. The second issue I will focus on is the Affordability Crisis, which includes all aspects of how it impacts our residents.

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?

Working to improve the infrastructure, providing grants, incentives, and new measures to streamline the process by decreasing the amount of time it takes to begin, construct, and finish a project without losing accountability for developments. Adding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) and Tiny 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?

No. The balance of power between state and local government is not appropriately addressing concerns with local issues. Vacation Rentals Law & General Land Use issues and ordinance exemptions are problematic for local government. My experience as a mayor in Pinellas County led to testifying in Tallahassee on multiple occasions to voice concerns and opposition to the imbalance of power and overreach the state government continues in regard to preemption and home rule surrounding local government. The Florida League of Cities acknowledged my leadership 3 times with the Home Rule Hero Award.

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections?

The Office of Resiliency and Sustainability created recently by the Pinellas County Commission is responsible for ensuring and mitigating risk as a result of extreme weather patterns. In order to attack this issue aggressively and successfully stakeholders from both sides of the issue need to contribute towards the solution. During my time in government I have accomplished bringing Forward Pinellas, the Tourist Development Council, and local government to the table.

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

Identifying the areas that need public transportation and making them a priority. Pinellas County has invested 40 million in refurbishing sidewalks and local roads to make mobility for the elderly, special needs and all citizens easier and safer to travel. While serving for 11 years on Forward Pinellas and in 2022 as the Chairperson we continued to add more sidewalk projects and local roads to our transportation plans creating safer access for businesses and residents.

Chris Scherer



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Professional Experience Florida-certified Class-A Contractor License, Florida Real Estate Brokerage license

Education Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in finance

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Campaign Phone 727-238-8822

Public Service Gov. DeSantis appointed me to the Pinellas Early Learning Coalition.

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?

I'm running for the Pinellas County Commission to improve our environment & water quality, reduce regulations on small businesses, cut real estate taxes and make Pinellas affordable again. Wastewater treatment plant spills and stormwater runoff are destroying our waterways and beaches. I will lead the charge to rebuild our environmental infrastructure. I can utilize my business experience and education in finance to help eliminate wasteful spending, cut red tape & lower real estate taxes. This will lower the cost of housing, goods and services countywide.

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?

We need to promote using auxiliary dwelling units to increase the housing supply in single-family areas. We should also

make the construction cost for the auxiliary dwelling units exempt from the property's taxable value. We should eliminate sales taxes on the cost of materials for housing, to help make housing more affordable. The county should provide real estate tax credits for affordable housing. I'll lead the charge to cut the red tape to bring new affordable housing projects to market faster

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?

Home rule is incredibly important to our communities and to me. Many people want to live in Miami, which has giant hotels built on its public beaches. Many of us prefer the quiet life and less commercial beaches of Indian Shores. Our cities must be allowed to develop or redevelop as determined by their residents, not by politicians in Tallahassee. Problems occur when local governments eliminate property rights without compensation to property owners. This abuse of power invites oversight of the state government. Both situations must be avoided when considering new codes/ordinances.

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections?

Economic development in Pinellas County can play an important role in protecting our environment and preparing our community for inevitable changes in our natural environment. Re-developed properties will require new, improved environmental infrastructure (sewer lines, stormwater ponds), hardened structures better equipped to handle storms and elevated structures which will be less susceptible to flooding. As the costs of upkeep and insurance increase on older structures, the necessity and economic viability of new developments will work to improve our environment and resiliency.

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

Our current public transportation system was created before the proliferation of the cellular phone. In 1984, when PSTA was created, Uber and Lift did not exist. Today, they are a preferred means of transportation. Today, PSTA has 15,580 customers and a \$200,000,000 budget, with an average cost per customer of \$12,836 per year. That is a lot of UBER rides. To improve access to public transportation, we should decrease and limit the use of large buses. It would be more efficient for PSTA to embrace new technologies and develop a system that is geared more toward point-to-point transportation.

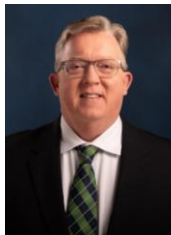
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Dist 3 At Large

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: \$119,439

Charlie Justice



Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Education K-12 Pinellas Public Schools, AA St. Petersburg Junior College, BA University of South Florida

Professional Experience County Commissioner 2012-Present, State Legislator 2000-2010, Leadership Development & Program Coordinator - USF St. Petersburg 1999-2013

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Public Service County Commissioner 2012-Present, State House 2000-2006, State Senate 2006-2010

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Instagram [instagram.com/votecharliejustice](https://www.instagram.com/votecharliejustice)

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?

When I first ran for this office, I believed then and I believe now that the work of local government is important work. Local governments have limited budgets but can have incredible impact on our daily quality of life. We must have Commissioners who take this job seriously. I bring an unparalleled history of personal and professional experience that make me the clear choice. We must continue to address the affordability issues that face our constituents. And we must continue the focus on the primary responsibilities of local government -public safety and maintaining our infrastructure.

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?

While it would be easier if it was once simple solution, housing inventory must be increased in volume and variety. We have worked with developers to guarantee rent levels in apartments, we have partnered with organizations to target populations of need and we have supported organizations like Habitat for Humanity on increasing home ownership. We have done this through our Penny for Pinellas Land Assembly Fund and by securing grants at the state and federal level. We have also, under my initiative, doubled the homestead exemption levels for our low income seniors.

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?

Perhaps the biggest issue is when the State Legislature and Governor decide to preempt local governments, they do not then take a proactive role in addressing that particular issue. They simply do not want what one or a handful of local entities are proposing. There are times when issues should be decided at the state level. There are times when local governments know best. Counties are very different. Land use, business regulation, smoking on the beach are just a few examples of where maybe the County Commission could have better reflected local priorities and values.

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections?

Where allowable by state law, we must examine density issues, flood plain, and other site plan variables on a case by case basis. Florida has strong property rights laws and local governments are often not able to prohibit construction if the zoning is in place. Under my leadership, Pinellas has taken steps to preserve green space and prevent over development in some areas by purchasing properties including 226 acres in recent years including an abandoned golf course in west Pinellas.

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

While transit is the responsibility of the PSTA (I am not currently on their Board) We must meet people where they are in terms of transit needs. Successes such as the Sunrunner can be confidence boost for people's willingness to use mass transit. We must be willing to invest in creative solutions including intra-community shuttles, Ride Share, waterborne transportation. And while transit is the responsibility of the PSTA, the County did fund \$8 million toward the construction of the new downtown Clearwater Station.

Vince Nowicki



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address

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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?

- candidate declined to respond -

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?

- candidate declined to respond -

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?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections?

- candidate declined to respond -

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

- candidate declined to respond -

Pinellas County School Board Member Dist 5 Single Member

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: \$53,205/year

Kathleen "Katie" Blaxberg



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Professional Experience Katie served as District Aide for Rep. Chris Latvala, supporting education and school safety legislation. She is active in her community, serving on PTA, various boards and works with numerous charitable organizations.

Facebook www.facebook.com/BlaxbergForPinellas/

Education Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science. University of South Florida

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Campaign Mailing Address PO Box 20252 St Petersburg FL 33742

Campaign Website www.katieblaxberg.com/

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

1. I am honored to have Sheriff Gualtieri's endorsement and I am confident that Pinellas is at the forefront of school safety initiatives. Mental health, resiliency and coping skills are crucial for student safety. Addressing cyberbullying and social media use is a priority. 2. I understand the challenges parents face when choosing a school that best fits their student. I am committed to making that process easier to understand and navigate. 3. I want to ensure that teachers have the resources and support they need, including competitive salaries and a positive work environment.

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?

Compensation: By supporting the referendum, the district is able to recruit & retain high-quality teachers and provide support for professional development. Funds from the referendum contribute to teacher salaries, accounting for approximately 12% or \$6300. Creating and maintaining a positive work environment is crucial. A positive and supportive work environment can greatly impact staff retention. Schools should focus on fostering a culture of respect, collaboration, & appreciation for their employees. Offering high-quality professional development opportunities can also help reduce turnover.

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, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

I will seek parental input and understand that parental involvement improves classrooms, schools and the district. There must be a collaborative approach between parents and the board to address issues and concerns. Continuing the practice of public comments, televised meetings and overall transparency between the board and parents is a priority of mine. Additionally, having consistent office hours and an open door policy is of the utmost importance to me I am acutely aware that parents are their children's best advocate and access to public servants essential.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

It is important to recognize that our children's classrooms should be a place of learning, growth, and development, free from the influence of partisan politics. It is crucial for educators to create a safe and inclusive environment where students can freely express their thoughts and ideas. However, it is essential for voters to have a voice and participate in the democratic process. Ultimately, the decision on Amendment 1 should be left to the voters.

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

The primary difference is how these types of schools are funded and governed. Charter schools and vouchers give parents alternative options to traditional public schools. As a school board member, I will advocate for adequate funding for public schools to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education. This includes advocating for sufficient funding for programs and services that support student success.

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

Creating a safe and respectful learning environment free from discrimination and bullying is essential for the safety of students in schools and classrooms. By implementing these strategies, schools can create a positive learning environment for LGBTQ+ students while still adhering to Florida laws. It is important to prioritize the well-being and inclusion of all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Stacy Geier



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address

Campaign Website www.votestacygeier.com/

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

- 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, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

- candidate declined to respond -

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

- candidate declined to respond -

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

- candidate declined to respond -

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Dist Seat 5

The Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District is one of four Special Fire Control Districts that provide fire rescue, safety, and Advanced Life Support services (ALS) to unincorporated areas of Pinellas County. Each District is also part of the integrated Pinellas County EMS system. This means that each District is required to respond if they are the closest unit to an emergency incident, even if the incident occurs outside of their District's borders. Each District is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected by the registered voters within the District. The Commissioners provide guidance in establishing and managing community programs such as CPR instruction, certified child safety seat installation, home safety inspections, and fire safety programs with local schools. The Board of Commissioners is also responsible for managing the budget and financial resources of the Fire Control District.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$500/month

Jacob Allen Knighton

Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address

What in your professional and personal experience distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for this position?

-no response-

Explain the top two issues and/or unique challenges facing this fire control district? If elected, what actions would you propose to address these issues or challenges?

-no response-

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. What will be your approach to addressing these challenges?

-no response-

Is the fire control district adequately prepared, trained, and supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other necessary resources to manage health crises and other similar situations? If not, what is needed?

-no response-

Do you feel that residents within the fire district understand the district's role and function in the community? If not, what would you do to help educate them?

-no response-

Lou Snelling



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address 13635 94 Av. N. Seminole Fl 33776

What in your professional and personal experience distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for this position?

Louis R Snelling IV (Lou) was appointed to fill the vacancy representing an area of unincorporated Pinellas County known as the Oakhurst area (seat #5) in November 2015. I have remained on the commission serving as the Chairman of the Board since Nov.2022. I started my fire service career as a volunteer with the Indian Rocks F.D. In 1972. I served my 44 years as a F.F. with the cities of Largo, Seminole and Dunedin, and rose through the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Division Chief of EMS.

Explain the top two issues and/or unique challenges facing this fire control district? If elected, what actions would you propose to address these issues or challenges?

Our biggest issue is that of our 2 outdated fire stations which, are over 50 years old. We also need an actual station for our engine 26 in Indian Shores. We've been working on a replacement plan which would start with a new station on the mainland, located on 94th Avenue. We are working on design plans for this station and looking for property to build a fire station in Indian Shores... Upgrades to the station on IRB are being looked at with a grant from the state of Florida.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. What will be your approach to addressing these challenges?

- candidate declined to respond -

Is the fire control district adequately prepared, trained, and supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other necessary resources to manage health crises and other similar situations? If not, what is needed?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you feel that residents within the fire district understand the district's role and function in the community? If not, what would you do to help educate them?

- candidate declined to respond -

St. Petersburg Council Member District 3

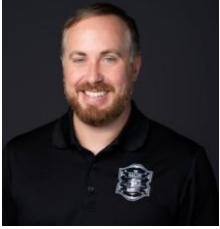
The city of St. Petersburg operates under a strong mayor and city council system. The St. Petersburg City Council is the non-partisan governing body of the City. The Council is responsible for legislating ordinances and resolutions, approving the city budget, appointing the charter review commission, and establishing a code of ethics for the city government and city employees. The Council consists of eight Council Members, elected from each of the eight districts of the City. Elections for the City Council are held in even-numbered years, usually with each election including four of the eight districts. In the general election, all eligible city voters vote "at large" for the candidates running in all of the Districts that are on the ballot.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$54,000/year

To view the July 30th, 2024 candidate forum for this race, click here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a628MWzykU>

Pete Boland



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Mailing Address PO Box 965 Saint Petersburg FL 33731

Professional Experience Co-Founder & COO The Galley: A St. Pete Tavern (2016), Co-Founder & Managing Partner Mary Margaret's Olde Irish Tavern (2020), Founder & Executive Producer PMB Events (2022)

Campaign Website www.peteforstpete.com/

Instagram www.instagram.com/peteforstpete/

Campaign Phone 7276126686

Education Graduate of St Pete High, Mass Communications major at St Petersburg College, College of Central Florida , culinary student at Art Institute of Tampa

Public Service Member of St Pete Area Chamber of Commerce, Member of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Board Member Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association , Former Co-Chair Build the Pier Campaign

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What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

My top priority when being elected will be to cut red tape and reduce the costs on St. Pete businesses and residents. We need to make St Pete more affordable and eliminate unnecessary barriers to entry when opening a business and building or renovating homes. We need to return to a customer service type model and improve the connectivity between city departments so that we can have streamlined processes. One specific policy proposal I will advance is pre-approved site plans for buildings like ADUs.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

First off, I lead by example in my businesses by promoting and executing labor programs that pay above market wages. We as a city need to promote economic development (like the Gas Plant project) and continue to covet and inspire job incubators that can produce higher-skilled workers. We must also work with Pinellas County schools to build apprenticeships and to create a pipeline of skilled labor that can lead to greater prosperity for our citizens and workers. We also need to continue to communicate the availability of great programs like the Greenhouse that create entrepreneurs.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

I'd like to instill new pre-approved site plans for Accessory Dwelling Units and for organizations like Habitat For Humanity. I also would like to upzone along busy transit corridors & reduce some stringent parking requirements so that we can build multi-family housing that meets the demands of our growing city.

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

As a resident and native of Shore Acres, there are few issues that hit home more than this one. We must continue the work already underway to replace aging back flow preventers and to upgrade infrastructure under 62nd Ave NE, and move forward with the Connecticut Avenue NE Pump station project. We must also do all the little things like planting trees while keeping an eye bigger projects like seawall heightening. Additionally, I'd like to finally get a private lateral replacement grant/incentive on the books to properly mitigate storm water penetration that has caused much of the overflows.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

While I acknowledge 1 of 8 city councilors can only do so much, there is things we can do to improve equality of opportunity for the black community in St. Pete. I would like to advance programs to help aspiring entrepreneurs in the black community open new businesses and learn the language of business. I would like to connect the black community to existing services and programs and help to make sure that those services reach the vulnerable areas and those in need of support. We also need to focus on our schools so that they can close the achievement gap and end the failure factories.

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a

vote on this decision?

Yes, I wrote an op-ed column in The Tampa Bay Times in June titled "Perfect can't be the enemy of abundant good with Rays-Hines Gas plant". The upside is monumental with managed risk on the city's part. When compared to the other stadium projects underway throughout the US, the Rays-Hines proposal stands to deliver substantially more with significantly less public subsidy. The public is getting many benefits and desired needs (like workforce housing, green space, convention center) and the potential long-term return on investment is massive. The city will also eliminate our annual operating expense going forward. There should not be a public vote. Every candidate for office in St Pete for nearly 20 years has been asked about this issue.

Michael Harting



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

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Professional Experience Founder and CEO, 3 Daughters Brewing

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Campaign Phone 8132998166

Education BS Business, UF

Public Service NA

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What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

I am focused on increased funding for what our city looks like in 20 years. Our infrastructure, from water to sidewalks and streetlights, is well planned (there are several 20-25-year master plans that have been approved by the council over the past decade) but not well funded. It is a cultural challenge to move from funding today to funding tomorrow.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

As a small business owner and someone with 30 years of experience in the hospitality sector, I know the importance of maintaining a strong economy in our city. The best thing our city can do is keep taxes and regulations to a minimum so that we can keep and attract great organizations.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

Workforce housing needs to be more of a public/private partnership. With the rising cost of labor and materials, it is not viable for a private company to build units that allow for rent structures that fit in the workforce housing silo. First, the city needs to improve and become more efficient at permitting and inspections. Second, the city needs to be willing to defray costs with city-supplied land and subsidized construction costs and city sponsored low interest loans to builders.

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

Our Public Works Department's "Integrated Water Resource Master Plan" was approved by the city council in 2019. This plan addresses this topic with back-flow preventers, pump stations, hardening stormwater processing facilities and replacing stormwater management systems at the WRFs. The challenge for future Councils is holding the then current administration to a 5-year review schedule to ensure the goals and plans are still relevant and ensure the program as a whole remains funded.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

From the standpoint of the City Council, equity (of all types) is furthered by approving and funding programs/plans that cover the entire city. The ongoing "Complete Streets" and "Canopy tree planting" programs are great examples of what we intend to support.

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?

I support the concept and the plan. I do however believe the contract needs further negotiation to better define the commitments (workforce housing in particular) and provide enforcement measures for the city in the future. Although the opportunity has passed, I would have supported a voter referendum on this type of proposal because of its broad reaching and long-term impact.

St. Petersburg Council Member District 5

The city of St. Petersburg operates under a strong mayor and city council system. The St. Petersburg City Council is the non-partisan governing body of the City. The Council is responsible for legislating ordinances and resolutions, approving the city budget, appointing the charter review commission, and establishing a code of ethics for the city government and city employees. The Council consists of eight Council Members, elected from each of the eight districts of the City. Elections for the City Council are held in even-numbered years, usually with each election including four of the eight districts. In the general election, all eligible city voters vote "at large" for the candidates running in all of the Districts that are on the ballot.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$54,000/year

Deborah Figgs-Sanders



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

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Facebook www.facebook.com/FiggsSanders4d5?mibextid=LQQJ4d

Twitter [x.com/CouncilwomanD5](https://twitter.com/CouncilwomanD5)

Instagram www.instagram.com/councilwomand5/

Education Master of Business Administration University of Phoenix □ 2006 Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, Magna cum Laude Florida A&M University □ 1989 Associate of Arts in Business Administration St. Petersburg Junior College □ 1986

Professional Experience Jan 2020 – Current City of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL City Council Member, District 5 Tasked with representing the interests of district and citywide constituents by having a understanding of what issues are important in the community. In addition to proposing, passing, ratifying ordinances, manage budgets, procurement

Public Service Community Leadership and Service • Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) member (Mayor Appointed 2015-Current) • Pinellas County Council for Persons with Disabilities (Pinellas County Commissions Appointed 2018-Current) • Emerging Leaders Fellowship & Internship Program, Program Director (2018-2019) • CATCH LITE Young

Campaign Mailing Address Post Office Box 35468 St. Petersburg FL 33705

Campaign Website figgssanders4d5stpete.com/

What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

As our city faces an escalating housing crisis, my foremost priority is to champion innovative planning and reforms that will expand housing options for all residents. At the state and federal levels, I will collaborate to advance federal legislation that promotes: Eliminating Discriminatory Land Use Policies, Closing Housing Gaps, Advancing Zoning Reforms. By working closely with my colleagues and the city's administration, I am confident that we can secure support for these initiatives. Our collective efforts will improve accessibility, and affordability of housing across our community.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

I am committed to improving economic conditions for residents in low-wage positions. Advocating for better wages, job training, supporting local businesses and labor unions can create a more robust and equitable economy. Some of the steps that I would take would be to collect data, explore partnerships, advocate for policy changes that address wage disparities, improve job training, and support local businesses which drive meaningful change. It is this focus that would foster a more equitable and thriving community for all of our residents.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

Multi-family dwellings can indeed be a great way to maximize land use and provide more affordable housing options. Supporting code and zoning changes to permit options such as accessory dwelling units, reducing parking requirements, streamlining construction processes and offering affordable housing incentives.

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

I will continue to advocate for high-density resiliency and exploring innovative solutions to enhance our infrastructure. I will focus on key initiatives: Lateral Lines Program citywide, Enforcing Sewage Overflow Reporting, Enhancing Communication with Constituents and Working to secure additional contributions from our rapid development projects. Through these measures, we aim to build a more resilient city infrastructure and improve the overall quality of life for our residents.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

I've always had a strong commitment to racial equity and public service. With years of community activism and engagement, I was active with One Community organization which anchored my commitment in addressing racial inequities. The Building Bridges & Supporting Racial Equity study was commissioned and funded by the City at the request of the community. The study would serve as the guide to include diversity governed by policy establishing valuable opportunities available to all residents. I will continue working to ensure protections of equity for all residents.

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?

I played a significant role in completing the process with thoughtful consideration based on valuable community input. I served the project as the council member appointee on the Community Benefits Agreement Committee representative. After weighing the pros and cons, there were several term negotiations I'd like to have seen improved, clarified and added. However, there were several aspects devoted to honoring the Gas Plant community's and its descendants for all residents to appreciate for generations to come.

Torrie Jasuwan



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education University of South Florida, Criminology

Professional Experience Real Estate Broker at Luxe Properties, Founder of Babycycle Diaper Bank

Public Service Founder and Director of Babycycle Diaper Bank

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Campaign Phone 7274037280

Facebook facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552319002167

Instagram www.instagram.com/torrie4stpete/

What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

My top priority for the city is investing in increased infrastructure- specifically sewage and drainage systems. It's important we work to prevent future flooding damage and fight for funding for flood prevention.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

Provide educational and vocational training free of charge for adults who would like to continue their education. Have the city partner with local labor unions that will establish apprentice programs that will lead to higher paying jobs.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

Relaxing zoning restrictions on lot size for ADUs and relaxing zoning restrictions in areas where there are high amounts of vacant homes to allow for multi-family building.

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

Not allowing future development in high risk flood prone areas. Installing more backflow preventers to help flood waters recede throughout the city. Encourage through city ordinances and tax breaks to install permeable surfaces to help prevent future flooding. I will fight for flood prevention funding for all citizens and work to get grants to help those facing flooding.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

We have to support the Black community- starting in our schools. The literacy rate is lower in this community than any other in the city. We must support programs that help black children read and succeed. As a city council member, I will work towards better education and expand mentorship programs to children in need.

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?

The deal is done- it will be my job to work for the citizens and make sure that the Rays hold up their end of the deal and do what they have promised. I would have voted no on the current deal, because I feel we could have negotiated a better deal for our citizens. I will work to make sure that the Rays do the right thing for our city.

St. Petersburg Council Member District 7

The city of St. Petersburg operates under a strong mayor and city council system. The St. Petersburg City Council is the non-partisan governing body of the City. The Council is responsible for legislating ordinances and resolutions, approving the city budget, appointing the charter review commission, and establishing a code of ethics for the city government and city employees. The Council consists of eight Council Members, elected from each of the eight districts of the City. Elections for the City Council are held in even-numbered years, usually with each election including four of the eight districts. In the general election, all eligible city voters vote "at large" for the candidates running in all of the Districts that are on the ballot.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$54,000/year

Corey Givens



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website www.coreygivens.com/

Campaign Mailing Address

What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

My top policy priority for the city will be the redevelopment of the Tropicana Field site. I want to use my experience as a financial representative and community organizer to enact positive change and tangible results for the people of St. Petersburg. I have a strategic plan for how we can bring the public sector and our local non-profit organizations together to increase our housing supply while protecting our city's unique character.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

Roughly 40-60% of St. Pete's labor force is reliant on low-wage jobs. The vast majority of the lowest-paid workers work for large companies with more than 100 people, usually in the, food service and retail industries. Many lower-wage City of St. Pete employees are required to reside inside the city limits, but some decry the cost of living in the city & say it's become too high for them. Once elected, I will work with our state and federal leaders to push-back on preemptions that prohibit local governments from paying employees more than the state minimum wage.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

One pragmatic solution to increasing the availability & attainability of affordable housing in our city is to begin by eliminating the barriers & red tape that make it more expensive for developers to build here. That starts with changes in our zoning regulations to incentive workforce housing developments in blighted communities. On council I will utilize the Homeless Leadership Network and the County Housing Trust Fund to expand our continuum of housing for emergency shelters, those evicted, low-income housing, and those earning \$50-60K/year (120% AMI).

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

St. Petersburg is a peninsula on a peninsula. Our city's infrastructure simply cannot sustain the overdevelopment that will occur by increasing residential density in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). Over development within Coastal High-Density areas or flood zones is not rational, no matter how high construction standards are raised. Our leaders didn't take climate change or sea level rise in consideration when they made the decision to approve an ordinance that amends the city's comprehensive plan to allow greater density, or more dwelling units per acre.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

To truly address the effects of racism and racial inequity at the local government level, meaningful change will require a leader who has a track record of building bridges and bringing people together from all walks of life. I would take the necessary steps to create a coordinated effort in City Hall to enact policy that will make right the wrongs of the past. The only true equity is financial equity. I will be intentional about connecting minority communities to organizations like the Bright Community Trust, who provide credit counseling for those interested in becoming homeowners.

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?

I love the Rays & I love baseball, but I do not support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal. This matter should be decided by voters in the form of a referendum. I personally believe that this vote has been rushed and we need to start over. It's not too late!

Wengay "Newt" Newton



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/Newt4HD62

Campaign Website www.newt7.com/

Education Northeast High School, Class of 1981-Diploma. ITT Technical Institute, A.S. Degree in Electronic Engineering, Class of 1983. Xerox Corporation Management Training Graduate 1996. Microsoft MCS - SPC 2001. CONA Leadership Graduate 2006.

Campaign Email newt@newt7.com

Public Service I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Served on Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. 15 years of Governance.

Instagram www.instagram.com/newthd70

Professional Experience I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Served on Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. It would be honor to serve you again on St. Petersburg City Council D7.

Campaign Mailing Address Post Office Box 11551 ST. PETERSBURG FL 33733

Twitter www.twitter.com/NEWTFL

Campaign Phone 727-619-6398

What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?

I am the only candidate with legislative experience. I will work with the Mayor and Council to ensure that the Tropicana Field and the Rays development moves forward. Address the Affordable Housing crisis here in St. Petersburg. Alleviate the flooding in the Snell Isles and Shore Acers. I will also use the relationships and bridges that I have built to seek State and Federal matching funds.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?

When I served on St. Petersburg City Council District 7 we passed \$15 an hour minimum wages for all city employees. I would enforce our Community Benefit Program on all new construction. I would also fund apprenticeship programs for entry level employment with living wages.

As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?

When I served in the Florida Legislator, for the first time in over a decade we were successful in preventing the sweeping of the Sadowski Trust Fund. Which provided \$370 Million for Affordable Housing. I would continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity and Mike Sutton to provide Affordable Home Ownership, Equity and Generational Wealth. Also, Divvy Rent to Own Program.

What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?

The effects of Sea Level Rise is contributing to the flooding in Shore Acres & Snell Isle. I would submit a New Business Item to add \$2 Million dollar line item in our Capital Improvement Budget to fund Back-Flow Converters. We must install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water backups. Also construct interior barriers to stop low level floodwater from entering homes. I would also seek State and Federal matching dollars to assist. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. Please visit my website at www.newt7.com and look under accomplishments tab.

Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?

I would propose or support a New Business Item on any and all city policies that pertain to race. Then I would work with the Mayor and Council to remove policies from our dark past that created racial disparities. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. I ask for your VOTE by Mail, Early Voting and on August 20th, 2024. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve you again on St. Petersburg City Council District 7. Thank You. "Newt"

Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?

By the time I get sworn into City Council the Vote on the Gas Plant and Rays Stadium will have already happened. That said, I will work with the Mayor and Council to ensure that the Tropicana Field and the Rays development moves forward. The Rays are a regional asset. I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. I return to St. Petersburg with the relationship and bridges

that I have built to continue moving our city forward. I am endorsed by the St. Petersburg Association of Firefighters and Paramedics Local #747. VOTE!

Dunedin Mayor

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. The Mayor is elected by all registered voters of Dunedin and serves as a member of the City Commission. In addition to his responsibilities as a Commission member, the Mayor presides at all Commission meetings, and is also recognized as the head of City government for the purposes of military law, and as the city representative in all agreements with other governmental entities.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$15,000/year

Maureen "Moe" Freaney



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Master of Business Administration

Professional Experience Dunedin City Commission for the last eight years. Prior to that, 31 years of City/County government experience including Assistant City Manager for Dunedin, Assistant County Administrator for Pinellas County, Director of Pinellas County Health and Human Services (Including Veteran Services) and Director of Animal Services, just to name a few.

Public Service Past President Dunedin Council of Organizations, Past Board Member and Chair of Mease Life Continuing Care Facility, Past Board Member of the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, Past Board Member of Dunedin History Museum, Past Board Member of Leadership Pinellas, Chair Dunedin Centennial Task Force, Member of Friends of Hammock Park.

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What City of Dunedin committees or other public service have you engaged in over the past 5 years? What has this service taught you about the inner workings of government that you will bring to the position of Mayor?

I have been an elected member of the Dunedin City Commission for the last eight years. I am currently the Vice Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (in line to be Chair next year) and the Commission Liaison to the Toronto Blue Jays. Prior to that, I was Commission Liaison to Dunedin Cares Food Pantry. I am also a member of the Dunedin Fine Arts Center Advisory Board, Friends of Hammock Park, VFW 2550 Auxiliary, Friends of the Library and Friends of Island Parks. Due to my extensive involvement, I know what it takes to find solutions, navigate our community to get things done in a fair and transparent manner and be a unifier serving all Dunedin residents.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

1. Maintaining the special charm of Dunedin- In the many years I've lived and worked in Dunedin this has always been one of the top concerns of residents. Slow, incremental and balanced growth is the key to this. The current City Commission has put in place many additional City code changes as well as an Architectural Review Board to help protect our charm. 2. Environment Resiliency & Sustainability/Sea Level Rise- Dunedin is a coastal community. Our waterways and the protection of them are critical to our way of life. Sea level rise will continue to be a challenge. Ensuring the City creates a resilient/sustainable community for the future is of utmost importance to Dunedin.

What is your position on restricting development in coastal high hazard zones to mitigate the risks associated with sea level rise? And why?

Many codes, rules and regulations are already in place when building is being done in flood prone areas. The federal government will continue to play a role in this. The balance of regulating, restricting or preventing future development in coastal high hazard areas will continue to evolve. There are many property rights laws that will have on-going impact on the extent of future regulations on these lands. The City of Dunedin is currently doing a vulnerability assessment to identify the areas and assets in the city that are most vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. This will allow the city to acquire input from experts and citizens on priority areas to invest for the long term.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I am a complete proponent for local government home rule. It is very important for local government to retain its authority over local issues. Local government is the government closest to the people and there cannot and should not be a "one size fits all" mentality. I believe that excessive state intervention has and will be a detriment to our local quality of life.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the lack of workforce and low-income housing?

One of the things that's always been nice about Dunedin is its economic diversity. But today we face huge challenges to this. We certainly want our front-line workers in the service industry, government, nursing, teaching, public safety, etc. to be able to afford to live here. As it relates to affordable housing, the city is limited because of being built-out. Despite this, there have been various affordable housing successes due to redevelopment opportunities. I will continue to advocate and partner on behalf of affordable housing opportunities.

John Shine



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone 727-365-6112

Campaign Website www.dunedinmayor.com

Education MBA, MCPM, BS Business

Public Service Rotary International, Dunedin Downtown Neighborhood Association

Professional Experience Entrepreneur, Executive, Technologist, Consultant

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What City of Dunedin committees or other public service have you engaged in over the past 5 years? What has this service taught you about the inner workings of government that you will bring to the position of Mayor?

I am a dedicated member of The Dunedin Rotary, where I actively contribute to organizing events like the Dunedin Triathlon, which demands extensive planning and coordination. I also work hard to raise funds for scholarships and grants that support local non-profits and Dunedin students attending college. In addition, I founded the Dunedin Downtown Neighborhood Association to advocate for downtown residents and businesses. Through this organization, I've tackled important community issues such as Character Overlay, the development of Fenway, and negotiations with the Blue Jays, all to enhance our vibrant community.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Dunedin faces two major challenges: financial management and staying true to its core mission. Over the past decade, the city's financial obligations have surged, with debt and property taxes tripling and overall spending increasing by 69%. Despite this, Dunedin has failed to invest in critical infrastructure, tools, and processes that align with its primary mission. Instead, City Commissioners have funded non-essential projects, neglecting vital systems like the city's permit process, which remains compromised and not fully operational nearly two years later. This shift has led to a focus on projects that do not address the genuine needs of residents.

What is your position on restricting development in coastal high hazard zones to mitigate the risks associated with sea level rise? And why?

Managing sea level rise and stormwater is our community's top priority. In Dunedin, limiting development isn't feasible due to our density. Instead, we need to take immediate action to manage our coastal areas and regions vulnerable to flooding and tidal surges. Our current city management has been inadequate, and it's essential that we develop a comprehensive strategy now. This plan must address our two main creeks, high areas contributing to flooding, and our shoreline to ensure a proactive and effective response to these pressing challenges. It's time to stop "DREAM-ING" and start taking action to address immediate concerns.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I strongly believe that local governments should retain authority over policies affecting their communities, such as school curriculums, environmental protection, and housing. Local leaders understand their community's unique needs and values better than distant state or federal authorities. Decisions about education should address local student needs, and housing policies must tackle specific affordability issues to ensure future generations can thrive. Centralized policies often

miss these local nuances. By allowing local governments to decide, we create more responsive and effective solutions that truly support families and strengthen our community.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the lack of workforce and low-income housing?

In Dunedin, we must prioritize workforce housing and starter homes to ensure future generations can afford to live here. I worry about whether my children and grandchildren will be able to buy a home in our community. Given Dunedin's density, we need to encourage the redevelopment of non-historic properties that are no longer viable. Offering incentives to property owners and developers can help revitalize outdated and blighted areas. We must also tackle rising insurance and property taxes to keep Dunedin affordable, improve stormwater management, and focus government spending on essential services, not on unnecessary projects.

John Tornga



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone 727-781-6023

Campaign Website johntornga.com

Education BA Economics, Calvin University / MBA, Michigan State University

Public Service US Marine Corps / Honor Flight of WCF / President of HOA / Mentor at Dunedin High School / Chair of Neighborhood Watch

Professional Experience Vice President AMF Head Ski and Tennis / VP Head, Europe / VP MicroProse Inc / CEO Capital Data Consulting

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Campaign Email johntornga@gmail.com

What City of Dunedin committees or other public service have you engaged in over the past 5 years? What has this service taught you about the inner workings of government that you will bring to the position of Mayor?

Relating to Dunedin, my service includes as a member of the Florida League of Cities including serving on their Administration Legislative Committee, the Suncoast League of Cities, liaison to the Dunedin Golf Club and the Dunedin Cares. Other service includes with Honor Flight, as a Mentor at Dunedin High School and as president of our Rotary Club, Dunedin North. A carryover lesson, reminder - Service and Leadership are both action verbs.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Firstly, to effectively and efficiently prioritize, fund, and manage projects that provide for the safety and security of our residents and that focus on infrastructure by lessening the number of active projects and utilizing strong Project Management programs. Secondly, to improve the management and communication with our volunteer City Boards and Committees by having regularly scheduled meetings with the City Commission and each Board and Committee.

What is your position on restricting development in coastal high hazard zones to mitigate the risks associated with sea level rise? And why?

I support the restriction. We must strive to ensure that our constituent's safety is strongly endorsed and supported and that we exercise fiscal responsibility as we deal with the high actual and potential costs associated with damages from storms and high water especially in these coastal high hazard areas.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I serve as a member of the Florida League of Cities legislative committees and the Suncoast League of Cities and advocate as a strong proponent of Home Rule that local government should make local choices to protect and enhance their own communities. I seek the input of our constituents on all issues. As an elected official I have a good working relationship with our state officials, staying in contact with them via the conventional methods including visitations at their offices in Tallahassee providing information on subjects that would support Home Rule and providing information as to the why.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the lack of workforce and low-income housing?

This has been and continues to be a high priority for us. Working with the State, the County, Clearwater Housing Authority and a private developer, we have currently made a significant commitment to a project that would provide a large number of living facilities for the workforce and low-income housing in Dunedin. We will continue to seek additional opportunities for redevelopment where the issue is generally the lack of available land on which to build. Reuse and redevelopment will have to play a role as we progress.

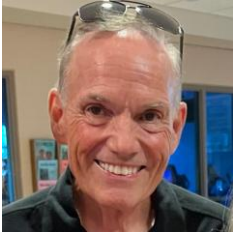
Dunedin City Commissioner Seat 1

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

Tom Dugard



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website WWW.Tomdugard.com

Campaign Mailing Address P O Box 1 Dunedin FL 34698

Campaign Phone 7276000711

Campaign Email Tomdugard@me.com

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

With over 40 years of leadership experience and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, my qualifications far exceed my opponents. What is perhaps more important is my knowledge of community problem solving.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Dunedin is facing extraordinary growth that has changes the community demographics. The City needs to adjust its approach to maintain economic diversity. The second and more long term issue is climate change and our response.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

Local rule has so many advantages over State rule. As Jefferson said government closest to the people is the best form of government. There are too many variations from city to city for a one size fits all approach.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing?

Affordable housing is the challenge of our time. The problem will persist no matter local efforts until the retirement of the Baby Boomers begins to diminish. Until then all local City foreclosures should be assigned to our housing authority for redevelopment into affordable housing. The City will hold 51% of title and the new resident 49%. Upon sale the residents can have some of the appreciated value while City returns it to the pool.

Tourism was up 5.5% in 2023, and plans for a new Aquatic Complex, a restoration of the Dunedin Golf Club, a Marina Master Plan, a new downtown park on the site of the old City Hall, and Phase 2 for the Gladys Douglas Preserve were all presented this year. How will you work to balance economic growth and tourism with quality of life for city residents, especially around traffic and noise concerns?

It turns out that Paradise is the 9 square miles that is Dunedin. And everyone wants in. As long as the demand for Dunedin property continues, we will see more gentrification and a loss of an eclectic Dunedin. We may be able to slow the tide but in the long term I fear we will continue to see limited economic diversity in new residents. Dunedin was established for the pursuit of a quality of life for our residents. I propose that we return to resident first mentality to best preserve that which is good about Dunedin. We will honor our tourists and snowbirds but the period of their interests exceeding those of our residents should come to an end.

Shane Warth



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education some college

Facebook facebook.com/shanewarthfordunedincommission

Campaign Website shanewarth.com

Instagram instagram.com/shanewarthfordunedincommission

Public Service Recently completed a 3 year term on the board of directors for a local animal rescue. I volunteer at the HOB Give Back on Saturdays where we provide food for 100+ families

Professional Experience I'm a former business owner in the city of Dunedin and currently I'm a commercial sales manager for a flooring manufacturer.

Campaign Mailing Address 1644 San Roy Dr Dunedin FL 34698

Campaign Phone 727-686-8644

Campaign Email contact@shanewarth.com

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As a lifelong Dunedin resident and a small business owner, I understand the needs of our community. My experience managing & collaborating with teams, managing budgets and growing a local business has equipped me with the skills to find practical solutions. I'm passionate about preserving Dunedin's unique charm while ensuring thoughtful development that benefits all residents.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Dunedin's two biggest challenges are managing responsible growth and preserving our village vibe. To address this, I propose stricter guidelines on development to ensure it aligns with our community's character and better traffic management solutions to reduce congestion. Secondly, maintaining affordable housing options for the workforce is critical. I'd work to incentivize developers to build affordable workforce units and explore partnerships with local organizations to expand housing options for all.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

Local governments should retain authority to decide policies affecting their communities. Dunedin's unique needs are best understood by its residents and leaders, not state officials who may have different priorities. Local control allows us to protect our environment, regulate housing in ways that work for us, and make educational decisions that reflect our values. We must advocate for local autonomy to preserve Dunedin's distinctive character and priorities.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing?

I propose a collaborative approach where developers, the city, and the community come together to create sustainable, affordable housing solutions. We can incentivize developers to include affordable workforce units in their projects through tax credits or density bonuses. Additionally, I'll support exploring grants to fund initiatives, ensuring we provide housing for all income levels in Dunedin.

Tourism was up 5.5% in 2023, and plans for a new Aquatic Complex, a restoration of the Dunedin Golf Club, a Marina Master Plan, a new downtown park on the site of the old City Hall, and Phase 2 for the Gladys Douglas Preserve were all presented this year. How will you work to balance economic growth and tourism with quality of life for city residents, especially around traffic and noise concerns?

To balance growth and quality of life, I'll prioritize responsible development that enhances, rather than detracts from, our community. For tourism, I'll support infrastructure improvements like better traffic flow and public transportation options. I'll also advocate for intelligent planning around new projects, ensuring they don't overburden our streets or disrupt neighborhoods. Thoughtful, balanced growth will benefit residents and visitors, keeping Dunedin's charm intact.

Dunedin City Commissioner Seat 3

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

Steven R. Sandbergen



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone 727-463-2785

Campaign Mailing Address 416 Glencairn Cir Dunedin FL 34698

Education High School, St. Petersburg Jr. College, Florida Insurance School

Public Service Local Planning Agency, Dunedin Stadium Advisory Committee, Dunedin Little League, Dunedin golf cart map/zone

Professional Experience President/CEO Sandbergen Insurance Inc., President Edelweiss Townhomes (Helen GA)
President Dunedin Little League

Campaign Email stevensandbergen@gmail.com

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

Former small business owner, responsible for production and management, making sure the job was done efficiently. Member of the Local Planning Agency, Dunedin Stadium Advisory Committee, Dunedin Little League (President), member of the golf cart zoning group. Resident of Dunedin for 40+ years, with 3 kids born in Mease Dunedin. I'm anchored to the past and positioned to lead into the future. I own a home in the heart of the city, seeing the rise in value, and enjoying our vibrant community.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

As our climate changes, we need to focus on preservation and protection of our natural resources. With sea levels rising, we need to try to stay ahead in our engineering and preparation. We need to protect and maintain our park systems that generate millions of visitors each year. Another challenge that we face today is usage of social media. Whereas social media is here to stay, we need to lower the temperature of hate and division. It's a form of communication, until it becomes weaponized. The anonymous, vitriolic and personal attacks on others must be reined in. We're a community of 38,000 who need to promote and encourage our neighbors, our businesses and ourselves.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend? Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

City government is home government and the best way to govern. The state government has too many one-size-fits-all policies. They will take away the independent thought process of local officials, as well as residents. State government needs to be tamed as it is becoming autocratic in nature. Each community has unique issues and different thoughts on how to address day to day operations and decisions. If the state government dictates everything, it will only weaken or eliminate local government. We must continue to have local decisions made by local leaders, to support our hometown. We cannot allow outsiders with no feeling or knowledge of Dunedin to make our decisions.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing?

In future development we need to set standards and guarantees that the builder provides an adequate and proportionate number of homes that are deemed affordable based on Dunedin median income. We should focus on our first responders, our servers and our local families. Our continued partnership with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and any similar groups will also help us maintain and strive toward our affordable housing goals.

Tourism was up 5.5% in 2023, and plans for a new Aquatic Complex, a restoration of the Dunedin Golf Club, a Marina Master Plan, a new downtown park on the site of the old City Hall, and Phase 2 for the Gladys Douglas Preserve were all presented this year. How will you work to balance economic growth and tourism with quality of life for city residents, especially around traffic and noise concerns?

Tourism is an integral part of our city's economy. It provides support to the small business community. Our city has an eclectic variety of retail shops, restaurants and various eateries. As a tourist destination we provide quality hotels, natural beauty and our world-famous breweries. As a city, we need to provide more parking, improved public transportation, walkability and bicycling. The promotion of free events (Mardi Gras, Christmas Festival, Art & Craft shows) invites and welcomes more tourism and exposure for our community. As we go forward, we need to be selective and restricted on the pace of growth. We need to focus on compatibility and feasibility to control noise and traffic.

Kate Spangler



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone 7175122926

Campaign Mailing Address PO Box 379 Dunedin FL 34697

Education I have my Bachelor's in Business, and Master's in Exceptional Student Education; Applied Behavior Analysis.

Facebook www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564526018717&mibextid=LQQJ4d

Public Service I enjoy meeting people through volunteering time and attending charitable events.

Professional Experience I am the owner of a small business located in Dunedin. I have also served as the Executive Director for a non-profit organization.

Campaign Email kateseat3commissioner@gmail.com

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am the best candidate for the position due to a combination of my experience as a business owner and my genuine interest in advocating for people. I opened my company to fill a need in the community, and without careful planning to meet the needs of the clients, the community could suffer. I am responsible for all operating functions and hold all of the accountability that comes with decision-making and projected growth. I am driven by and dedicated to providing service to others.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The list of reasons that people want to both live in and visit Dunedin is unmatched to any other place. While this is a great strength, it also presents challenges. This city is also unique because of our people. We have an amazing number of residents, business owners, and employees who are passionate about this city. Maintaining what we all love about Dunedin will give us opportunities to work together as a community for years to come. Learning from our past, maximizing our knowledge moving forward, and utilizing our resources will be essential for navigating concerns like development, localized flooding, traffic, preserving our culture, and community relations/outreach.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I believe it is necessary that our local government retains authority over policies and issues that directly affect our community. The State of Florida has many local governments that operate very differently from one another. The local government has a direct connection to that community and is able to support what its specific needs are. Our local government holds citizens at the top of its structure, followed by the elected City Commission. Therefore, the passing of preemption bills in Florida is adversely removing power from our citizens. I encourage voters to stay informed about the intent of the preemption bills, as they will likely continue to present themselves.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing?

I will work with the community to ensure that resources are updated and available, such as our Community Partners Assistance Packet, and actively seek input from the community about affordable housing concerns. I will work with the city government to revisit our Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (2019), as well as continue the conversation from the task force meeting (2020), which provided many research-based options to support affordable housing incentives. I will consult with the developers to better understand what their challenges are and combine input from the community with the aforementioned research to provide and move forward with options for affordable housing.

Tourism was up 5.5% in 2023, and plans for a new Aquatic Complex, a restoration of the Dunedin Golf Club, a Marina Master Plan, a new downtown park on the site of the old City Hall, and Phase 2 for the Gladys Douglas Preserve were all presented this year. How will you work to balance economic growth and tourism with quality of life for city residents, especially around traffic and noise concerns?

The projects mentioned hold a balance of appeal for both visitors and residents, as they provide updated facilities while maintaining green space throughout the city, and all have the potential to increase tourism and growth. I believe the balance comes in working to maximize the benefit of economic growth and tourism for businesses and residents while minimizing any negative impact that accompanies that growth. It is in our best interest to prioritize and strategize around the reduction of negative impact for residents and business owners. That includes forecasting and planning for traffic, noise, accessibility, and communicating those needs as standard expectations for development.

Largo Commissioner Seat 3

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: \$14,274.00/year

Michael DiBrizzi



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education Bachelors Degree from The University of Tampa and a Masters Degree in Business Administration(MBA) from The University of South Florida

Professional Experience CEO of Camelot Community Care, a Largo based Non-Profit providing child welfare, behavioral health and family services.

Instagram www.instagram.com/mike4largo

Facebook www.facebook.com/mike4largo/

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Campaign Phone (813)748-2508

Campaign Website www.mike4largo.com

Campaign Mailing Address

Public Service Member of the Largo Planning since 2012 and Chair of the Largo Planning for the past 3 years. Two time member of the Largo Affordable Housing Advocacy Committee.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

Since 2012, I have served on the Largo Planning Board and as Chair of the Board for the past 3 years. As a member of the Planning Board, I have gained an in-depth knowledge of the key issues facing Largo including affordable housing, business development, and infrastructure needs. Professionally, I am CEO of Camelot Community Care, one of Florida's largest non-profit agencies with a budget equivalent in size to Largo. I have the business and executive experience needed for the City Commission.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The top 2 priorities for Largo are the need for more affordable housing and infrastructure improvements. As a member of the Largo Planning Board, I have advocated for increased affordable housing units through the city partnering with developers for additional bonuses and densities to add affordable units with rents between 80% and 120% of average median income. We need to also expand incentives for units to serve households in the 30% to 80% AMI. Regarding infrastructure, the city has recently experienced 2 emergency sewer line repairs with thousands of feet more of aging lines. We need to address city revenue without raising taxes to invest in infrastructure repairs.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I am against the pre-emption of local government authority by the state which has been a trend as of late, particularly with the Live Local act which I believe is not in the best interest of our city. I firmly believe local decisions are best made by local officials who know their community and are responsive to residents and businesses. To prevent the impact of these types of measures, we need city commissioners who have the needed executive leadership experience and community involvement to best serve the city. I have decades of this type of experience to bring to the City Commission.

What should the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee be focusing on in the coming year? What is the greatest need and how do we get there?

Focus on incentives for developers to add units for Average median income below 80% as well as developing new incentives for senior affordable housing. The city has long discussed changes to regulations for accessory dwelling units but has fallen behind on this issue. The Affordable Housing Committee has also emphasized this issue. Continue to implement the city's housing for all plan.

Localized flooding continues to be an issue for Largo residents. What efforts can be made to mitigate flooding issues?

The recent storms have shown the city is still prone to flooding. While the city needs new housing development, we need to require an appropriate amount of green space in these new developments. Establish as a budget priority, the

upgrading of old stormwater infrastructure and vulnerability of existing infrastructure. This includes on-going maintenance of the current system as well as maintenance of ditches and retention ponds to maximize their effectiveness. While Largo has limited coastline, the city does have creeks and canals where native grasses and vegetation should be maintained to prevent flooding.

Timmy Garten



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education some college

Professional Experience I was a firefighter/paramedic for 23 years Largo Fire Rescue. 4 years City of Largo Sewer Dept.

Campaign Email gartentim@hotmail.com

Campaign Phone 727-613-0753

Campaign Mailing Address 1033 Highland Ave Largo Fl 33770

Public Service Firefighter/paramedic 23 years

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have lived and worked in Largo my entire life. Went to school in Largo, graduating from Largo High School. Worked for Largo Sewer Department for 4 years. Then moved over to Largo Fire Rescue for 23 years. I feel that becoming a commissioner would be the next best step in life further help the citizens of Largo.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

One issue that Largo faces is the streets and the drainage of Largo. Citizens in neighborhoods should not have to come to a commission meeting to ask if the city would fix their streets. The flooding issue in neighborhoods is also a problem. Another issue would be to make sure that first responders have state of the art equipment to make sure the citizens are safe in Largo. Making sure the first responders also are well trained for any incident that comes to Largo., etc. making schools safe or large events in social gatherings.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

I feel the government should a basic guideline of policies for the state, but the cities should have their own say in how their city enforce their policies.

What should the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee be focusing on in the coming year? What is the greatest need and how do we get there?

Making sure there is affordable housing for everyone. In times today people are struggling to survive and maintain a healthy household. Largo has a program called Housing For All. Focus on no one having to live in the streets.

Localized flooding continues to be an issue for Largo residents. What efforts can be made to mitigate flooding issues?

Having the city go around and check all ditches and drainage systems to make sure they are clear and free of debris so water can flow easily.

Largo Commissioner Seat 4

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: \$14,274.00/year

John Lauser



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education B.A. Organizational Management from Ashford University

Campaign Mailing Address 934 Deville Dr E Largo FL 33771

Campaign Email lauser.john@gmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564948823794

Professional Experience 21 years Air Force, 2 Years Veterans Affairs

Campaign Phone 7035074369

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I believe that my leadership experience from my military service positions me well for the Commissioner seat. As a Senior Enlisted Leader my job was to ensure that my enlisted force was managed appropriately, balancing the personal and professional development of the troops with completion of a very fast paced mission. As Commissioner I would be balancing the needs of each individual citizen along with our great city's goals to ensure Largo remains a place we can all be proud of.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Violent crime and theft have been on the rise in our community. The city of Largo is now trending near or above the national average per 100 thousand people in violent and property crimes. As commissioner I would do everything in my power to ensure that the police force was properly funded, staffed, and equipped. Largo has been growing, with the addition of several high-density housing complexes in multiple development zones, I feel that the city has not positioned its infrastructure well enough to handle the planned growth and in turn should focus capital on infrastructure like water/sewer, and traffic mitigation to ensure the current citizens are cared for before adding more residents.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend?

Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

The original intent of our Republic was to concentrate a majority of power at the State level of government. State governments can be quicker and more reactive to their constituents. As for preemptive state laws I believe it comes down to intent. The intent should be to set reasonable boundaries for local governments to follow to ensure there is some congruity in how the law is applied throughout the state. If the intent, however, is to push a political agenda then I wholeheartedly disagree. Our government at all levels need to stop the political party line games and get to work for their constituents through compromise and collaboration across party lines.

What should the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee be focusing on in the coming year? What is the greatest need and how do we get there?

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee has focused primarily on construction of new affordable housing. I would like to see some focus on making it possible for current residents to keep their housing accommodations. Inflation has become an issue, property values have increased along with utility bills and grocery bills. I would also like to see financial incentives for our municipal employees and local teachers to help them afford to live in the municipality they serve.

Localized flooding continues to be an issue for Largo residents. What efforts can be made to mitigate flooding issues?

Largo residents have dealt with unprecedented flooding recently, while some residents have been dealing with regular flooding for some time. The appropriate departments need to determine why the current drains are not working sufficiently or identify where more capacity is needed. Those repairs or new drainage projects should be prioritized to maintain citizen and property safety.

James Robinson



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education High School Diploma
Campaign Mailing Address 249 Regina Dr. S. Largo FL 33770
Campaign Website jamieforlargo.com
Campaign Email jamie@jamieforlargo.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561045245739
Professional Experience Supply Chain Supervisor
Campaign Phone 727-692-1240
Public Service Largo City Commission since 2012

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I've been a steadfast advocate for Largo since taking office as City Commissioner in 2012. I spearheaded the transition of the city's light-duty vehicle fleet to alternative fuels, setting an ambitious goal for Largo to achieve 100% renewable, zero-emission energy by 2035 and helped oversee a \$150 million upgrade of Largo's wastewater reclamation facility - eliminating wastewater overflows. Effective local government can affect change, and I will use my experience to keep Largo moving forward.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

My top two priorities are Workforce Housing and Transportation. Those two issues are intertwined, and I'm working diligently to bring relief to Largo residents. Workforce Housing has been a top priority for the City. Largo was one of the first to sign the Pinellas County Housing Compact which is a roadmap to meeting our needs including ensuring housing is affordable and incentivizing local public transportation by building housing near where people work and play. We've all felt the impact of our stressed transportation system, and by planning development and growth near areas where people go every day, we are providing a specific local solution to a difficult regional issue.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend? Do you believe it is important for local governments to retain authority to decide policies locally on these and other issues affecting their community? Why or why not?

The best decisions that affect our community are made at the local level. A statewide one-size-fits-all approach does not work. Our state is very diverse, and a solution that works in another city is unlikely to work for Largo. Our City has made great strides to incentivize growth and development while also protecting our natural resources and planning for the future, and too often our ability to enact meaningful change is preempted by our legislature. I am proud of my work to advocate for home rule both as a City Commissioner and as a past President of the Suncoast League of Cities. In the years ahead, I will continue to fight for local authority to make policy.

What should the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee be focusing on in the coming year? What is the greatest need and how do we get there?

Largo's Affordable Housing Committee should focus on the need for housing that is affordable "Missing Middle" housing - a diverse set of housing options that include smaller multi-unit housing, and continuing to incentivize people who work in Largo to live in Largo. Currently only roughly 10% of those who work in Largo live within the City. It is important for the City to spur development and growth to add more housing which will decrease demand and lower prices for all residents. By doing so not only do we provide more housing but also create a stronger sense of community and place in our City.

Localized flooding continues to be an issue for Largo residents. What efforts can be made to mitigate flooding issues?

Largo has been a regional leader on water policy and sustainability, but there is more work to do to harden our infrastructure and make our stormwater system resilient for years to come. During my tenure on the Largo City Commission, we funded large projects to improve both our wastewater and stormwater systems including overseeing a \$150 million upgrade of our City's wastewater reclamation facility - a project that has successfully eliminated wastewater overflows and improved the quality of life of Largo residents. Going forward, I will work with City Staff, the Mayor, and my fellow Commissioners to make similar investments to our stormwater system including upgrading our lift stations.

Palm Harbor Special Fire Control & Rescue Dist Seat 3

The Palm Harbor Special Fire Control & Rescue District is one of four Special Fire Control Districts that provide fire rescue, safety, and Advanced Life Support services (ALS) to unincorporated areas of Pinellas County. Each District is also part of the integrated Pinellas County EMS system. This means that each District is required to respond if they are the closest unit to an emergency incident, even if the incident occurs outside of their District's borders. Each District is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected by the registered voters within the District. The Commissioners provide guidance in establishing and managing community programs such as CPR instruction, certified child safety seat installation, home safety inspections, and fire safety programs with local schools. The Board of Commissioners is also responsible for managing the budget and financial resources of the Fire Control District.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$500/month

Erica Lynford



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address

Campaign Email FireCommishErica@gmail.com

Education I have a degree in Sales and Marketing and I also have a degree in Leisure Services.

Public Service I serve on many non-profits in our area, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, The Lynfund, The Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Palm Harbor Cares, Feast Food Pantry and Non Profits Connect. I have served on the Council of North County Neighborhoods, and the Palm Harbor Museum.

Professional Experience I am currently in my 21st year with the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc , and serving for the past 13 years as Director of Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

What in your professional and personal experience distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am the only candidate for this position that is endorsed by the Palm Harbor/Oldsmar Professional Firefighters, Florida Professional Firefighters, Commissioner Egger, Commissioner Scott, just to name a few. I have also served as a Palm Harbor Community Service Agency, Inc employee for over 20 years. Most recently the last 13 years I have been Director of the agency entity, ensuring your tax dollars were working for you in the Palm Harbor community.

Explain the top two issues and/or unique challenges facing this fire control district? If elected, what actions would you propose to address these issues or challenges?

I think one of the most unique challenges we face is competing with other districts for employees. As a special taxing district is finding quality competent candidates. The competition in the field is fierce, and it sometimes takes a while to fill vacancies. Also, the rising cost of doing business is a challenge. The increased cost of equipment to the cost of benefits, and liability insurance. Everything costs more than it did in years past from firetrucks to uniforms.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. What will be your approach to addressing these challenges?

My approach will continue to be encouraging partnerships, and networking to be prepared always no matter what disaster or situation challenges our fire district.

Is the fire control district adequately prepared, trained, and supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other necessary resources to manage health crises and other similar situations? If not, what is needed?

Our district does a great job training and educating our employees. We learned a lot during covid, and what we need for PPE and I believe we are continuing to fine tune the needs of our department.

Do you feel that residents within the fire district understand the district's role and function in the community? If not, what would you do to help educate them?

I think when the average person thinks of the fire service, they think of medical calls, car accidents, and house fires. What isn't well known is what our department does daily to ensure we are always ready for anything that might come along. The public training that is offered to our community is unknown by most unless they are involved with an agency that utilizes the training. The other things that the department does unnoticed by the average eye are the little things. Like helping find displaced residents what they need after a house fire. Like helping a resident with an issue in their closet when they were on a call. I am sure there are numerous other examples of their service.

Jim Nelson



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address 1154 Skye Lane Palm Harbor FL 34683

Campaign Email res07hav@verizon.net

Campaign Website jimnelsonpalmharbor.com

Campaign Phone 727-481-2725

Education Tarpon Springs High School, Graduated from the University of Florida BS in Finance and Banking, MBA from

USF

Public Service Palm Harbor Fire Commission, Palm Harbor Fire Pension Board, AdventHealth North Pinellas Foundation Board

Professional Experience President & COO Flagship Bank, President & COO Jefferson Bank, EVP Peoples Bank

What in your professional and personal experience distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have over 20 years of experience with the Palm Harbor Fire Dept, the majority as a member of the Board of Commissioners. I recently retired as President of a local community bank. The banking experience gives me a strong background in developing and monitoring financial budgets, managing 100s of employees and risk management. I have attended many training sessions at FASD conferences, which expanded my knowledge of the operations of Special Districts, of which Palm Harbor is one.

Explain the top two issues and/or unique challenges facing this fire control district? If elected, what actions would you propose to address these issues or challenges?

One, recruitment and retention of qualified firefighters. There is currently a shortage of trained personnel in the State of Florida due to our schools graduating fewer future firefighters than are retiring. To address this, Palm Harbor Fire would need to offer a competitive work environment. Not only competitive pay and benefits, but by making it a desirable place to work. Two, physical and mental health. Firefighters are 3 times more likely to develop cancer than the population. By providing PPE, up to current standards, we can limit their exposure to carcinogens. I also would continue to provide access to mental health counseling.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. What will be your approach to addressing these challenges?

Palm Harbor is vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. Since I have been on the Board, we have hardened our stations for high winds. We are currently rebuilding Station 68 that is engineered for a Cat 5 hurricane rating, that is situated on a 500-year floodplain. We have obtained a high-water rescue vehicle that can traverse through over 3 feet of flood water to rescue stranded residents in low lying areas. In addition, we invested in smaller boats that can be trailered that can provide rescue services in flooded neighborhoods.

Is the fire control district adequately prepared, trained, and supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other necessary resources to manage health crises and other similar situations? If not, what is needed?

Yes. The Fire Department is heavily invested in PPE. All first responders are provided with two sets of gear. The norm is one set. Gear has a 10-year life. One new set is provided every 5 years, with the older set then used as backup. This is repeated every 5 years. The new set is always based on the current safety standards. In addition, the Fire Dept has a health committee that looks at different aspects of wellness, including mental health and cancer prevention. We also have a health and safety committee that develops best practices for workplace safety and reviews incidents of accidents and injuries for ways to prevent them.

Do you feel that residents within the fire district understand the district's role and function in the community? If not, what would you do to help educate them?

I am certain that the residents understand that the district responds very quickly to fires and medical emergencies. The district is involved in other community risk reduction activities such as CPR classes, building inspections, child car seat inspections, fall prevention programs, babysitting classes and in-school presentations. Personnel will come out for in-home safety checks, including pool safety and smoke detector inspections. Although these activities are listed on the Fire Dept's website, a resident must go to the website to find them. I would propose engaging the residents on a social media platform to proactively inform the residents that these services are available.

Carl Zimmermann



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Education **M.S., B.S., Education**

Professional Experience **Member Florida House of Representatives, (retired), Educator 35 years**

Public Service **Board member (current or past) of numerous committees - Dunedin International Film Festival, Dunedin Public Theater, Palm Harbor Museum, Florida House Veteran's and Military Affairs Committee, Higher Education & Workforce Committee, Pre k-12 Committee and Education Committee. Scout leader, Little League coach**

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What in your professional and personal experience distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for this position?

My experience as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, my knowledge of pension plans, statute, experience with local & state leaders (many I served with) and a solid understanding of budgeting and securing funds. As an active resident of Palm Harbor for over 40 years, I've served on other boards, coached my kids' teams, served as a scout leader and watched Palm Harbor grow from orange groves to a populous community. I have knowledge and insight into most of the issues.

Explain the top two issues and/or unique challenges facing this fire control district? If elected, what actions would you propose to address these issues or challenges?

Palm Harbor Fire/Rescue workforce is in great shape - well trained and equipped; however, retirements and other staff attrition keep the department in search of high level replacements, whether transfers or new recruits. In addition, to keep overtime at a minimum, the board recently approved adding an additional member to each shift. The solution is to continue to keep Palm Harbor the destination of choice. Second, with a cap of 2 mil since the 90's, it's critical to have sharp budget planning and a constant eye for creative funding.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. What will be your approach to addressing these challenges?

We need to consistently monitor that the latest OSHA standards are followed: "Conduct a hazard assessment to determine what safety and health hazards workers may encounter and reassess if conditions change; List worker responsibilities; Determine what PPE workers need; Train each worker required to use PPE in a language they can understand; Regularly review and update PPE needs as job tasks and hazards change". In addition, upgrade or purchase vehicles to adjust to rising water levels and other challenges. While we have an evacuation plan, we must have rapid access to high water rescue vehicles to engage, whether they be jointly owned with nearby districts or the Sheriff's office.

Is the fire control district adequately prepared, trained, and supplied with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other necessary resources to manage health crises and other similar situations? If not, what is needed?

In my opinion, yes. Each member receives a complete set every five years and their previous set becomes their back-up allowing for a 10-year maximum. As new technology offering superior thermal protection performance, (TPP) becomes available, new sets reflect that. Constant washing keeps them free from carcinogens and unknown chemicals that may decrease the life span or effectiveness. Continuous training does not only keep our workers safe from changing health crises but helps us better prepare to limit the spread.

Do you feel that residents within the fire district understand the district's role and function in the community? If not, what would you do to help educate them?

I believe it could be improved. While I'm sure the majority of residents realize fire and rescue is more than just fire control, most probably don't know the full array of services - medical services, safety inspections, recommendations for preventative measures, public education, CPR classes, child passenger safety, fire extinguisher training, in-school presentations, hurricane and disaster preparedness, safety for seniors and more. A stronger social media campaign could accomplish that and for minimal cost. When I was young, the fire departments connected with the community by hosting barbeques for the public - one way we could add on to the current involvements of parades and Santa visits.