



2016 VOTER GUIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

Marion County, Florida

Republican



Welcome to the League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Area 2016 Primary Election Guide

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization of women and men whose purpose is to engage voters in the political process by promoting informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. Through education and advocacy, the League of Women Voters promotes good governance.

The Voter's Guide was created by the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area. The purpose of the Guide is to assist voters in their ballot choices.

All qualified candidates were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire.

Candidate responses are included as submitted. They have not been edited, nor have spelling and grammar corrections been made.

If a candidate completed the questionnaire, the *What's on My Ballot* section contains a link as well as the page number where the responses are located. If a candidate chose not to respond, "No Response" will appear next to the candidate's name in the *What's on My Ballot* section.

The candidates' views expressed within do not represent those of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area.

To contact the LWV of The Villages / Tri-County area, go to

www.lwvtrifl.org

WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT

Click on candidates' names to go to their responses.

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REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2



KEN SUKHIA (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a strong conservative, lifetime Republican, committed Christian, former United States Attorney, high profile professional and successful business owner committed to principles of fiscal responsibility, limited government, free markets, strong defense, economic freedom, individual liberty, respect for family, limited taxation, sanctity of life, strong law enforcement and private enterprise. I graduated with distinction in all subjects from Cornell

University and in top 5% of my class at the University of Florida law school and served as a law clerk at Florida Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for 5th & 11th Circuits.

Lived and Worked in North Florida 38 years

Evangelical Christian (Came to Faith in Christ in 1974)

Graduated with distinction from Cornell University and in top 5% of Class at UF Law

Presidentially Appointed United States Attorney for North Florida '90-'93

Assistant United States Attorney in Tallahassee '80-'90

Law Clerk for Florida Supreme Court and Federal Appeals Court in Atlanta '78-'80

Senior Partner in Statewide Law Firm '93-'06

Founding Partner and Owner of Law Office '06-present

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Four Oaks Community Church

Tallahassee Neighborhoods Against Drugs

Drug Free America Foundation

Board Member National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Attorney Advisory Board for James Dobson's Focus on the Family

Member Rotary Club of Tallahassee

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

It's no surprise that one of the first steps of an oppressive government is to remove arms from its citizens. Our founders knew this. As George Washington said, "a free people ought not only be armed but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." Our founders had a reason to include the freedom to bear arms as a fundamental right guaranteed by our constitution, and I will staunchly defend that right. The problem is not that we have too few gun laws, we have more than enough laws already to effectively address the carnage, but we are not enforcing them. For example, the law makes it a crime for convicted felons to complete applications for firearms. During President Obama's time in office some 80,000 convicted felons and mentally adjudicated individuals have completed such applications, but his administration has ONLY PROSECUTED 41 PEOPLE FOR COMMITTING THAT CRIME. As United States Attorney, I used the federal gun laws already on the books to aggressively



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2

KEN SUKHIA *(continued)*

prosecute repeat and violent offenders. For example, we prosecuted the man who murdered the students in Gainesville for using a firearm during the commission of a bank robbery and for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and we put many more violent criminals in jail for violating the gun laws already on the books. We need to enforce the laws already on the books.

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

Obama Care and Obama's policies have stunted our growth and held down jobs and wages in our district. Now I'll be honest, every time I hear a politician or a candidate say "I will repeal Obama care" I tend to roll my eyes. They've been saying this ever since it was enacted. I get the idea some of these politicians and candidates have no heartfelt opposition but are just mouthing the party line. As a principled conservative I oppose Obama care because it is a massive intrusion of government in our healthcare system and it advances the progressive agenda to radically transform our free society and re-distribute its wealth. For me, this is not just political rhetoric. I have already acted to help stop Obama Care even as an outsider. In 2009, I was called upon by the Florida attorney general to assist the legal team that challenged the constitutionality of the "affordable care act." IF PRINCIPLED LEADERS STEP UP TO THE FIGHT ITS NOT TO LATE TO PUT A STOP TO IT. If you send me to Washington I WILL do all in my power to repeal Obama Care and to help restore free market competition to lower costs and get the government out of the healthcare business.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

One of the reasons America is in trouble is because the federal government has co-opted the role of the individual, the counties, the family, the church, the synagogue and community. As Margaret Thatcher put it: "Socialist governments...eventually run out of other peoples' money." Our federal government was established with very limited roles, notably among them---protecting and defending life, establishing a judicial system, and providing for our national defense. If we limited our federal government to its Constitutional responsibilities, we would not be 19 trillion dollars in debt. The US Constitution does not provide for the federal government to intervene in the education of our children. I believe accountability and cost efficiency can best be accomplished when education is at handled at the local level and when parents can be involved in that system. I believe strongly in free choice in k-12 education. I not only believe these principles, but I fought for them personally. We home schooled our four children and I fought the legal fight to uphold the constitutionality of the Florida's school voucher program. If I am sent to Washington as your representative, I will do all in my power to limit the role of the government to the responsibilities stipulated in the Constitution.

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MORE CANDIDATES NEXT PAGE



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2



MARY THOMAS (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Mary Thomas is a strong, conservative Republican, a mom, an attorney, and a first generation American. If elected, Mary would make history as the first Indian-American woman to serve in Congress. Mary is a graduate of the Florida State University College of Law. She also holds a Masters of Law from the University of Miami and a Bachelors degree from the University of South Florida. Mary has lived in Tallahassee for over a decade. She has been a member of Governor Rick Scott's Administration since he was sworn into office in January 2011. Most recently Mary served as the General Counsel at the Department of Elder Affairs where she managed and oversaw the legal department of an agency that administers a \$900 million budget. During her time in the Scott Administration, Mary has worked closely on issues that directly impact the citizens, businesses, military installations, and environment of the Second Congressional District. Her experience includes: serving as the Governor's representative in negotiations regarding the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; developing strategies to protect the Apalachicola Bay from Georgia's unchecked consumption of water, strategies that ultimately resulted in the filing of a lawsuit against Georgia in the U.S. Supreme Court; and helping to solve military base encroachment issues around the Panhandle's military installations.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

The Federalist Society.
St. Thomas More Catholic Church.
Legal Aid.
Guardian Ad Litem.

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

I fully support the entire Constitution and the Second Amendment. I have received the highest candidate rating possible of "AQ" from the NRA. There should be no limits on the types of firearms or ammunition available to law abiding American citizens, because it is a Constitutional and God-given right of every American to bear arms. I agree with the NRA position on background checks which is as follows: The NRA opposes expanding firearm background check systems, because background checks don't stop serious criminals from getting guns and because NRA opposes gun registration.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2

MARY THOMAS *(continued)*

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

I support an immediate repeal of Obamacare. I support replacing it with a market based conservative plan like Rep. Tom Price's HR 2300. My opponent, Neal Dunn, voted to expand Obamacare and has said publicly that he is NOT in favor of immediate repeal.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

There is no Constitutional basis for the federal government to be involved in education. Like Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump, I support the elimination of the Department of Education. I believe control of our children's education should be returned to parents and teachers.

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REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 11



JUSTIN GRABELLE (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Republican Justin Grabelle is running to represent Florida Congressional District 11 in the United States House of Representatives, which includes Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties.

Over the past ten years, Justin has gained extensive first-hand experience fighting in the trenches of U.S. government. Most recently, Justin served as chief of staff to former sheriff, Congressman Richard Nugent (R-FL-11). He also served as veterans policy advisor, legislative director and chief of staff to Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL-5). Now, he stands ready to be a conservative champion for the constituents of Florida Congressional District 11.

Having grown up in Highland Park, NJ, as one of seven children, and as the son of a small business owner and registered nurse, Justin was raised on the principles of hard work, self-reliance and personal responsibility, which encouraged his strong work ethic from a young age. His family's background also contributes to his health care expertise, as well as his dedication to working on behalf of America's veterans.

Justin graduated from George Mason University in 2004 as a Division 1 scholar athlete with a bachelor's degree in Government and International Affairs. He subsequently earned his master's degree in Healthcare Systems at James Madison University.

Justin resides in Marion County with his wife Ginny, their son, George, and their lab, Lucy. Justin's parents live in The Villages.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Justin serves as a board member and officer of the Ocala Rotary Club, a member of the Marion County Veterans Council, on the Marion County Republican Executive Committee and on the Life South Advisory Board. He is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

As a gun owner and concealed weapon permit holder, I strongly believe in the Second Amendment of our Constitution and its guarantee that law-abiding citizens have the right to keep and bear arms. The vast majority of people in this community share that fundamental belief. Furthermore, the argument for overruling what so many feel is a basic, constitutionally-guaranteed right is spurious at best. According to the Washington Post, in all mass-killings since 1984 (defined as four deaths in a single instance) 22 shotguns were used, 23 revolvers, 77 handguns and 29 rifles of all types. And according to a September 2014 piece by a ProPublica reporter run in the New York Times of all places, of the roughly 11,000 gun



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 11

JUSTIN GRABELLE *(continued)*

deaths in 2012, only 322 were from rifles of any kind. And as the same piece goes on to point out, even the Justice Department's own study concluded, "Should [the assault weapons ban] be renewed, the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement". For all of these reasons, most importantly the Constitution, I don't support a ban on assault weapons.

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

Americans deserve access to affordable healthcare but Obamacare has been devastating to our country and has driven up the cost of health insurance. Some Americans have seen their insurance premiums skyrocket by nearly 50% or more. I believe it must be repealed and replaced with commonsense state-based solutions that lower the cost of healthcare, increase access, and doesn't stand in the way of your doctor-patient relationship.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

Instead of an education system that encourages innovation and success, we run our school system out of a federal building in Washington where a one size fits all policy is treated as ransom in exchange for federal dollars. And where innovators would reevaluate our strategy where it hasn't worked, our Department of Education is dumbing down the standards and making it more difficult for teachers and students to be successful. That is why I support ending the modern day federal Department of Education. In its place I would like Florida and our local school districts to make the decisions that would best serve our kids.

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FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICT 12



DENNIS BAXLEY (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

City of Residence: Ocala
Occupation: Funeral Director & Consultant
Spouse: Micheline "Ginette" Begin of Québec, Canada
Child(ren): Micah, Justin, Damon, Jeffrey, Renée
Grandchild(ren): Jacob, Joshua, Martha, Katherine, Hazel, William, Makayla, Kate Lynn
Education: Central Florida Community College, A.A., 1972; Florida State University, B.S., Sociology/Psychology, 1974; Miami-Dade

Community College, A.S., Funeral Service Degree, 1975

Born: August 22, 1952, Ocala, FL

Religious Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Recreational Interest: fishing, listening to Gospel music, reading

Elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2010, reelected subsequently

Florida House of Representatives, 2000-June 26, 2007

Speaker pro tempore, November 21, 2006-June 12, 2007

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

First Avenue National Bank, founding Chairman

Florida Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, board member

Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Gideons

Lions Club

Marion County Children's Advocacy Center, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection, board member

Marion County Children's Alliance

Bellevue Rotary, past President

The Vine Community Church, Elder, 2010

An estimated 300,000 people in the United States have died from gun violence, between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you support or oppose a state ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

Oppose any more gun laws

Since over 500,000 working poor Florida citizens remain without health insurance, would you support tapping Federal dollars to cover these people? If not, what kind of plan do you support?

No. I favor private market solutions.



FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICT 12

DENNIS BAXLEY *(continued)*

What is your view on the State vs. Local community responsibility for funding public education?

It is a shared responsibility.

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FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22



AL MACRI (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I Was born in Brooklyn N.Y., Graduated William E. Grady High School with a degree of electronic servicing, I have served in the Air Force and have an honorable discharge from the regular Air Force and Reserve, I moved to South Florida in 1973 and worked in the field of electronic servicing, and then purchased an electronics business about 1977, and since sold that and moved to Williston Fl. 1981 and then to Morriston, Fl. in 1994, which both are in Levy County. I have been self employed in the electronics field here since 1981, servicing county and city agencies in communications servicing and the general public, also I was on the Williston Fire Dept as a Firemen for 15 years, and also served on the Levy County board of Adjustment for 4 years.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been a member of the following the past few years, Williston Changer, Williston Jaycees, Williston Lions Club.

An estimated 300,000 people in the United States have died from gun violence, between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you support or oppose a state ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

First to let you know i am for the right to who firearms as i do carry a State of Florida Concealed Firearm License, I am sadden what is going on in this Country with these tragedies. I don't support a ban on assault weapons as the people who purchased them that go through the proper background checks should be able to own them. AS for more of a thorough background check and I am for that. But with that said with all that is going on with these checks the agencies still let people purchase them with a questionable background, also gus are not the only way people get harmed.

Since over 500,000 working poor Florida citizens remain without health insurance, would you support tapping Federal dollars to cover these people? If not, what kind of plan do you support?

On this subject which has been a problem for many years, something has to be done, and my honest opinion is the government has to support this and stop wasiting funds on their pork or pet projects.

What is your view on the State vs. Local community responsibility for funding public education?

All agencies in the Federal, State, Counties, and Cities should all work together to get the proper funding for the public education system as these children will be the future who work and run our system.

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[BACK](#)



SHERIFF

WITHDREW FROM RACE



CHRIS BLAIR (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I have been married for 26 years to my beautiful wife, Sangi and we have two wonderful children. Our daughter Alesa is 24 and is a graduate of the University of Florida who is now attending Physician's Assistant school at Nova University in Orlando. Our son Jason is 37 and is a graduate of Valdosta State University and is a teacher and football coach in Thomasville, Georgia.

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland and I am the son of a Baltimore City Policeman and WWII Army and Marine Veteran who retired and moved our family to Ocala when I was about 12 years old. I am one of six children, myself and five sisters. I graduated from North Marion High School and attended the Police Academy at Central Florida Community College. After graduation I was hired by the Marion County Sheriff's Office. I served for 35 years at the MCSO before being elected as Sheriff in 2013. I have an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Florida Community College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida, I graduated from the First Ocala Leadership Class, I am also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute Command School in Louisville, Kentucky and the Sheriff's Leadership Course held in Aurora, Colorado. I served as the Chair for the New Cold Case Advisory Council for the State of Florida and served as Co-Chair for Region 13 as one of seven Sheriff's in the State of Florida for Terrorism and Homeland Security.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have served as a board member and have assisted the following community organizations: The United Way, the Salvation Army, the Kiwanis Club, the Elks Club, Children's Alliance, the College of Central Florida Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and Kimberly's Cottage. I personally hosted multiple Concealed Weapons classes and raised monies for many local charitable organizations to include the American Cancer Society, HUGS, Domestic Violence, and Project Hope. I participated in the American Heart

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My 35 years of dedicated service at the Marion County Sheriff's Office and my three years serving as the Sheriff of Marion County prepares me best to continue to serve the great citizens of Marion County. I came through the ranks from Deputy Sheriff to Major of Special Investigations. I had the opportunity to serve for several Sheriff's which provide me with great foresight into leading a large agency of 750 employees. I was responsible for creating many programs such as but not limited to the DNA screening lab, the Tactical Robbery Program, the Cold Case Homicide Team, and the Sex Offender/Predator tracking program. These programs were responsible for the apprehension of Criminals and for crime prevention. During my tenure as Sheriff, additional new programs were created such as Facebook, a daily news report through Social Media, Citizens Academies, Cancer awareness, Domestic Violence awareness, GPS Tracking Program for Domestic Violence Offenders, Business Safe Program, and the newly created Kiosk Program. The Kiosk Program was awarded the Crime Prevention Program of the Year for the State of Florida and the 2015 National Association of Counties Achievement Award. These Kiosks have been placed in over 100 businesses throughout Marion County and are responsible for locating missing persons, persons with warrants, and for displaying Public Service Announcements. These Kiosks are now in approximately 18 Counties and three other States throughout the country.

These crime pr



SHERIFF

CHRIS BLAIR *(continued)*

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

When Re-Elected as Sheriff, I see the most important issues facing the Agency as:

#1 Homeland Security/Anti-Terrorism – Local Law Enforcement must take a proactive approach against the sophisticated domestic terrorists such as those seen in recent times across this country. It will play a critical role in gathering intelligence and preparing for the possibility of an attack in our community. Enhanced, Specialized training and equipment will be required to protect our citizens, our schools, and our major infrastructures.

#2 Recruitment and Retention of Law Enforcement Officers. This is a major issue due to low starting salary, low deputy ratios, public scrutiny, and Federal Government overreach. According to the 2014 FDLE CJAP reports, the MCSO was in the bottom 10 of 67 Florida counties for starting salary (\$32,600) and in the bottom 15 for ratio of Deputies to citizens (.96 per 1,000). When you factor in the size of Marion County (over 1,600 square miles), this becomes a huge safety concern for citizens and deputies alike. Additionally, today's LEO's are under constant public scrutiny and overreach by the Federal Government into the daily processes of their jobs. These factors make it difficult to attract and retain the most qualified and trained LEO's. I will continue to work with the Board of County Commissioners to increase LEO salaries and obtain approval for more manpower to keep our community safe.

#3 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Benefits/Costs-A study of different types of BWC's was conducted by the MCSO and they have been requested for each MCS

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SHERIFF



BILLY WOODS (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born in 1968 in Ocala, FL becoming a 5th generation Marion County resident. My father served the City of Ocala Fire Department for 32 years and 16 of those years as the city's Fire Chief. My mother has been a school teacher for 43 years. I met my wife in high school in 1986 but it wasn't until 1998 we were married and now we have two sons. My education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration (Summa Cum Laude) with secondary education in Business Management with Accounting, Principles of Management, Math of Finance, Employment Law, Collective Bargaining, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Theory and Practice of Corrections, Race & Ethnic Relations and Criminal Justice Organization and Administration. I obtained my Traffic Crash Reconstruction / Homicide Investigator Certification at the University of North Florida. Other education and experience include; certification with the FDLE Executive Senior Leadership Program – Class #15, certification with the Leadership of Ocala/Marion Class XXVII – Class President, President on the State Board for the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Association (FCJEIA). I have worked with the City of Ocala Police Department for over 26 years to include: Patrol Officer, Street Crimes Unit, Drug Unit, Traffic, Investigations – Traffic Homicide, Patrol Sergeant, Special Operations/Administration Sergeant and Watch Commander/Administration Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

1. My community involvement includes:
 - a. Event Chair for Relay for Life of Ocala (American Cancer Society)
 - b. Ambassador for the Ocala Police Department with the March of Dimes
 - c. Educator for Home School students within Marion County for Drivers Training and Traffic Safety
 - d. Board Member for the Fallen Officer Memorial Committee
 - e. Board Member of the Friends of the Ocala Christmas Parade Committee
 - f. Board Member for Marion Senior Services

Moderator for the Victim Impact Panel within the Courts

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have grown up in an agency, Ocala Police Department, whose culture is one of serving where integrity, courage and character lead ones professionalism. I have the law enforcement experience with administrative skills and the education in criminal justice administration and business management. I have never been part of the internal politics nor part of the archaic form of management that has plagued the Marion County Sheriffs office for many decades.



SHERIFF

BILLY WOODS *(continued)*

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

First are the fiscal issues that currently exist within the Sheriff's office starting with the poor starting pay to the insufficient funding to purchase body cameras and equipment for newly purchased vehicles. I will stop and reduce the over growth of upper management. Top-Heavy management is cumbersome and comes with a high cost of overhead within a budget. That high cost can be used to purchase needed equipment, filling vacant positions and providing pay incentives in order to retain experienced deputies on the road and in corrections. Second, is keeping "Boots on the Ground" and bringing the agency back to the basics of patrolling the streets, starting with the re-allocation of man-power from newly created units. Restructuring of management within the organization will provide additional funding to help correct the pay disparity which currently exists within the organization. Maintaining the uniformed deputy positions is what reduces the response times when you or your children call for help. Lastly is the professionalism within the Jail. This starts by stop using the jail as a dumping ground for deputies that have unsatisfactory conduct where remedial training and further assessment can bring them back to the professionalism and standards that is expected within our profession. This will give them back their pride and character they had when they first decided to begin their journey as a Marion County Corrections Officer.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1



DAVID MOORE (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

David Moore is a man of integrity, a true conservative leader who lives what he believes. Integrity is doing what is right even when no one is watching. He is a local business owner with a BA in Business and a Masters in Leadership with 14 years of experience in the Finance industry. He also is a Real Estate Agent with Weichert Realtors Hallmark Properties. David Moore is willing to stand alone for what is right!

David Moore was raised here in Central Florida, and it is here that he and his beautiful wife chose to raise their wonderful son. After his father passed away, he made the commitment to take care of his elderly mother in her senior years.

"His education and experience makes him uniquely qualified to handle the challenges that the Marion County Commission faces during these challenging economic times. His dedication and consistent principles will allow him to serve the people of Marion County."

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

David Moore is the Youth Pastor at Wyomina Park Baptist Church, a board member of the Centers and of the Early Learning Coalition. David and his beautiful wife are volunteers with Special Olympics. He is also a precinct committeeman with the Republican Executive Committee and a member of the Silver Springs Shores Republican Club.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My background in finance has prepared me to be able set prioritized budgets that put our public safety needs first. As a local business owner I understand the challenges small business face and use that experience to keep the playing field level for our businesses and move out of the way of private enterprise. The government should not pick winners and losers. I understand the truth that the government does not create jobs the private sector does, so I seek to promote job growth and allow the private sector to grow and thrive.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. The reason government exists is to protect the public. Public safety services such as Fire Rescue, Law Enforcement and 911 Communications are paramount to the people of Marion County. Emergency services should not be reduced. There are many things within the budget that are far less important than the safety and health of Marion County citizens. David Moore was one of only two Commissioners to support our Law Enforcement Officers and he is the only current Commissioner to do Fire Rescue Ride-a-Longs.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1

DAVID MOORE *(continued)*

2. Government doesn't create jobs, the private sector does. The way to create better paying jobs is by removing the road blocks to doing business such as eliminating excessive regulations. By bringing an "open for business" atmosphere to Marion County the unemployment rate has been cut in half since I took office. Our County was in double digit unemployment and our policies have attracted national and regional companies like Fed Ex, while encouraging our local businesses to grow and thrive.

3. When the County Commission decided to cut \$400,000 from the Libraries budget, I was the lone voice fighting for our Library System. "Cutting libraries in a recession is like closing hospitals during a plague", it is the wrong thing to do. Libraries are an investment in the people of Marion County and the future of our community. I will continue to fight for our Library system and work to return it to being the best system in the State of Florida.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3



ROY ABSHIER (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

RESUME

Born Belleview, Florida
Graduate Ocala High School
USMC 2 years active and 4 reserve. (Two grandsons now Proudly serving on active duty with USMC)
Graduate CFCC. AA degree business administration,(president of the Student Union and the Political union.)

FSU 2 years, studied economics and hotel and restaurant management.

Charter president Belleview/ South Marion Jaycees

Mayor Commissioner City of Belleview 9 terms (one year terms)

Served on the Withlacoochee Planning Council and the Withlacoochee Water Supply Authority

Two terms as chairman Marion County Commission (first Republican ever elected to a county wide office.

Active member Belleview Rotary club (35 years perfect attendance).

Member of the board Marion County Senior Services

Member NRA

Mason

Shriner

Served two terms as chairman Economic Development Council for Marion County

Member and Deacon First Baptist Church of Belleview. Leads men's Bible study

Married to Lou Abshier (53 years), children Mary(Steve) Bodzo, Ed (Nancy) Abshier, and Emery (Selena) Abshier and 10 wonderful grandchildren. Add to that 10 chickens,a cat(Ninny), and the fond memories of a Lab named Yeller.

Owned and operate Alrmina restaurant, Real Estate Broker, retired Allstate agent

Current vocational interest: Abshier Blueberry Farm

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

included in above

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

included in above

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Every issue is important. Those that impact our health, our economy, and in these turbulent times, and public safety top the list. Tomorrow may present problems not on the horizon. Will mother nature turn on us? Is some man made disaster in the making? And as we all know there are people out there waiting to blow up all of us.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3

ROY ABSHIER *(continued)*

Our best hope to deal with these issues in these unsteady times is a steady hand. A leader. A leader with impeccable integrity. A tenacious leader with vision who knows how to govern. And one who will always be protective of our individual liberties.

I am that person. I will bring new energy to county government and I will get the job done whatever it may be.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3



DON BROWNING (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Date-times Bio: I was born on 11/20/42 St Louis Mo. Third of 11 children, Irish/Scotch

Catholic close family. I went to work at an early age, Husker Wagon Sales, Caddying, purchased equipment and started my own Lawn Maintenance business at 12 years of age.

I enlisted in the US Navy in 1959 to 1963 Active duty in San Diego, Alameda Naval Air Station, and Fleet Activities Yokosuka Japan. US Navy Reserves 1963 to 1966.

In the US Navy, I completed my Highschool GED and entered the University of Central Missouri upon discharge, graduating in Four years, and earning a Bachelors Degree in Business with a major in Marketing.

I am the Founder and CEO of Browning Forms and Systems, Inc in 1974 after assignments with 3M Company and Uarco Inc.

Founder and CEO of Browning Press

1974 I began investing and the development of Industrial Office/Warehouse facilities. Typical development projects ranged from 3000 SF office warehouses to 40,000 industrial facilities. My method is a Performa based cycle of "purchase commercial land, build a facility, lease and sell the property over many years based on a sound financial Proforma.

I am a lifelong Republican, successful serial entrepreneur, business person. The free market capitalist system is my mantra.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Boards:

Marion Cultural Alliance Board

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Arts and Culture board

Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation Board

Florida Department of Corrections Art in Prisons Advisory Committee

Lake Weir Kiwanis Fund Raising Chairman 15 years

Marion County Sheriff Lake Watch Founder and 15-year Service

Team member fundraising Fort King Lions Club Vision for Christ, Sandy Acres Baptist Church, Sunset Harbor Baptist, Stanton Weirsdale Gammons Scholars, Domestic Violence programs.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have a unique background of Republican principals successfully reducing government on the city level, and I gained valuable experience in campaigning against a long-term Republican Congressman in an attempt to reform the US Congress during the 2010 and 2012 Election Cycles. My successful business background clearly shows the ability to deal effectively with issues in a common sense effective way.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3

DON BROWNING *(continued)*

I use a Performa based method to analyze spending and fundraising. It takes experience founding and growing multiple businesses and many years of successful business to reform and guide a half billion dollar county government Board of County Commissioners.

I have US Navy training, a University of Central Missouri education and 40 years plus of business success. I am an Acrobatic Pilot, Racecar Owner/Driver, Sailboat Racer, among much other competitive interest. I have traveled much of the world, and it is time to help correct government overgrowth, overspending, and general dysfunction.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Reduced reliance on increased taxes to solve inefficient government. Stop increasing taxes.
2. Protection of the Quality and Quantity of our Water. Our quality of life and value of our homes depend on better management of utilities.
3. The Government is just becoming too big and seems to be expanding in all directions at every level. Marion County Government is in need of a board of commissioners that allows an opportunity to all and steps back as the solution to everything. The Marion County Government has too much time and money on its hands.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3



DANIELLE DAMATO DOTY (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- Raised in Citrus County, Florida, and an Ocala resident since 2008.
- Married to U.S. Marine veteran and family law attorney Chris Doty and blessed with two sons.
- University of Florida graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Relations.
- 15 years working in collaboration with government and non-profit entities.
- Six years of private sector management experience as Director of

Community Development and Public Information Officer at a regional child welfare agency with a \$45 million budget.

- Recent work experience with Marion County government from May 2014-January 2016 as the Business and Communications Liaison, focusing on economic development and public information.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Marion County Republican Executive Committee, Republican Women Ocala/Marion Federated, Leadership Ocala/Marion Class XXV, Leadership Ocala/Marion Alumni and Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I resigned from my position with Marion County to be a voice on the campaign trail about the many areas we need to change. The experience of working in the heart of county administration provides me with a unique understanding of the staff, the processes and the issues. I will use my public relations and communications skills to build consensus and improve relationships between commissioners, employees and our citizens. We must begin to restore the citizens' faith in elected officials and government services. As a commissioner, I will make positive changes in our local government through respectful leadership, professionalism and true representation for all people.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

- 1) Public safety - I will prioritize funding for law enforcement and Marion County Fire Rescue services to keep our trained first responders in Marion County. I will also build a positive relationship with our Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue leadership personnel.
- 2) Sales tax funds - Voters recently approved an additional sales tax increase for roads and public safety capital needs over the next four years. This \$160 million must be properly managed and should be spent equally on road improvement projects and public safety equipment.
- 3) Water quality - I would support the removal of septic tanks, stormwater treatment and best management practices for fertilizer application. I would also direct staff to work closely with state agencies and monitor grant funding opportunities for water quality projects.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3



JEFF GOLD (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Jeff Gold retired after 30 years combined supervisory experience with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Marion County Fire Service. Jeff continues to serve the community on the Bomb Squad and SWAT Team as the only retired member on either team. An avid learner, Jeff's doctoral studies and Bachelor's degree are in Business Management and he has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and two Associate of Science degrees in Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services. Jeff and his wife Shawn are both successful business owners and she is also a nurse and instructor. Jeff has been a contract advisor and instructor for over a decade for colleges, public safety agencies, and the US Military. Jeff's work experience in both the private and public sector has been mostly in management and he has worked on multi-million dollar budgets and written grants saving taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and most importantly, lives through the reduction of response time for rescue services.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Jeff and his wife's businesses are members of the South Marion Chamber of Commerce. They are both active in the church and community and volunteer services to teach CPR and First Aid to citizens and groups such as Habitat for Humanity, school children, and others. Jeff has also volunteered to teach women's self defense classes and firearms safety classes throughout the community. Jeff is also a member of several alumni associations and the VFW.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Jeff Gold has worked his entire adult life in the public service field dealing with the most difficult of people and circumstances, many times in life threatening situations. He is the recipient of two Medals of Valor and two Purple Hearts from his law enforcement career. Jeff has an uncanny ability to work with everyone, especially those that others cannot. His negotiation skills in both business and public safety have led to his success as a business owner and one of the most decorated first responders in Marion County's history. Staying active in the community by working with those of all age groups, Jeff, 51, is in touch with all members of the community from those just graduating high school to those celebrating retirement. Finally, Jeff's education, business backing, knowledge of specialized topics that matter the most to citizens, and his ability to know when to listen, makes him the most qualified and well rounded candidate for Marion County Commission, District 3.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Maintaining the high quality of Public Safety workers to ensure that if you ever need to call 9-1-1, the best professional responder is there to assist you in minutes, not hours! This will be achieved by utilizing my knowledge in public safety, which no other candidate has, to spend YOUR tax dollars appropriately and reduce workforce vacancies.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3

JEFF GOLD *(continued)*

2. Working with the Chamber and Economic Partnership to bring businesses, jobs, and most importantly, assist current businesses to flourish in our community to continue our current tax rate and not raise property taxes.
3. Improve current infrastructure of roads public services to keep our community safe and reduce risks. This will be done by monitoring the sales tax revenue and ensuring that the money is spent fairly and where it is needed.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5



EARL ARNETT (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Earl is the only veteran on the Commission and served his Country as a medic in the US Army. He is married to Shelia and they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. He has been a member at Central Christian Church for more than 35 years and served as a Deacon and Ministry leader there. Earl has been a lifelong Christian and is unashamedly a conservative Christian who is pro-life. He believes there is a choice - that of the child's right to life.

Earl is a civic leader in the community. For many years Earl was a member of the Ocala Noon Optimist serving at both the local and state level. Earl was one of the founding members of the Republican Business Council. He was also a member of MAD DADS.

Earl's diverse background is a true asset to Marion County. He has been a commercial pilot and flight instructor as well as owner of a cable TV marketing company. He owned a private investigation firm in Marion County for 13 years. He was a building contractor and built several houses in the late 1980s. His ability to talk to people about hard issues and his fact-finding skills are invaluable to the Commission.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Founding member of the Republican Business Council - Ocala Noon Optimist serving at both the local and state levels - Ocala Business Leaders –

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My diverse background has combined to give me a unique perspective on the County Commission. I am the only Veteran on the Marion County Commission. I served my country in the US Army during the Vietnam era.

I have always owned my own businesses. Some of those businesses were cable TV marketing company, private investigator, realtor, contractor, corporate pilot and flight instructor. All of these experiences has given me a very diverse background.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Public Safety (police, fire fighters and EMTs)
2. Preserving our water - QUALITY and quantity. I am the water expert on the Marion County Commission. Water quality and quantity is vital to Marion County, and Florida. I have attended four Water schools, am a board member of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Authority, and advocate for keeping our water safe and plentiful.
3. Transportation and road infrastructure. I am on the Transportation Planning Organization Board, and a past Chairman of the TPO. We are looking at ways to reduce the gridlock on I-75 - but also our county roads.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5



ANTHONY JAMES

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

15 year Hotel Management Career
Managed Hilton and Marriot Hotels
Repositioned hotels that were weak and made them strong performing hotels

My family moved to Marion County five years ago to get away from the fast paced life of the Washington D.C. area. At the time our daughter was eleven and my wife and I had only been married for two years and we were excited about what Marion County had to

offer a newly established family. As the years have passed we rooted ourselves into a church called Light Sword Ministries where I am a Deacon today.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Through my position as General Manager of the Homewood Suites I have been fortunate enough to be able to participate in many community outreaches including the Special Olympics, the Freedom Clinic, and work with Vets helping Vets. God has blessed me with a heart to serve and one of the ways I want to serve is by bringing jobs into Marion County and it's hard working citizens.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I am a problem solver. That's what I do all day, every day. My job is to increase profits for my owners and provide great service to my guest. I have to adapt to all types of people. This is what I will bring to Marion County. That is why I want to bring us together as one community, with one vision, moving forward on one accord. To make sure that we are securing a future for the next generation here in Marion County.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Job Growth- i. Partnering with growth organizations such as Career Source and SBDC to offer job skill training to people in rural parts of District 5, which would allow them a higher opportunity to find better paying jobs.

ii. Partnering with business organizations such as SBA, SCORE, and the CEP to offer seminars and workshops to improve the health of existing businesses in District 5

Economic Empowerment- i. Working with public and private partners to create small business cohorts to share best practices and brainstorm growth strategies

ii. Establish a growers market for local farmers not resellers

iii. Work with Fresh from Florida to market local growers to business in the surrounding area who use fresh produce

iv. Working with economic development organizations to better manage funds of the West Ocala CRA. Ensure a diversity of opportunities exist for a diversity of entrepreneurs



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5

ANTHONY JAMES *(continued)*

- Quality of Life-i. Better management of tax payer funds to avoid the next for future tax increases
- ii. Review strategies for which entities are funded by the county
- iii. Help supports arts and culture in all of Marion County
- iv. Restructure the CEP to better serve all of Marion County business owners and prospective business owners
- v. Partner with the Sheriff's department to foster stronger community relationships

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5



RUSSELL MATZINGER (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a Business Owner of a Barber Shop in NE Ocala called Gentlemens Quarters. I attended the University of Toledo and am a proud member of the Marine Corp League 061. I was a former Chairman at the Salem United Church of Christ and am a NRA Member.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

South Florida Trail Riders Association; collected trama horses after Hurrican Andrew

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have delt with the public for over 30 years.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. First responders pay scales need to be improved/retention is KEY.
2. Jobs; stop chasing bussiness out. Invite Companies to look at our great area.
3. Impact Feets; lower for a suitable fit.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5



BRIGITTE SMITH (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am an operating room nurse of 23 years; I have specialized in everything from orthopedic, neurosurgery to open heart surgery. I am currently the supervisor in the operating room at West Marion Community Hospital. I am a medical missionary, where I am the coordinator for the Paul Chester Children's Hope Foundation. Every year we travel to third world countries and perform life changing surgery on the indigent of the area. I am a small farmer. We raise pigs, horses, chickens, goats and ducks; along with our 2 great pyrenees, 1 Siberian husky, 1 pound dog, 1 lab and 1 Chihuahua – it gets busy around our house. I am a veteran. The day after the twin towers came down I called the Army recruiter and shortly thereafter, I was a direct Commission as a 1st LT in the United States Army Reserve, Nurse Corp. I am a facilitator of change and efficiency expert in open heart where I have re-organized heart programs to be the most efficient and best outcomes. I will be the strongest candidate to stand for the people of Marion County and promote change where needed in the commissioner's office. Prior to becoming a nurse, I attended paralegal college in Maryland, where Sandra Day O'Connor was my general law instructor. I am 49 years old, have 3 daughters and one granddaughter. My husband, my children, grand daughter and parents all reside in Ocala.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been with the PCCHF (Paul Chester Children's Hope Foundation and the Pan American Medical Society) for the last 15 years. I am a continued member of the ASPCA and the United States Humane Society. My husband and I are members of the Florida Farm Bureau. I have been a member of AORN (Association for Operating Room Nurses) for many years and am the current president of our local chapter, 1016 North Central Florida. I am the newest member of the American Legion post 354.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have been a servant to the public since becoming a nurse; it is my compassion for people that compels me to run for this office. I attend a constitution class every Thursday which provides me the continued education to be able to honestly take the Oath to defend the United States Constitution if I am elected as County Commissioner for District 5. 23 years of nursing has prepared me for this office. There is not anything more demanding, more dynamic, and more skilled than supervising an operating room. Not only do I work efficiently, make decisions at moment's notice, multi-task, take the lead, remain autonomous, but play a key role in teamwork, leadership and advocate. To be a servant to the people and do it well, takes a certain person. I am that person. I believe that government officials have forgotten that once they take that position, they are no longer the elector, but are the servant to the people. Article I, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution states, "all political power is inherent in the people." Article II, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution states, "a public office is a public trust." I am the candidate who will restore the trust and confidence the people of Marion County are seeking from their elected officials. As a nurse, a veteran, a farmer and change agent, I believe I am the candidate with the experience needed to such a great deed!



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5

BRIGITTE SMITH *(continued)*

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1st priority will be to re-negotiate the salaries of 1st responders – to include police & fire rescue. One might ask, how will she do that, which leads to the 2nd most important issue. The issue where monies I believe are being spent irresponsibly. MCBCC donated \$250,000.00 to the Coates golf tournament. There are people in Marion County who do not make that in 5 yrs. In addition, the county gives the CEP \$20,000.00/month. I will request we stop this monthly payment. I will bring common sense when deciding what checks will be written and to whom. You see, there is already nearly ½ million dollars that could have been earmarked for 1st responders. Just last month there was another check written for \$14,000 to Coates. Even if this half million was not enough for raises, there is nothing wrong with onetime bonus' or gift cards, as an act of appreciation. I want to stop the viscous cycle of 1st responders getting trained & experience in Marion County, only to leave and go to neighboring counties who pay more. There are the people saving your lives, who initiate advanced cardiac life support. I believe in the CAFR, it reports that Marion County has 1.3+ billion dollars in assets; but yet we can't seem to find a way to support our 1st responders. The CEP is able to operate without the county's contribution of \$20K as the CEP has up to \$20K membership fees. Thirdly, support property owner's rights and decrease regulations & support local farmers.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5



MICHELLE STONE (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I have 35 years of financial services experience, 26 years in the Ocala market; including nearly 20 years with SunTrust Bank where I held the office of Senior Vice President and Ocala City President. My managed service area spanned Alachua and Marion counties and included sixteen full service banking centers. I currently manage large commercial banking relationships as a Commercial Loan Officer for Gateway Bank.

During my career I have served in various capacities overseeing all aspects of banking services to help personal clients, small businesses and owners meet their financial aspirations. I have been recognized with various achievements and awards.

I'm a graduate of the Florida School of Banking at the University of Florida and have earned the American Institute of Banking Diploma along with various other banking related seminars and classes to remain up to date in best practices. I hold a State of Florida Life & Health Annuities License and Series 6, Series 26 and Series 63 licenses.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Leadership Ocala Marion Graduate and Former Board of Regents, Ocala Sunset Rotary Club and Paul Harris Fellow Member, United Way Vision Council, Republican Federated Women, Hospice Board Member, 2014 American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Chair, American Heart Assoc. Go Red for Women, Ex. Committee, ALS Walk Team Leader, March of Dimes Coordinator, 23 yr. Meadowbrook Church Volunteer, Former Marion Sr Services Board,

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have a proven, successful professional history as an executive banker. I am skilled at managing multiple teams and priorities. I'm known to put in the time needed to understand issues and provide solutions.

I'm also the most community-minded candidate as I have personally invested many resources and thousands of hours over the past 26 years in our community by working to improve the position of those that need help, encouragement and a hand-up from their current condition.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Steward our tax dollars to provide sustainable funding for quality of life issues. i.e. First Responders, roadways, etc. Prioritize budget.
2. Protect our water resources. Learn all I can, meet with stakeholders, insure we do everything we can to protect our water and other natural resources.
3. Provide accountability and transparency in order to restore public trust in our elected officials. Include more commissioner commentary on what is being done and what our next steps are during public meetings. I'll also provide monthly Town Hall meetings throughout District 5.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 5

MICHELLE STONE *(continued)*

Addressing these issues above will foster an environment that will bring improved economic growth.

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



GEORGE D. TOMY (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a lifelong resident of Marion County and a product of our public school system. After graduating from Ocala Forest High School in 1972, I attended Stetson University and then received an associate of arts degree from Central Florida Community College in 1974. I attended Valdosta State College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in 1976. After college I returned "home" to Marion County and have served as a teacher, assistant principal, elementary and high school principal, district administrator and

Superintendent. My grown children attended Marion County Public Schools and my wife of 39 years retired from teaching in 2012.

For the past 3 ½ years I have had the privilege of serving this community as Superintendent of Schools. I believe that the future of our great country lies in the hands of today's youth who are tomorrow's leaders. I am committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities to all of our students.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

My wife and I are active members of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala where we both have served as elders. I am fully committed to serving our community and I currently serve as a board member and chair-elect of United Way of Marion County, Board Member of the Children's Alliance and I am an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Ocala. I have also served as a Take Stock in Children Mentor and I actively support the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts organizations.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Both of my parents were public school teachers so you might say that I was "born" into this great profession. Along the way I had a number of great teachers in public school and in college that encouraged me to enter the field of education. I have never for one moment regretted this decision. For the last 39 years I have served in a variety of positions with last 3 ½ years serving as Marion County's Superintendent of Schools. In each of these positions I listened to those around me and sought out ways to improve public education. You might say that I am a collection of those who had a positive and productive impact on my career. As Superintendent I have created a "team work" atmosphere and our leadership team works together as a cohesive unit as we address the challenges we face in education today.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

As Superintendent of Schools my goals have been, and will continue to focus on three specific things: 1) providing high quality opportunities to students, 2) managing available resources appropriately and 3) connecting with our community in such a way as to access the many talents and contributions of our citizens.



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

GEORGE D. TOMYN *(continued)*

Providing a great education for our students is our primary mission. To do this we must equip our teachers with the tools and strategies that make them the very best instructor that they can be. Our focus is providing great professional development opportunities for all teachers.

Managing our available resources continues to be a challenge. Rising expenses, unfunded mandates and lower than expected revenue continue to be a challenge but, here in Marion County we continue to manage a balanced budget with appropriate reserves.

We have a wealth of community support in Marion County and parents and community members contribute to our success in many ways. Our administration works closely with all community factors to capitalize on those talents and resources.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



BILL ARCHIBALD (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a life long resident of Marion County, a Veteran, teacher, school administrator, and local businessman.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Former member: Ocala/Silver Springs Rotary Club, Marion County Veteran's Council.

As the former director of Francis Marion Military Academy, I have coordinated volunteer efforts to support Vet's Helping Vet's, Habitat for Humanity, Marion County Road Builders.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I hold a BA in Elementary Education, and MS in Educational Leadership. I am an experienced school teacher and administrator. My unique experience as a Charter School Director allowed me to write policy, collaborate with boards, build budgets and promote volunteerism within the program I administered.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

- 1) School discipline: Our district must address discipline in terms of policy. I will meet with school level personnel to ensure that discipline data is accurate and support efforts to improve discipline on the bus and in the classroom.
- 2) Long term Budget: Our district must continue to work on solutions that support a continued growth in reserve funds, and find viable solutions to support the Arts and Vocational Education. I will communicate with stakeholders and our local businesses to assist in identifying needs in our work force and support the implementation of curriculum that meets local needs. Additionally, I will support efforts to allow site based administration to have more oversight and control of their budgets.
- 3) Testing: Currently Marion County Students are over tested. I will work with the board, teachers and administration to identify solutions. I will support lobbying efforts that support a fair system in grading schools and rewarding teachers.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



BETH McCALL (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Education
- Master Degree in Management and Leadership
- Certified Fund Raising Executive
- President – Beth McCall, LLC
- Executive Director of the Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation 2005-2013
- Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County 1999-2005
- Golden Apple Teacher Selection Chairman – 2014 & 2015
- Leadership Ocala/Marion Board of Regents Chairman – 2008-2009
- Immediate Past Chairman of Ocala Women’s Network
- Founder of St. Paul’s United Methodist Pre-School

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Current activities

- Ocala Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors
- Central Florida Master Choir Board of Directors
- Florida Public Relations Association Ocala Chapter Board of Directors

Past activities

- Take Stock in Children Mentor
- Past President of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations
- Marion County Public Policy Institute Board of Directors
- Marion County Children’s Alliance
- Past President of the University of Florida Lady Gator Booster Club
- Chairman of Student Advisory

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My organizational and management skills are excellent. I have proven to be a consensus builder and collaborator to turn a failing organization into a successful organization. I am known for surrounding myself with outstanding people to help bring success to an organization. The Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation was a failing organization when I was hired in 2005 as the Executive Director. Within a 3 year period of time, I had hired an exceptional staff to help with fundraising, had recruited an outstanding and committed board of directors comprised of business and community leaders, and we were raising over \$1,000,000 annually. Controversy surrounded Munroe Regional Medical Center the entire 6 years I was the Executive Director and by the time the Munroe Foundation was dissolved, due to the hospital becoming a private for profit entity, we had raised over \$8,000,000.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2

BETH McCALL *(continued)*

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. I believe we need to make education relevant for those students who choose not to go to college. Working with our business community, we need to identify the jobs needed for our workforce and provide classroom training and internships for those students. If they understand that they will have the skills necessary to enter the workforce than education becomes relevant.
2. I am a strong advocate for music and art. Music and art teaches discipline, precision, and teamwork. It provides students another avenue to succeed. Research shows that students involved in music have higher test scores. Music helps with language development and math skills.
3. Marion County's test scores have been falling for the last 4 years. We must find ways to improve. Education is the one industry who continues to do things the way it has always been done despite the technology age. Students have knowledge at their fingertips and we must find better ways to facilitate learning. STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) must be a focus in every school and we must provide the resources needed to facilitate STEAM.

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AMENDMENT 4

TAX EXEMPTION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVICES

Source: The Florida Legislature

Synopsis:

Amendment 4 expands tax breaks on renewable energy devices to include businesses. Current state law restricts property-tax breaks on solar power and other renewable energy devices to residential property. The amendment would authorize (but not require) the state Legislature to pass laws exempting businesses from two different taxes when those businesses purchase renewable energy devices. One exemption would prohibit local governments from considering renewable energy devices when determining the value of real estate used for business purposes. The other would exempt renewable energy devices from the state's tax on a business' "tangible personal property," which includes such items as computers and furniture. The amendment would take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, and would sunset on Dec. 31, 2037. This amendment, which will appear on the Aug. 30 primary ballot, should not be confused with a solar-power amendment that will appear on the general election ballot Nov. 8. The two are very different. Read the full text of the Aug. 30 amendment question [here](#) and a legislative analysis of it [here](#).

A YES vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Change the [state Constitution](#) by allowing the Legislature to exempt renewable energy devices from a tax imposed on business-owned personal property.
- Allows the Legislature to prohibit local [property appraisers](#) from including renewable energy devices when determining the value of business-owned real estate, which means property tax bills would not increase because a business purchased those devices.
- Potentially encourage businesses to invest in renewable energy devices, such as solar-power cells and wind turbines that generate electricity.

A NO vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Maintain the status quo, which currently subjects businesses that buy renewable energy devices to the state's tax on personal property.
- Continue allowing local property appraisers to include renewable energy devices when deciding how much real estate is worth, which means the value of those devices shows up on a business' tax bill.
- Have no effect on the current law that grants a tax exemption on renewable energy devices used on residential property.