

County Commissions

Marion County Commissioner, District 2

Description:

The Board of County Commissioners is the primary legislative and policy-making body for the County. Each commissioner represents one of the five districts in which they reside and serves a four-year term

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Joe Brown

Party: WRI

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: .

Contact Phone: 352-274-2908

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: - no response -

Q: *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

A: - no response -

Kathy Bryant



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 352-572-5775

City of Residence: Ocala

Education: High School

Website: <http://Votekathybryant.com>

Email: Kbryant5586@aol.com

Facebook: <http://Kathybryantformarioncontycommissioner>

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Over the years, I have been proud to be affiliated with a variety of different organizations. These include Junior League of Ocala, Women of Worth, Ocala Royal Dames, Interfaith Emergency Services, the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership, Tourist Development Council, Past President of the Florida Association of Counties, National Association of Counties, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, and last but not least my home-based church, Church of Hope.

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: During my time as a county commissioner, I have dedicated myself to learning and understanding the ins and outs of our county government and the needs of our community. I believe my tenacity and problem solving skills have been recognized by my peers, as they have now elected me board chairman on three separate occasions. Additionally, I have committed to furthering my training as a county commissioner, by obtaining multiple certifications from the Florida Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. Finally, my 20 years of experience as a business owner provides me with a deep understanding of how local economic and job growth occurs - a vital skill as we work to continue the rapid economic growth we've experienced since 2011.

Q: *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

A: The County Commission has already addressed this issue. On May 2, the County Commission renegotiated the contract with our fire rescue union. Following this renegotiation, the County Commission unanimously approved the contract at our June 5 meeting. The amended contract addresses the starting salary of all firefighter/paramedics. We have already seen a dramatic increase in applications and an end to the large amount of attrition the department had been experiencing.

Q: *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

A: Marion County is indeed rich in natural resources. With the understanding that our population is expected to grow from 350,000 to more than 525,000 within the next twenty years it is imperative that we reassess our comprehensive plan and make the needed changes. These changes are not only needed to protect our natural resources, but also to accommodate our growth while still maintaining our identity.

Marion County Commissioner, District 4

Description:

The Board of County Commissioners is the primary legislative and policy-making body for the County. Each commissioner represents one of the five districts in which they reside and serves a four-year term

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Deanna Morey

Party: WRI

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: .

Contact Phone: 352-484-4567

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: - no response -

Q: *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

A: - no response -

Carl Zalak III



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 352-266-4846

City of Residence: Fort Mc Coy, FL

Education: B.S. Management Information Systems from USF

Website: <http://votezalak.com>

Email: votezalak@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://Vote Zalak>

Twitter: twitter.com/votezalak

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Community Bible Study: Ocala Men's, Teaching director. CEP Children's Alliance Leadership Florida Florida Association of Counties National Association of Counties

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I am not a bureaucrat and I am not a rookie. I am a business leader who is personally committed to Marion County being a place where our kids can find careers worthy of their talents and the best place in the world for our seniors to retire!

Q: *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

A: We move quickly in Marion County! I serve on the board that identified the need and it was resolved by June 5, 2018. The salary package now puts us third in the state overall for firefighter/paramedics and the resumes are pouring-in!

Q: *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

A: We have a long-range Basin Management action plan that will restore our springs. We are acting on it purposefully to restore our springs rightful place in our community, as the treasures they are! I was, also, quoted in the Ocala Star Banner for affirming that I would move to have the County sue the State government if they continue to pursue their ridiculous Coastal Connector. I believe every community should have an identity. I love Ocala and I don't want it to become like anywhere else, especially Orlando!

Court of Appeals

Fifth District Court of Appeals (Retention of Judge Eisnaugle)

Description:

The purpose of the Appellate Court is to provide for the review of decisions by lower courts. Judges are nominated by the state's judicial nominating commission and then appointed by the governor. They serve six-year terms and are re-elected through retention elections. The appearance of a judge on the ballot does not indicate anything about his or her performance or actions as a judge.

Shall Judge Eric Eisnaugle of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office? Vote Yes or No.

YES: Retain Judge Eisnaugle

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 386-947-154

Questions:

NO: Do NOT Retain Judge Eisnaugle

Biographical Info:

Questions:

School Boards

Marion County School Board, District 3

Description:

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Eric Ruben Cummings



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent:

Contact Phone: 352-804-6871

City of Residence: Dunnellon, FL

Education: 1987 Graduate of Ocala Forest High School Bachelor of Business Administration, Edward Waters College, Magna Cum Laude, Jacksonville, FL Bachelors and Masters of Theology, United Theological Seminary and Bible College. Monroe, La

Website: <http://ElectEricCummings.com>

Email: EricCummings4Schoolboard@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://Eric Cummings 4 School Board>

Other Social Media: N/A

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators Pastors With A Purpose Second Bethlehem Baptist Association Christians United, Marion and Citrus Counties Meridian Masonic Grand Lodge of Florida Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Psi Chi Chapter NAACP, Marion County, FL Marion County POP Warner Football-Raiders

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: My experience as a father and grand father of kids that attend Marion County School, in addition to pastoring a congregation whose children attend public schools gives me a "people" perspective of our school system. My ability to communicate with people and to seek reasonable and logical solutions to issues would be an asset to the dynamics of the board. I also have the ability to access and analyze situations and see potential or future problems and look for ways to address these potential problem areas before they manifested.

Q: *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

A: I would look to recruit high quality teachers first from our in state institutions of higher education. Implement staffing a District Recruiter that will go to all of our Florida School to include our Historical Black Colleges and Universities and bring those teachers to Marion County. I would also take a look at counties that are recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and seek to replicate those best practices that have proven to be successful in other Florida School Districts. I would also work with the other Board Members, Superintendent and the teachers to access their needs and concerns, to make sure that our teachers are given the resources to raise our school to a higher level of success.

Q: *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

A: 1

Q: *Explain your answer.*

A: My experience in law enforcement causes me to not support having administrators or teachers in the school armed with guns. I believe the Educators and Teachers focus

should be concentrated on educating our students. The security of our schools should be left in the hands of our law enforcement agencies and school resources officers. Arming teachers and staff would be putting more guns in schools when we should be seeking to keep guns out of school.

Ed Wilson



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent:

Contact Phone: 352-237-8650

City of Residence: Dunnellon, Florida

Education: AS Degree Electronic Engineering

Email: edwilsongc@aol.com

Facebook: <http://Elect Ed Wilson School Board District 3>

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Florida Citizen's Alliance Advisory Board Member, Marion County Building Industry Association Board Member and Treasurer, Boy Scout Leader

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I have many years of experience working to improve public education locally and in Tallahassee by building relationships with all our elected officials and working with other organizations whose goals are to improve our K-12 education system. I have personally made many trips to Tallahassee, working with groups like Florida Citizen's Alliance and Americans For Prosperity, meeting with our Legislators to show them some of the most egregious problems that need to be corrected and offering them solutions to those problems. Florida Citizen's Alliance worked diligently to get a bill passed and signed into law (CS989) that strengthened our ability to be part of the instructional material adoption process, and to view and object to all the instructional materials being used in our schools. I proudly serve on their Education Advisory Board.

Q: *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

A: We trust teachers with our precious children. We need to appreciate, respect, honor and support them. I would give them the respect, honor and support they deserve and I will stay focused on getting more resources to the classrooms.

Q: *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

A: 5

Q: *Explain your answer.*

A: Our school must be safe places to learn, work and visit. I support the Guardian Program. The unfunded portion of the funds needed to place a School Resource Officer in every school, two at our largest high schools, will be covered but the increase in revenues come through rising property values.

Marion County School Board, District 4

Description:

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Angie Boynton



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 352-817-9986

City of Residence: Ocala, Florida

Education: Forest High School, Sheppard University, attended University of Florida As a business owner, Instant Tax Group & Associates LLC, specializing in Income Tax prep and small business accounting, I review and audit small business tax records and represent them before the Florida Department of Revenue and IRS. The Boynton Firm LLC, specializing a on-line designer for women and men Shoes, Purses, etc. I'm a author for books and Awards for songwriting.

Website: <http://www.angieboynton.us>

Email: angeliaboynton@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://RelectAngieBoynton>

Other Social Media: Instagram

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: I currently serve as your School Board Member representative from Marion County Commissioners, Marion County Republican Women, Florida-Marion County Education BlakPAC, Heritage Foundation, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, and the Boynton Education Scholarship Foundation,

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I currently serve as your representative from Marion County on the Florida School Board Association, Atl. Board Marion, Citrus, and Hernando (District 23) and Committees – Vice-Chair Multicultural Diversity, Finance, Legislative and Advocate. My experiences as a Finance Director, Chairman of the Board for PACE Center for Girls, Pharmacy Narcotics Supervisor at Shands Teaching Hospital, Red Cross Advisory Board member, and current Vice-Chair of the School Board prepare me to be your school board member.

Q: *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

A: I believe to create obstacles recruitment and retention high quality teachers enhance our policies influences impact on student learning:: 1. Diviserty 2. Salaries and other compensation 3. Working conditions 4. Resources for teaching

Q: *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

A: 3

Q: *Explain your answer.*

A: I believe that guns for the administration might be inviting attacks on themselves. With the Feis Program recieve proper training and requirements are conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission certified instructions. Participation in the program must have a annually: 1. Law Reinforcement firearms qualification. 2. Active shooter or assailant scenario. Which are sworn under the Sheiff responsibility.

Nancy Thrower



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent:

Contact Phone: 352-462-1783

City of Residence: Ocala

Education: BA and Graduate Board Certification in Applied Behavior Analysis from Penn State.

Email: Completed_Project@yahoo.com

Other Social Media: Facebook

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Marions United for Public Education Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA) Agency for Persons with Disabilities Children's Medical Society Behavior Analysts Certification Board

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I worked my way up through the school system from Teacher Aide/Vocational Job Coach, to high school teacher, then on to the district level as a staffing specialist, and for the past 14 years as a Behavior Specialist. There's not much I haven't seen. I'm a passionate problem solver and I've learned it's all about building relationships within the school system, with outside agencies and with families. The schools that are the most effective at doing this are the most successful. I also own a small residential real estate rental and investment business so I understand the impact of taxes and the cost of doing business. I was raised with a "Waste Not, Want Not" mentality along with a strong work ethic. I qualified to run via the Petition Card process and am the only candidate in this race to do so. My husband and I have 3 boys that are all graduates of Marion County Schools, our youngest just graduated in May. My experience in Public Education is deep and broad.

Q: Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.

A: Hire administrators and keep them at the same schools for at least 3-5 years. It takes this long to establish a bonded, stable and trusting school culture where teachers feel supported. Increase teacher pay. Begin an in county "Teacher to Be" program where students can volunteer in classrooms as an elective and if passionate about the field of public education, continue coursework and internship experiences that lead to eventual certification.

Q: The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.

A: 2

Q: Explain your answer.

A: I think hiring additional, specially trained School Resource Officers is a better option. School Administrators have enough on their plates already. We also have many Veterans in Marion County that have expressed interest in helping in this capacity. I would like anyone assigned to enhance school safety to also serve as mentors and "ear to the ground" proactive monitors of the daily goings on in the schools to stay ahead of potential crises.

Marion County School Board, District 5

Description:

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Shelia Arnett



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent:

Contact Phone: 352-209-1037

City of Residence: Ocala, FL

Education: High School graduate with some Community College credits

Website: <http://votearnett.com>

Email: sarnett@mfi.net

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=shelia%20arnett%20for%20school%20board%2C%20district%205>

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: I currently serve on the board of the Marion County Homeless Council. Previously served on the board of the Marion County Literacy Council. Work with organizations around the county that service the homeless population.

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: My husband, former County Commissioner Earl Arnett, and I have been involved in our community since moving here in 1981. I frequently volunteer at events that give back to the community. I am an advocate for the homeless in the county and work with organizations that give a hand up not just a hand out. Earl and I have been business owners in Ocala - we owned a BMX bicycle shop and baseball card store; Earl was a private investigator for 14 years; we owned a window tinting and sign shop; I published a magazine in the Villages for 2 years; and I have been a healthcare recruiter since 2000. My work in the community, along with the experience of owning and operating several small businesses, uniquely qualifies me to hold the office of School Board.

Q: *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

A: In May, the district held a job fair for teachers that was well received. As a recruiter I am well versed in attracting excellent talent for the companies that hire my firm. I would help utilize some of the same practices to find high quality teachers for the district.

Q: *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

A: 5

Q: *Explain your answer.*

A: I recently attended a presentation where Sheriff Billy Woods described the extensive training that would train qualified district employees before they would be allowed to carry a gun on campuses. I feel confident in Sheriff Woods training and feel that administrators, coaches, and other staff members would be an asset to keeping our schools safer. However, I never think a teacher that has responsibility for students should be allowed to carry or have a gun in their possession.

Kelly King



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 352-817-7371

City of Residence: Ocala

Education: Elementary Education B.S. Educational Leadership M.Ed

Email: KellyKing2018@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://Kelly King Marion County School Board District 5>

Twitter: twitter.com/Kelly_King2018

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: I am currently a board member of Kids Central, volunteer for Reading Pals, Certified Member of Florida School Board Association, and a member of Central Florida School Board Coalition.

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I have 12 ½ years teaching experience and 3½ years school board experience that include decisions in making policy and approving budget for over a half a billion dollars.

Q: *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

A: Competitive Salaries.

Q: *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

A: 4

Q: *Explain your answer.*

A: I approve of qualified administrators carrying guns with the requirement that the volunteer receives mental health and drug screening, as well that they receive 140 hours of mandated training from the Sheriff's Office before carry a gun on campus.

Municipal

Dunnellon Council, Seat 4

Description:

The City of Dunnellon operates under a council-manager form of government with the board consisting of five city council members, who are elected to staggered four-year terms. One of the five council members is elected as mayor. The Council elects one of its members to serve as Vice-Mayor on an annual basis.

(Vote for One)

Candidates (choose 1):

Valerie Porter-Hanchar



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: INCUMBENT

Contact Phone: 352-362-2107

City of Residence: Dunnellon

Education: Graduate Citrus High School, Inverness, FL CFCC, Florida Real Estate Agent & Broker Program, Ocala, FL

Email: AP3@Aol.Com

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: Professional Board: ~Ocala/Marion County Board Of Realtors® ~National Association Of Realtors® Volunteer Organizations Former & Present: ~Junior League Of Ocala, Former President, Various Board Positions & Fundraiser Chair. Current Sustainer ~Michelle-O-Gram Fundraiser ~Dunnellon FFA Alumni, Treasurer ~4-H Citrus County Adult Advisor Equestrian Team ~Dunnellon Elementary Classroom Volunteer ~Student Advisory Committee Dunnellon Elementary & Middle School ~Dunnellon Presbyterian Church Member & Elder

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: Current Position & Boards: ~2016-Current: Dunnellon City Councilwoman Seat#4 ~ Council Liaison To Transportation Planning Organization Member & Vice Chair 2018 ~ Community Redevelopment Area Board Former Elected or Appointed Voting Position & Boards: ~1997-2002 Dunnellon City Council Member & Vice-Mayor ~ Council Liaison Marion County Transportation Planning Organization ~ Council Liaison Metropolitan Planning Organization ~ Council Liaison Florida City League Of Cities ~ Rainbow River Advisory Board, Chairwoman ~ Dunnellon Code Enforcement & Board Of Adjustments All of the experience that I have gained is invaluable. Diplomacy, Working Thru Difficult Issues With Fellow Members, Listening Skills, Fiduciary Responsibility, Growth Mgmt and soooo much more.

Q: *Describe the biggest challenge facing the community and how you plan to address it.*

A: Dunnellon's biggest challenge when I came back on the council in 2016 was we were near bankruptcy. Our council has worked together to smartly figure ways to work within a budget that still provides necessary services to our citizens, reduce our debts and start rebuilding our reserves. Hard decisions were required, we turned our fire department that we could not continue to fund properly, over to Marion County which enhanced our services at a cost shared by all homeowners. We continue to find ways to invest in our community that will enhance our citizens lives, protect our rivers, plan for the future growth. That is the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Q: *What action would you take if you perceived a fellow council member had a conflict of interest in a matter before the Council and did not disclose it?*

A: Ethically I believe it would be my duty to bring the concern to the attention of my fellow council members if we were in a council meeting. Our cities attorney would advise us on the procedure that would need to be followed and the criteria that relates to a conflict of interest for an elected official that comes before the council. If there was a conflict then the council will be advised of how to proceed by our attorney and city administrator.

Pamela Lee Kern



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Incumbent: .

Contact Phone: 727-448-9099

City of Residence: Dunnellon, Fl

Education: Boca Ciega High - St. Petersburg, Fl St. Petersburg College -St. Petersburg, Fl

Facebook: <http://pamkern>

Questions:

Q: *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

A: I am currently serving on the Board of Adjustment for Marion County. Prior to moving to Dunnellon, I served on Treasure Island's Planning and Zoning Board, Land Development Board, Charter Review Committee and Pinellas County Guardian Ad Litem. I have been attending Dunnellon's city council, city council workshops, LDR, and P&Z boards.

Q: *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

A: I have been active in local government for many years. By serving on a number of boards, I have a well-rounded background of issues and resolutions. In addition, having served on different city's boards, I have a unique perspective of many facets of local government. Also, my background in real estate working for developers and builders has given me the knowledge of infrastructure, codes, and regulations. For example, I helped write Treasure Island's LDR's to include a new category called Condo-Hotel and was on the committee that re-wrote the city's charter.

Q: *Describe the biggest challenge facing the community and how you plan to address it.*

A: The biggest challenge Dunnellon faces today is disfunction and cohesiveness between the council and its constituents. My plan is to forge a workable solution to address the needs of the community by asking the community to be more involved in the decision-making process. I want to stress by "community", I mean both the citizens and the business community.

Q: *What action would you take if you perceived a fellow council member had a conflict of interest in a matter before the Council and did not disclose it?*

A: I would report it to the city attorney and have the attorney advise the council-member accordingly.

Referenda

Referendum on Appointed Superintendent

Description:

BALLOT QUESTION: Should the office of superintendent of schools of The School Board of Marion County, Florida, be appointed and employed by The School Board of Marion

County, Florida, as authorized by the Florida Constitution?

REFERENDUM PASSES: If the majority of the electorate votes "Yes," the referendum will pass.

Vote Yes

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What a Yes and No Vote mean.*

A: The Marion County Superintendent of Schools will no longer be elected. The Marion County School Board will appoint all future Superintendents. The passage of this referendum will not change the term of the current Superintendent.

Vote No

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What a Yes and No Vote mean.*

A: The voters will continue to elect the Marion County Superintendent of Schools.