

# Melissa Martin

Candidate for Florida Senate District 14, 2018 Elections

*“We must restore balance in Florida, now.”*

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Cocoa, FL 32923  
**(321) 439-6118**  
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## EXPERIENCE

### **Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition — President**

JUN 2016 - AUG 2017

An all-volunteer 501(c)3 working with community partners and stakeholders to restore and protect the Indian River Lagoon.

### **Represent the Space Coast — Chapter Coordinator**

JAN 2016 - AUG 2017

A local chapter of Represent.Us, a national nonpartisan organization to restore government integrity.

### **US Marine Corps — Judge Advocate**

SEP 2007 - SEP 2014

Command legal advisor on all matters of international, administrative, civil, and criminal law. Retired as Staff Judge Advocate for Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan.

### **US Marine Corps — Staff Executive**

FEB 1999 - JUL 2004

Legal-administrative manager for all authorities, restraints, and constraints on command actions and communications.

## EDUCATION

### **US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD — Bach. of Sci.**

JUL 1994 - MAY 1998

Majored in Political Science, Minored in the Spanish Language

### **Barry Univ School of Law, Orlando, FL — Juris Doc.**

AUG 2004 - MAY 2007

Graduated Cum Laude, with Clinic Certificate in Child Advocacy

## SKILLS

Cross-partisan leadership  
Legal research & advocacy  
Creative problem solving  
Mediation & communication

## AWARDS

**Various Personal Awards** for meritorious service in the Marine Corps  
**Lion of Justice Award** from the Florida Bar Committee on Professionalism  
**Linda Goode Conservation Award** from Anglers for Conservation

## MEMBERSHIPS

FL Bar Member in Good Standing, #47515

FL Bar Military Affairs Committee, Environmental & Land Use Law Section

Military Officers Association of America

Various Clubs/Caucuses

## Candidate Profile – Personal Profile

1. Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Melissa Martin** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Office You Are Running For \_\_\_\_\_ **FL Senate District 14** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Phone Numbers.

home: \_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

office: \_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

cell: \_\_\_\_\_ **321.439.6118** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a copy of your professional resume**

4. Current Occupation:

**Retired. Volunteering in community advocacy efforts since retiring.**

5. Education (if not detailed on your resume)

(see resume)

6. Civic Involvement (if not detailed on your resume)

- **Established and led the local chapter of Represent.Us, the national nonpartisan organization fighting all levels and forms of corruption; successfully seeing the unanimous adoption of an anti-corruption resolution, calling for stronger measures of ethical governance, by the City of Cocoa in July 2016.**
- **Served as the Area Captain for the statewide coalition, Floridians Against Fracking in Florida, establishing community awareness efforts throughout Brevard and successfully helping to pass the unanimous adoption of a fracking ban ordinance in Brevard County -- on the same day substantial civic engagement defeated a pro-fracking bill in the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee in February 2016.**
- **Served as the President of the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition in 2016, overseeing its formation, mission development, strategic partnerships with organizational advocates and stakeholders, and campaign to raise community awareness about the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan referendum. Personally spoke at numerous organizational meetings, engaged strategic partners with synchronized planning, and organized the volunteer support network throughout Brevard County.**

7. Are you involved in or have been involved with a local Chamber of Commerce?

**Not beyond attendance as a guest speaker for the lagoon referendum or working with them as strategic**

**partners in the Coalition.**

8. Have you run for office before? If so, when and what was the outcome? **Nope, first timer!**
9. Party Affiliation     Republican     **Democrat**     Other: \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long have you been registered as the above Party? **Since May 2017, when I realized I needed to “pick a side” and engage in the political process. Before that (and outside a quick back-and-forth during the 2016 primaries), I was Non-Party Affiliated (NPA) my entire voting life.**

### **Campaign Profile**

1. Manager’s Name - **N/a, I have various volunteer “directors” managing campaign functions (see below).**
2. Phone Numbers - **Can provide upon clarification of interest in particular campaign function.**
3. Treasurer - **Thomas Domingue**
4. Other Consultants, Staff or Key Volunteers
  - **Vicki Humphries - Communications, Brevard Field Organizer**
  - **Gary Wilkins - Volusia Field Organizer**
  - **Connor Ennis - Video Creatives**
  - **Chris Kane - Legislative/Issue Research**
  - **Jeanne Ladd - Media/Advertisements**
  - **Charlotte Roberts - Postcard Operations**
5. If qualifying by petition, how are you collecting petitions?

### **Volunteers**

6. How many fundraisers have you had? **\_\_One “official” fundraiser event so far.\_\_**
7. What is your fundraising goal? **\_\_\_\_\_ \$75,000 \_\_\_\_\_**
8. What type of voter contact are you budgeting for?
  - **Social media**
  - **Targeted mailers**
  - **Tactically-placed signs**
  - **Literature distribution**
9. How many volunteers do you have engaged in your campaign and describe how you are engaging them?

**About 10-20 in each geographical location (East Volusia, West Volusia, North Brevard, East Central Brevard, and West Central Brevard); engaged primarily by email and Facebook group discussions.**

10. Why are you running for this office?

Because I feel we need more allies in Tallahassee who will vote more in the public interest than for party politics.

I realized soon after helping to pass the lagoon referendum (by 62% in Brevard, and in each precinct) that more needed to be done for the Indian River Lagoon. As I explain to folks, the IRL's poor condition is due to multiple factors which can be seen on a pie chart. Some of those pie slices, however, are much more expensive than the others, which is why we need State (and ideally Federal) action and assistance to fully accomplish our mission. After a couple years of active civic engagement, I was tired of begging and pleading with representatives to do the right thing and eventually realized -- we simply need more allies in office to do what's right for our most urgent crises; to protect and promote our interests as Floridians, whether it be environmental, social, or economic.

### Business Profile

1. Various organizations and interest groups make endorsements, contribute to campaigns and help build a support coalition for candidates. Please indicate groups or organizations that you would seek out to support your candidacy.

I would hope to be supported by groups who share in the pursuit to protect and promote the public interest; environmentalists, educators, workers, families trying to make ends meet, small businesses and start-ups, veterans, home rule proponents, fiscal conservatives, social progressives, the minority voice, the youth, the elderly, and anyone who craves and demands responsible governance to ensure our public processes remain transparent, accountable, and effectively serving the People.

2. The Business community should support my candidacy because:

I carry with me the big-picture understanding of healthy eco(-nomic) systems. While it sounds great to say we'll cut all taxes, permits and fees to boost business of today, businesses must take part in developing solutions for the foreseeable problems such short-sighted policies create -- in our tomorrow. To me, this defines responsible governance.

Wise statesmen know that 1) everything is connected, 2) humans are predictable, and 3) policies have consequences on future interests. To protect and promote the long-term interests of not only our community's businesses but our regional economic health and prosperity, we must be more WISE than we are politically trigger-happy regarding whether and to what extent government involves itself in economic engines.

I believe that government has two important "nodes" of interaction with our particular regional economy:

1. Collaborate with public and private entities to develop a cost-share approach and fund research and development initiatives, hosted by our institutions of higher learning, discovery, exploration, and innovation. As technology advances, there will be spin-off business ventures that will turn to demand and employ local workforce talents, and so on.
2. Concomitantly, we can ensure communication and collaboration occurs between regional industries (current and potential) and our educational systems -- public, private, vocational, and apprenticeship programs -- to connect those dots and help grow the "ripe" (employable) workforce skills to keep our talents local and fully employed.

For these reasons, I'm particularly focused on developing these edu-economical engines in what we're already good at (or should be good at), "green" and aerospace technologies. (Green = tech solutions that help close the disastrous loop of human impact on our environment, while protecting our survival from severe weather patterns and sea level rise with resilient infrastructure. Since space tech is innovating much of the same solutions for biodome systems off-planet, the overlap would serve as an incredible potential resource for the Space Coast to be global leaders in this industry.)

3. Describe your experience that qualifies you for the position you seek, or to hold public office in general.

**I served a career as a Marine Corps officer, which solidifies my qualification for public service in such traits as leadership, integrity, honor, courage, commitment, taking care of my "troops," and professional maturity.**

**As a Judge Advocate (and ultimately, a Staff Judge Advocate, a General Counsel for an entire installation), I have an appreciation for process management and how preventive measures can be just as if not more important than responsive measures on any given risk or threat to the public interest. I've also developed expertise in government ethics and standards of conduct and why living up to such high expectations serves to maintain the critical public trust in government. Finally, being on the receiving end of "Congressional Inquiries" and how commands' missions were temporarily halted until those questions were answered, I plan to use the power of a Senator's office to launch important inquiries to government agencies and quasi-governmental entities to ensure the State of Florida is living up to the expectations of all Floridians.**

**As a leader of three different organized efforts in the community (ethics, anti-fracking, and saving the lagoon), with members spanning the political spectrum, I've proven my skills in cross-partisan leadership -- staying on mission in order to get things done. I plan to do the same in Tallahassee. In my opinion, public interest issues are nonpartisan issues, especially if we rightfully embrace good evidence (science, data, experts, and ground-truth testimonies of policy stakeholders) to shape legislation.**

4. What have you done to prepare yourself to serve in this office?

**I've learned from current legislators how to do just that; what I should expect on Day 1, pitfalls to avoid, interviews for staffers, allocated funds to maintain district offices and travel expenses, the Rulebook to read and master, etc. Beyond the mechanics of serving, I've also been immersed in policy analyses, legislative histories, and other substantive considerations that will have important bearing on not only my own positions but how I'd go about advancing the public interest with the tools at hand.**

#### **Pre-Interview Questions**

**(For Legislative and County Commission races)**

1. In the next 10 years, what do you believe will be the top three critical needs of Floridians/Brevard County residents? What role will the office you are seeking play in helping meet these needs, and what plans do you have to help us do so?

**The top three critical needs will be the top three areas of neglect in the LAST 10 years of State and local**

**governance (with all due respect): environment, education, and an economy that works for everyone in our society. As my campaign slogan suggests, I'm running to help restore BALANCE in Florida.**

- 1. Regarding the environment, there is...SO much to do. The key will be to design the plan to ensure we can even afford the solution -- individually and collectively as taxpayers. I see the approach to be three-tiered, especially from a legislator's point of view:**
    - Budgeting priorities**
      - Long-term, cost-shared funding plan to save Florida's nationally recognized estuaries, to include the IRL, which will incentivize local governments to "do their part" before receiving matched funds.**
    - Anti-waste standards**
      - Brevard is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to remove harmful nutrients from the IRL, so continuing to permit KNOWN impacts -- such as installing new (but subpar) septic systems near impaired waters, for example -- would inherently violate the government's fiduciary duty against wasting taxpayer funds.**
    - Procedural integrity**
      - I would sponsor a bill to implement a clear rule similar to the Federal "Purpose Statute" (31 USC 1301a), which prohibits raiding of allocated funds for other purposes. This will preserve the integrity of funding streams already voted into law such as Florida Forever ("Amendment 1") funds, thereby providing some stability to help fund long-term plans necessary to address long-term environmental restoration.**
  - 2. Education is the pillar of any society, whether it fails or prospers. Much like the environment, education is interlinked with economic health. We need to ensure our high school graduates have a clear "next step" based on the preceding years of exploring their own talents and intentions, and the employment needs of local industries. There are important pipeline gaps we must fill immediately, such as vocational development / transition services; the world economy moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy requirements, as an example. As a Senator, I would endeavor to build a legislative coalition to push educational testing requirements, teacher incentive programs, and similar decision making authority back to local districts. With more authority and flexibility, schools will be able to work innovatively to develop programs and processes connecting workforce "supply and demand."**
  - 3. I understand that certain numbers and GDP prospects can create a sense of excitement and hope for many in our community, but there is a large and growing population of our fellow Floridians who are slipping out of reach of the American dream. An economy that works for all looks to create strong economic engines and connect dots between school and jobs (both of which I described above), with responsible corporations ensuring their business model accounts for livable wages for full-time employees. There are ways to provide incentives to reward such responsible behavior, but there should also be some deterrent against objective greed, profiting off of our taxpayer-funded safety net programs to keep their labor costs low. What that "sweet spot" policy looks like, the carrot-and-stick toward decent wages and benefits while protecting businesses' interests, I'm still researching and listening to experts to find, but I'm sure it exists. (I'd love to learn from known experts affiliated with this issue!)**
2. How do you weigh decisions between the needs of your local district constituency and those of the county/state

as a whole?

**While Senate District 14 has its own dynamics -- resources, needs, and challenges -- I feel that those dynamics parallel those of other Floridians when it comes to the basics; health, safety, education, justice, and quality of life. Such clear public interests would be weighed against both data-driven and anecdotal evidence to arrive at the best way forward when developing Florida policy.**

3. Assuming you are elected/re-elected to the Florida legislature/county commission, what will be your primary area of interest and what do you hope to accomplish in this area? What committees will you request if elected to the legislature?

**My third platform priority, “Green Communities,” combines my first two priorities, “Good Government” and a “Healthy Environment.” My primary area of interest is to ensure our processes are effectively preventive and responsive to our current and foreseeable challenges, especially applied to our environmental and infrastructure policies. With that, along with my career experience and expertise, I would request to serve in the following Senate Committees (alphabetically):**

- **Appropriations**
  - **Subcommittee on the Environment & Natural Resources**
  - **Subcommittee on General Government**
- **Communications, Energy & Public Utilities**
- **Criminal Justice**
- **Environmental Preservation & Conservation**
- **Ethics & Elections**
- **Government Oversight & Accountability**
- **Judiciary**
- **Military & Veterans Affairs, Space & Domestic Security**
- **Rules**