

Curt smith interview notes

- 1) conservative but getting things done more important than ideology. I'm a doer. Get things done.
- 2) What orgs/individuals do you seek advice and counsel. Several people in here. Talk to Ivey quite a bit. Lot of different individuals who've been in local politics. Robin Fisher good confidant.
- 3) How work to build consensus for overall county, over parochial of districts. I don't consider myself district 4, I consider myself county. It helps me build relationships with the other commissioners because they understand I'm there to help the entire county. And likewise me to them.
- 4) Have you researched yourself to see what might be used against you? A lot of miss information. Not sure they have anything factual. Seen my opponents mailers and walking cards and a lot of absurd claims... when Curt Rains 2014 he promised he would "never" raise taxes. I'm a businessman, I would never make that statement. But to red meat crowd, rumor repeated often enough because a fact.
- 5) Primary area of interest. Not one single area: jobs IRL and roads infrastructure. Don't a lot in all three areas. Traveled to DC and Colorado for space industry development. Been to Pentagon to increase military spending/presence here. To bring 920th rescue wing HQ here. When I first went up we weren't even in consideration. Now we are up to 3rd place for consideration. New secretary of Air Force now scrapping the entire area and we have to start all over again. Biggest attribute we have at Patrick is underutilized space. Bassett and detriment... if we can't use it at risk for BRAC. Need to get something else in that base. The project could bring in 1500 airmen. Need to keep pushing.
- 6) Charter cap. Support repeal? I do. I'm sure I was one of people who voted for it in 2006, because everyone wants to tie hands of pesky politicians, but now being on the other side I see the problem. If we had cap on governmental index, could live with that. But chi is artificially deflated. Government index takes into effect that you are buying BIG things, buses and such. Firefighters confident their appeal will have the issue overturned. That would turn the county on its head. Up to the electorate to vote for responsible people to act responsible. And don't have to handcuff them. But if had to do over would fight for government index not CPI.
- 7) Budget. Knowing what you know now, how would you reduce the budget to save taxpayers money? Truthfully I don't think we can. When I ran I was told we had a billion dollar budget. But after all monies that have to be spent or are allocated, only left 250 (million/thousands?). We are constantly robbing Peter to pay Paul. Roads are a good example. 1100 miles of roads, just county roads, to maintain need to pave 50-55 miles every year. We haven't been doing that since 08. Few people knocking doors talk about roads. Backlog 300 million bucks,,,, I don't know where will get that from. Stockton and I came up with money last year to pave 50 miles of roads, and doing it again this year. And as economy grows should be able to attack that backlog, but can't tackle it all. Only thing left is some sort of a tax... will people vote for a gas tax? But realistically speaking, \$0.06 of gas tax would raise 10-11 million a year and could knock out 300-400 miles a year and catch up quickly. It's a user fee, and getting tourists to help pay for your roads, which makes sense as well. If drive 12,000 miles a year, 20 miles gallon = 600 gallons = \$36 dollars. So you don't think commission would put that to vote? In the way commission is made up now, I don't see that. Even after the election. Pick up Chuck, vote is the same.
 - 1) Kristine voted against 6% increase for fire departments. I promised 15%. Voted down. They had taken self imposed cut during the down turn, they were now asking for increase to help them catch up and address issues. Endow meeting turned to fireman there and said, "a month or so ago she had a pipe burst on her second floor. She wasn't there and 911 came and turned water off and helped clean up etc etc and chief called to make sure ok." I asked her, and you wouldn't vote for a 6% increase? Everyone wants fire department to show up when you have an

accident, why wouldn't you support them? Ideology and emotion gets in the way of good choices.

- 2) Very impressed with county staff. Before I took office I thought government employees were lazy and hid when possible. That is not our people. They save a lot of money. And they don't get credit for it. When Frank Abate in HR implemented a plan to save \$84,000 a year. They are all very conscientious.
- 8) Eels plan. Property rights/environmental. The people voted for it, so not for me to decide. This bill didn't provide for maintenance, and that is the weakness. I support the concept of preserving land, but in Brevard 50% of land mass already protected if gov owned or EEL owned, so development set. I'm a pro growth guy and think if you manage well can have terrific place to live. Difference from Manatee County to Sarasota County..... its the shrubbery, landscaping sidewalks etc. I've spent time with commissioners from both counties. Interesting perspective to see difference in how they approach same issues we face.
- 9) Problems with IRL plan how fix? Biggest problem is public perception it should be fixed already. Monitoring brink of fish kill since December, but cool dry winter helped. Problem is pollution. Is it muck storm water or sewage. Its all those things, and we've hit tipping point. Harder to turn big ship around than to slow it down. Have to pat us on the back, because we are only county that stepped up to the plate to tackle this issue. (small rant on tobia and fine who haven't done anything. "Who the hell are you!")
- 10) CRA's - I corralled all the city managers and had workshop and told them point blank CRA's as they exist have to go. Because they never go away and county doesn't get paid back. CRA's fix that and come up with other ways to take and problems to fix. Take out loans that extend their life. MIRA example.... Originally created in 80's. Have three local agreements signed to end CRA's. Have three more in the pipeline. To send an end date, both negotiate to give and get. I told them you can end it when you need to end it, but can't extend it. And all agreed to that. Melbourne, set to expire in 2020, we negotiated. County owns 1.1 miles on north end. We don't have money to fix and neither do you. So he negotiated county fix the 1.7 miles, and let you keep CRA but all CRA money as to go to fixing Babcock. But they needed two more years of CRA. Signed and agreed. Win win.
- 11) EDC - support continuing funding EDC, yes, but if my opponent wins it will go away first vote after the election.
- 12) Arts and culture? Approve increase in annual grant increase to art and culture? I would not. If we had enough money and could use general funds, but right now we need too many other things. Arts should be supported by those who support them
- 13) TDC - Eric Garvey doing great job. Past guy, he questioned his work. Rob Barley.
 - 1) feelings on USSSA. I've been part of that since the beginning. I thank them, because they are a game changer. You all remember, we had nothing to do with that stadium. My opponent wanted to sell it for \$18 million, and I told her there were no buyers, and would only worth the scrap metal. We replaced with an organization that brings tens of thousands of people into our community. Who knows from across the country who will be introduced to us and want to move back one day.
 - 2) Use id TDC money for IRL. I really don't support it, tell you why. I want to fix the IRL, and all funds need to go toward it. But when meeting for people, I never said whether to vote for or against IRL save our lagoon tax, what I heard back "if we vote for this can we be assured it will go to lagoon and not used for anything else". Absolutely, citizens oversight etc. TDC wants their money to stay for tourism. So I get that argument. The law is what it is now. But even now the commission can't go grab the money, it has to come from the TDC recommendations and commissioners approve.
- 14) Endorsement mean to you? I respect all you guys. Would mean a lot for us.
- 15) How is your campaign going? Getting active. Trying to hold back signs and number stickers etc until June first.

16) US news and report said Melbourne 29th best place to live in America, first in Florida.
How great is that, we get to live here.