

## Fritz Van Volkenburgh House District 52

### EDUCATION

- Juris Doctor, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- MBA (MSIA), Carnegie Mellon University (top-20 business school)
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Oregon
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, SUNY at Buffalo
- Fire Academy and EMT programs, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa

### PUBLIC SECTOR EXPERIENCE

**Deputy Clerk / Internal Auditor.** Fritz currently works as an internal auditor with the Brevard County Clerk of Court. While he has been tasked with helping to improve operations within that office, much of his time has been devoted to monitoring and reviewing county operations, to ensure taxpayer funds are not being spent inappropriately. Being a fiscal watchdog requires a keen mind and dogged determination – qualities Fritz has developed through his many life experiences.

**Firefighter / EMT.** As a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and certified Firefighter I/II, Fritz has devoted many volunteer hours of service in public safety as a Brevard County Fire Rescue reservist – responding from fire stations and providing emergency medical services at community events throughout the county.

**Assistant State Attorney (Prosecutor).** In his service with the 18th Judicial Circuit's State Attorney's Office, Fritz prosecuted misdemeanor crimes in the Viera and Melbourne courthouses. He typically managed a docket of over 300 cases at any given time, and disposed of over 700 cases during his tenure. Fritz participated in several jury and non-jury trials, with cases involving DUIs, battery, solicitation, resisting without violence, petit theft and contracting without a license.

### PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE

**Litigation Attorney.** Fritz focused on civil matters on behalf of large financial institutions at the law firms of Litchfield Cavo LLP and Douglas C. Zahm, P.A. In his practice, Fritz filed motions and opposition memoranda, responded to discovery requests, conducted case analyses, and prepared for hearings and non-jury trials – which he attended in courthouses throughout Florida. Fritz also worked independently on bankruptcy matters.

**Hospital Emergency Management.** As the business manager for one of Northeast Florida's largest emergency departments (Baptist Health), Fritz managed a \$9 million budget, plant & facilities, procurement, operational performance initiatives and revenue-capture (exceeding \$60 million). Shortly after joining the department, Fritz was able to resolve a one million dollar backlog in receivables, and obtained executive approval of a business plan involving \$200,000 in emergency room renovations.

**Management Consulting / Project Management.** Fritz applied his analytical skills across several functional areas in the energy industry. As a graduate student, he helped allocate the assets of a \$600 million defined benefits pension trust at electric utility Duquesne Light Company. Fritz then joined Columbia Energy Group, a \$7 billion company, where he worked on high-profile projects in telecom, propane and financial planning; conducted studies on natural gas prices; and provided managerial support when Columbia became a merger target. After forging a relationship with outside consultant Deloitte & Touche, Fritz joined the firm's strategy and operations group, and was assigned as a manager to multi-billion dollar M&A engagements throughout the U.S. The complex work involved assessing merger strategies, providing integration support, and identifying hundreds of millions of dollars in synergies.

**English Teacher (in Japan).** Teaching at one of Japan's largest education-based companies (AEON Corp.) was a great cultural experience for Fritz. Assigned to a Tokyo branch, Fritz taught students ranging from 15 years of age to retirees, prepared course materials to suit varying levels of proficiency, and interviewed prospective students.

**Bank Operations Management.** Fritz joined Barnett Banks, Inc. as a management trainee in the 1980s, and was quickly promoted to supervisor and then operations officer, where he managed all second-shift item processing operations for Florida's largest operations center. This entailed processing and balancing up to a billion dollars daily with a staff of 25 people. Through Fritz's leadership, the department's error rate on proof-of-deposit check processing dropped to nearly one out-of-balance transaction per million items processed.

**Ferryboat Captain / Harbormaster.** As a 19 year-old, Fritz served as the captain of a 65-foot freight boat carrying lumber, restaurant and hotel supplies across Long Island's Great South Bay to Fire Island. The following summer, he earned a U.S. Coast Guard license that allowed him to run high-speed passenger ferries carrying up to 350 people. It wasn't long before he was tasked with training junior captains. Just a few years later, Fritz helped manage a Manhattan-based international luxury yacht harbor containing an estimated combined berth value of nearly \$40 million.

**1. Assuming you are elected to the Florida legislature, what will be your primary area of interest and what do you hope to accomplish in this area? What committees will you request?**

Initially, three or four of the following committees or subcommittees may be a good fit due to my experiences and/or interest:

Appropriations Committee and/or:

- Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee
- Justice Appropriations Subcommittee
- Economic Affairs Committee and/or
- Transportation & Ports Subcommittee
- Education Committee and/or
- Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee
- Health & Human Services Committee
- Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee
- Health Innovation Subcommittee
- Health Quality Subcommittee
- Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission
- Regulatory Affairs Committee and/or
- Energy & Utilities Subcommittee
- Finance & Tax Committee
- Select Committee on Affordable Healthcare Access

Note that I am currently considering proposals in the areas of property taxation, guardianship, campaign finance reform, campaign reform, judicial funding and the Florida Retirement System. These and perhaps others will be articulated over the next few months.

**2. When serving in Tallahassee how do/will you weight decisions between the needs of your local district constituency and those of the state as a whole?**

From a budgeting standpoint, I'll be focused on securing funding for the Lagoon, local infrastructure and educational pursuits. This will require working closely with other Brevard delegation members, as well as local government and business stakeholders.

I'll also focus on issues pertinent to the Central Florida area – e.g., water and transportation.

Unless the legislation is special legislation, changes to Florida law will involve more of a statewide focus, which of course will likely have an impact on the local level.

Note that I have lived in four parts of the state (Brevard, S. Florida, NE Florida and Tampa Bay). No doubt this will be beneficial as I reach out to legislators in other parts of the state.

**3. In the next 10 years, what do you believe will be the top three most important critical needs of Floridians/Brevard Country residents? What do you propose we do to cope with these critical needs?**

The following could be considered top critical needs in 10 years:

- Education and training. We need to focus on developing professionals and improving skills in multiple fields; the typical 4-year college model will still be there, but probably not be as predominate.
- Healthcare. Targeting preventative care is critical and will be much cheaper in the long run.
- Water. Infrastructure should help with capturing water. Incentivizing high users is another thought.

**4. The Indian River Lagoon is on the forefront of everyone's mind. The fish kill began just days after Gov. Scott vetoed \$700,000 for the Indian River Lagoon project. Knowing how important Agriculture/Water issues to Brevard voters, what problems do you see & how do you intend to help overcome them?**

Problems can occur when you have multiple disparate groups (even if all are well-intentioned), paralysis by analysis, the failure to have good planning in place, and unreliable funding sources.

Good program management is a must. Evaluate negative inputs and system failures. Consider ameliorating actions (upstream and down). Get testing underway quickly.

Testing and analysis requires funding, and so does taking corrective action. Establish the funding sources or silos for each area (e.g., septic, sewer, baffle boxes, muck dredging, shellfisheries, etc. etc.).

I expect that my part of the effort primarily will be to secure funding from the State.