

Kristine Isnardi County Commission District 5

1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for this office because I truly care about the community where I am living and raising a family. I love Brevard County, really enjoyed my time serving the residents of Palm Bay, and want to work toward improving my community in any way that I can. I believe that we need to have experienced leadership serving on the county commission, especially during this time, of what appears to be an economic upswing. We need someone to ensure that our reserves are replenished, priorities such as roads and infrastructure are at the forefront, and that we do whatever we can to foster smart growth and economic development within the county.

Business Profile

➤ Agribusiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Personal Injury Trial Lawyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Banking & Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Environment Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose (Difficult to know if environmental groups would support or oppose my candidacy due to pro-growth/development history; history always involved smart growth planning, so I don't believe they would oppose)
➤ Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Labor Unions	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose (May or may not support due to history of fighting underfunded, bloated pension issues within the city; this was a Palm Bay specific issue)
➤ Local Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Manufacturers	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Medical (Physicians)	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Party Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Architects/Engineers/CPAs	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
➤ Realtors	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

> Teachers

Support

Oppose

Listed below are various groups who contribute to campaigns. Please indicate, by each group, whether you believe they will support or oppose your candidacy?



2. The Business community should support my candidacy because:

I have a proven record of supporting small and large businesses while holding public office. I have worked closely with new or expanding businesses in the past, to ensure prompt permitting, resolving any issues quickly, and the development of smart-growth plans. My track record proves this. I was *the* council member within the city of Palm Bay that planners, developers, and the business community looked to when they needed to get something done. This wasn't because I blindly said 'yes' to everything, it was because they realized that I understood the process, and that I would do whatever I could to make their project work within the city—whether it be working with city staff to expedite plan approval or permitting, efforts with zoning or variances, or convincing fellow city councilmembers of the added benefit of a particular project.

During the economic downturn, I proposed a moratorium on impact fees for 18 months (that we allowed to sunset) in an effort to spur development—which was successful. I was also able to convince council members to relax some of the requirements of the 'Florida Vernacular' that was part of our building code for new businesses. This was in spite of city staff working behind the scenes (and out front) to oppose this measure. I (successfully) pushed for increased staffing within the Growth Management department to ensure expedited movement of plan approvals, permitting, and inspections. These were just a few of the initiatives that I presented that were in support of small and large businesses and smart growth.

3. Describe your experience that qualifies you for the position you seek.

As explained, I recently served two terms on Palm Bay city council, am a former deputy mayor, and have served on many boards within the city and at the county. I have handled a \$150 million dollar budget, helped to manage over 700 employees, and have had to

prioritize and make decisions that directly impacted our employees and residents. Although at times it was difficult, I never hesitated to make hard decisions that were in the best interest of our 107,000+ residents. I know how to navigate actuarial studies, understand bond issues, and can recite ordinances and code in my sleep. I have handled constituent complaints, neighborhood issues, and have attended numerous home owner's association meetings. While in office, I remained (and still remain) very active in the community.

I am also a mother, wife, student, and community volunteer—does these qualify as experience? I believe that it does, because it also makes me an average citizen. As a private citizen for example, my husband and I worked within the Space Coast Paratroopers Association to launch the Homes for Warriors program in partnership with the city of Palm Bay, where we incorporate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, grants, and donations to provide mortgage-free homes to wounded Veterans. Caring about our wounded Veterans is one of the most important things we should be doing in all of our communities. Since we started this organization three years ago, we have built four homes, and have three currently under contract. Even with the hectic campaign schedule, our family volunteers every week by physically working on these homes. My entire family was also out there working on the Field of Dreams Park for disabled children. These are important valuable lessons and opportunities that we share with our children. It is one thing to attend a ribbon-cutting (which I have attended many), and quite another to have actually been a part of great project. This is true of businesses as well—I understand and have been a part of the complexities of this process to bring a business or project to that “opening day”.

Experience and qualifications do matter in this race. I am a knowledgeable, proven leader who has the record to back it up.

Candidates may be asked to fill out more detailed issue questionnaires, specific to their race.

Kristine M. Isnardi

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Objectives

To use my knowledge, experience, and commitment, serving Brevard County residents as the next County Commissioner for District 5.

Experience

Nov, 2007 – Nov, 2014

City Councilmember (elected two terms), City of Palm Bay

- Management of prioritization of \$150 million dollar budget. Overseeing of municipal departments, managing over 700 employees. Introduction of new legislation and ordinances, while revising and/or deleting antiquated ones. Initiated 'transparent government' where the city's expenses/salaries/departments are easily searchable in a large database. Charter review. Contract negotiations for city contracts and collective bargaining units. Handling of numerous constituent issues. Expediting city department processes. Community and youth outreach. Represented the city on numerous boards and committees.

Boards/Committees/Memberships

- Transportation Planning Organization, Risk management Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce, Charter school board member, American Red Cross (Nurse Volunteer), Space Coast Paratroopers Association, and others.

Employment

April, 2008 – Present

Health First, Registered Nurse

- Palm Bay Hospital, Medical/Surgical, PICC/VAT team. Currently working with Health First Hospice inpatient unit, William Childs Hospice House

February, 2000 – 2005

Affordable Boat Carriers, Bookkeeper/Office Manager

- Managed all national shipping logistics of company, business accounting, payroll, and expenses.

Education

January 2015 – Current, Frontier Nursing University, Hyden, Kentucky

- Completing Master's degree, Family Nurse Practitioner

April, 2008 - Nursing, Keiser University, Melbourne

- Graduated with High Honors/Dean's list. Vice president of Nursing class

Awards/Recognitions

- Congressional Florida leadership award, Congressman Bill Posey
- Chamber of Commerce Chairmanship award, Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Numerous awards and recognitions from local organizations (Relay for Life, Lockmar Homeowners Association, Palm Bay Little League, Patriot Charter School, and others).

References

Sheriff Wayne Ivey

Brevard County Sheriff

321-271-6029

Judy Gizinski

Palm Bay Hospital, COO

321-434-8020

Harry Santiago Jr.

Palm Bay City Councilmember

321-557-3823

1. Assuming you are elected to the County Commission, what will be your primary area of interest and what do you hope to accomplish in this area?

I don't believe there is a primary area of interest, per se. I believe that infrastructure is at the core of everything—business growth, attraction of new businesses, etc. It is a given that we provide residents with a safe county to live in and raise their families, so with that said, we also have a responsibility to take care of our infrastructure (roads, utilities, bridges, water, etc). It is not always a topic that gets residents excited—until the road in their neighborhood begins falling apart. Roads have been underfunded for far too long in the county. Maintaining the roads we currently have is a cost of over 20 million,

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

Again infrastructure, maintaining public safety, and economic and tourism development/support. The Indian River Lagoon is also critically important for all in Brevard. We have to prioritize the budget to ensure the above needs funded first. Quality of life and tourism are important to residents and to our tax base. We have to remain competitive within the state if we want to promote growth. The Lagoon is a complex issue requiring the joint effort of scientists, surrounding counties, and funding. We need to demand Amendment 1 funds to help with dredging and projects aimed at cleaning up the lagoon. Throwing money at the problem alone as a county may make for good press, but without a joint effort, the long-term benefits won't be seen.

This question requires much more explanation and discussion than can be provided within this questionnaire.

3. Recently, there was a legal opinion from the Counsel for the Charter Review Commission that opined the Charter cap may be unconstitutional. Do you support the repeal of this language that would ultimately give the County Commission full authority and discretion to set its budget as it sees fit?

I've read the legal opinion on this matter, and according to Wade C. Vose, Esq., (General Counsel for the Charter Review Commission), it was questionable to whether or not the law was constitutional at the *legislative level*. There is little litigation history on this matter, so it would take the commission or a private citizen to challenge this law against the legislature. Even if the County Commission were to repeal this law, without an opinion (or litigation resolution with the legislature), the County Commission itself would likely draw legal action by an upset citizenry. The voters approved this referendum, so it is reckless to disregard their will/intentions with its purpose.

4. How would you reduce the budget to save taxpayers money? As specific as possible explain the reductions you will propose/achieve for the budget.

Reducing the budget is not as simple as listing line items to simply eliminate. With that in mind, I believe that we must fund essential services first. Essential services are public safety and infrastructure. With critical road funding needs, alternative forms of revenue should be considered.

Returning transportation impact fees should be considered, as the projected reinstatement of these fees would generate approximately 3.4 million for the county (and 2.7million for cities). These fees could be reduced before reinstatement to be more in line with similar fees across the state. Revenue from impact fees would likely be a higher number as the economy continues to grow. Eliminating (non-critical) vacancies can generate over 3 million immediately.

Balancing the needs vs. wants within the budget is tricky, because everyone has an idea of what they think the county needs, and what they want. I also have concerns about employee retention and salaries. This is where transparency is necessary and helps to build public trust. I can explain during our next interview what initiatives I helped to move to bring transparency to local government.

Starting with a five year strategic plan with projects (and extras) allows the county to allocate resources based on availability of funding.

I will be happy to expand on all of these questions when we have our next meeting/interview.