

Candidate Profile – Personal Profile

1. Candidate Name: **Thomas Patrick “Pat” O’Neill**
2. Office You Are Running For: **Florida House of Representatives - District 51**
3. Phone Numbers.

home: **321 632 4952**

office: **none**

cell: **321 537 6646**

Please include a copy of your professional resume

4. Current Occupation: **Florida Highway Patrol District Lieutenant (retired)**

5. Education *(if not detailed on your resume)*

Westover High School, Albany, Georgia

Albany Junior College, 2 years

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

See Biography Attachment

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

My involvement has been limited to participation at Civic Leaders presentations and through the Rockledge City Council.

8. Have you run for office before? If so, when and what was the outcome? **Yes** No

I have run twice for the Rockledge City Council and been unopposed each time.

I served as Deputy Mayor for 4 years of my 6 years in office.

9. Party Affiliation **Republican** Democrat Other: _____

10. How long have you been registered as the above Party? **50 years**

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Campaign Profile

1. Manager's Name **Thomas Patrick "Pat" O'Neill**

2. Phone Numbers

office: **321 632 4952**

cell: **321 537 6646**

3. Treasurer **Betsi Moist**

4. Other Consultants, Staff or Key Volunteers

Sue Schmitt

5. If qualifying by petition, how are you collecting petitions? **n/a**

6. How many fundraisers have you had? **none**

7. What is your fundraising goal? **\$15,000**

8. What type of voter contact are you budgeting for?

My voter contact is through my community service. I teach CPR "pro bono" for the City of Rockledge and soon the City of Cocoa Beach. I am very active with the Boy Scouts of America at multiple levels.

9. How many volunteers do you have engaged in your campaign and describe how you are engaging them?

My volunteers are now engaging their neighbors and friends and informing them of my continued efforts and dedication to the restoration of the Indian River Lagoon, Local Self-Government and improvements/re-focusing of our education system.

10. Why are you running for this office?

I feel my past career and political experiences have prepared me to serve those in District 51 in Tallahassee. I served as the Intergovernmental Committee Chairman for the Space Coast League of Cities as well as on the Florida League of Cities Federal Action Strike Team lobbying on behalf of our citizens in all levels of government. Not long ago, I met with one legislator whose bill I opposed. Our conversation was very fruitful with both of us learning about the others point of view and compromise. The next year I had an appointment with another local legislator and when I mentioned my reason for meeting his comment was "I don't care what you think" as he left the room after just 20 seconds into my 15 minute appointment. Everyone has a right to be heard, I must admit I never expected to be treated with such disrespect by an elected official.

My Vow: My door will always be open and I will always willing to listen.

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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.

Indian River Lagoon Coalition, all Law Enforcement, Fire Safety and First Responder organizations, local service organizations such as Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Economic Development organizations, tourist and lodging related industries.

2. The Business community should support my candidacy because:

I have the Business Industry's best interest at heart. I understand that businesses, both small and large, are the heart of employment in Florida. Given certain regulations are needed but not to the point of micro-managing and unnecessary regulations which stymie growth.

I am fully retired with grown children and have the unlimited time and drive to represent District 51. I have no political debts to be repaid and the courage to stand up for what is right - not politically expedient.

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

A career in law enforcement prepares one for thoughtful decision making, dealing with very stressful situations balanced with public relations. I enjoyed my career with many varied opportunities including leadership roles with SWAT Team, Emergency Management (*including wildfires and hurricanes*), budgeting, transportation planning, and training.

Most importantly being responsible to the community I served.

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

I served for twenty years (1991 – 2011) on the Rockledge Planning Commission (*past chairman*) before being elected to two *three-year* terms (2011 – 2017) on the Rockledge City Council.

I was elected by the Rockledge City Council members to serve as Deputy Mayor of Rockledge for my last four years. While on the Rockledge City Council, I lobbied County, State and Federal Governments for my constituents. My dedicated service resulted in being honored with the Florida League of Cities "*Home Rule Hero*" award in four consecutive years (2013 – 2017).

I served on the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization for five years and as vice chairman for the last two. I also served on the regional transportation planning organization. My life has been spent in service to others. It started in high school teaching beginning swimming for the American Red Cross culminating in my current role as a "*Pro Bono*" CPR Instructor for the City of Rockledge and Cocoa Beach instructing

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both employees and local citizens in American Heart Association CPR and Automated External Defibrillator training.

Service to others has always been the driver in my life.

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?

#1 is developing a trained and qualified workforce. I have had multiple discussions with the EDC on training and retaining a workforce required to meet the demands of business. I see this being started in high school by offering more and more diversified training to high school students leading to certifications, especially for those not intending to attend college. Additionally, a much bolder effort concentrating on post high school Vocational - Technical Training schools.

#2 is the Restoration of the Indian River Lagoon. Introduce and support intelligent legislation on a State level to eliminate the causes of the pollution. The pollution comes from a variety of sources and is not isolated to a local area. This is a time where State oversight is required. The economic value of the IRL (\$7.6 billion) is staggering and every investment in the IRL is an investment in our future.

#3 is “Local Self-Government”. State and Federal Governments serve a vital role in our nation, yet each seems to attempt to dictate what should be local decisions downward to the governing body below. I support local business decisions being made locally. What fits in Miami-Dade County may not fit so well Cocoa Beach or West Melbourne.

2. How do you weigh decisions between the needs of your local district constituency and those of the county/state as a whole?

When elected I will be there to represent my constituency. That being said, there may be times when the bigger picture must also be considered. We, the Cities and Counties, depend on each other and on the State. That will certainly be an opportunity to reach out to the communities for their input.

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?

Judiciary – Criminal Justice Sub-committee

Select Committee on Hurricane Preparedness and Response

Government Accountability - Transportation and Infrastructure Sub-Committee

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Commerce - Tourism and Gaming Sub-Committee

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