

Victoria Mitchner Interview notes

- What makes you best qualified - I have open mind and work toward helping everyone within the district. Natural resources and economic development.
- What orgs do you use for advice and counsel? NAACP past president, have reached out to numerous organizations like wall mart and not for profits to talk about boosting economic development within minority communities.
- Business consensus rather than focus on parochial issues to your district. Experience working across party affiliations and various government agencies.
- How would improve culture and attitude of county staff to be customer friendly? Was a county employee, so in order to improve county staff attitude, pay increase would be number 1. As cost of living increases, that is linchpin. Maintenance guys come in at 11 dollars an hour, entry level, and it would go a long way to improve the relationships.
 - How many open positions in county now? When she left, probably 80 positions. Not all go for open application if hire from within.
 - I resigned because did not want to put her boss in any uncomfortable position with regards to my running. Personal ethic decision to resign.
- Have you researched yourself? Never had bankruptcy, arrests, ... maybe student loans. Nothing in personal life that could be used against you.
- Assuming elected, primary interests? Get more economic development happening in D2. Talked to constituents. No offense to Viera, want to see more come to D@ and not have to drive to Viera.
- Next 3 years, top needs in brevard? How do we cope? 1) lagoon. Must be priority, for economy and tourism. 2) economic development. 3) see more space activity. Investment to see that utilized more.
 - Your role as CC, how would you help that. Go sit with EDC and ask them to focus more on that. Talk to investors willing to come into D2. Exemple, in Cocoa, their EDC office working with investors to come into the area. Wall mart has 400 positions open now at \$19 an hour. Need more of that.
- Charter cap - do you support repeal of charter cap. Yes.
- How would you cut budget or save taxpayer dollars. County working at barebones capacity now. County currently growing and to scale back anymore would be taking away critical services within the county. Working in HR she would deal with paperwork to help first responders get food stamps/assistance.
 - I am working meeting with the budget director, but have waiting until I was actually off the books (was on paid leave/vaction pay for a while).
 - County has a big budget, what is your experience managing budgets or financial background. In military, I helped with budgeting. A little different.... From reserves... have to budget trainings, meals, clothing etc ammo, in Civil affairs had to budget for each person... sometimes over a thousand people. So a couple million dollars to be equated for each person. Complex planning.
- Roadways maintenance/improvements - have you read blue ribbon transportation report? No have not. Familiar with some of the options. Supports the Gas tax, used to work in public works prior to HR. Had worked with John denninghoff to look at records of road issues.
 - How to you propose tackling the backlog. Road and bring uses I works.... Citizens call in re potholes. However the huge problem is the turn over in employees. Maintenance workers don't stay long. A few months after finally on boarded, other localities hire them away for more money. Meeting some of our workers, they have families... average rent price in undesirable agency is about \$1000 even with cheapest insurance package from county, they can't make ends meet.
 - No mandating what private employers should pay, but county should pay livable wage. Can't have reliable staffing.

- Is high turnover county wide? Limited to maintenance. Currently county going through lean 6 sigma..... have hiring commission analyzing all the hiring. With exceptions to a few departments, high turnover is problem throughout county administration.
- EELS - I don't like to infringe on private property rights, but there are exceptions. ex. Septic tanks, especially if along the rivers. County may have to step up to fine.
 - EELS program, a good program, needs to be revamped a little bit more. We could do more with the EELS program. (bart - It will sunset in 2024, what can we look to see replace it). She says citizen advisory board to come up with a plan beneficial. EELS program not a waste. (not sure she understood what it is)
- re. The lagoon - what problems do you see with current plan and what would you do. Current problem I see is TIME. People want a solution right now.... And MI residents don't want much stored on their property. Met with founders of ecosense, one of the bidders that came in number 2, like their solution. Can't keep debating and dancing around a plan.
- CRA's - certain instances, have been pulling records. Some money is being mismanaged. Some CRA's not receiving funding that could benefit certain communities. They can be good, and sometimes they are not. Should not allow too many more to be created. Need more oversight of the ones that we have. Cocoa, for example, not happy with the diamond square CRA... money not being spent across the area. Some residents feeling left out, as money focused on cocoa village.
- Support EDC? I would support EDC. Think they do great work to bring business to brevard county. Love the work EDC does.
- Arts and culture? Support increase in funding. If we loose arts program, it is loss for community. Federal grant dollars given at county level, money should be given to them.
- Support TDC? I support the TDC. Great team over there and think they are doing a great job.
 - Use TDT for infrastructure/lagoon restoration projects? Portion of money possibly go to sewers/infrastructure. But lagoon has its own tax.
- Why BV endorsement important to you? Have heard good things about Business Voice pac. Was encouraged to come in and meet with you all. Would be a blessing to my campaign and support of businesses in brevard.
- Whats it take to get elected? My campaign team have pulled race history. Goal of \$50k. Door knocking, hit a couple thousand already, collecting petitions, 817 signatures. That is done, just waiting on certification. Grassroots campaign, door hangers, listening tours.
 - Right now targeting democrats and NPA's, even though can't vote in the primary. But they might have family member that is a Democrat. Focused on being genuine and issues important to people I speak with.
 - Done our research on other candidates. Perennial candidates, flop parties, etc. their inconsistency speaks volumes about them. Know they are paying attention to me, because I'm speaking so many groups.
 - Because DEC can not endorse, they are careful not to work for her as DEC official capacity. But majority from the engaged DEC base.
- Army experience. Joined at 17 years old. Was a teen mother. graduated, and didn't want to be a statistic so joined military. First job a truck driver.... Because least amount of school/training. Stationed at fort Bragg.... Tough first position. Two months later overseas deployed. In theater at 18 years old. Driving trucks. Got snatched up by general, and that changed my shift to Human Resources. Has had great assignments. In communications, civil affairs, and government spent a lot of time training me. Blessed career.
- Government competing with private business. ex, vets give rabies/spay neuter, other communities take those activities on. How do you feel about that? There should be some type of incentive for private biz that government entities provide. Businesses should receive some help from gov... private industry might have working knowledge.

Not sure you understand... re explain. Is that justified? Maybe the government can utilize the private businesses (contract or agreement) rather than the county create another business.

- Public forums planned? Yes DEC already planned one. FL today and LWV will host debate on August 7th. Personally doing a listening tour around the district.
- Born in rockledge, love this community.