

Business Voice Legislative Questions

In Person Primary Questions:

1. Please briefly tell us what makes you the best qualified for the office?
 - What have you done to prepare yourself for serving in the state legislature?
2. How do we know you understand and would support the interests of the business community in Tallahassee?
3. Are you comfortable with the quality and magnitude of healthcare delivery in Florida? If not, what would you do as a lawmaker to improve it. If so, what role do you see for the state legislature in health care?
4. Are you satisfied with the state of education in Florida and are you comfortable with funding levels?
 - What is your position on under/unfunded mandates from the State imposed on local school districts?
 - What impact do you see on business from our current education policies?
5. There is great concern about the state of disrepair of our transportation infrastructure.
 - What can be done to improve it?
 - Do you believe Brevard gets its fair share of state funding for road projects that impact our communities?
6. As an elected official, how would you balance the rights of private property owners with the needs of society to protect environmentally sensitive lands?
 - Brevard county voters clearly expressed that the lagoon is a priority for them by overwhelmingly passing the Save our Lagoon Sales Tax in 2016. What will you do to help secure state dollars to contribute to the ongoing lagoon restoration?
7. As a state legislator, how would you balance the constitutional "Home Rule" rights of local communities with the interests of the state, corporations and industries that operate throughout Florida?
 - Did you support the change the State Legislature passed this year moving questions about public beach access from local municipalities to the courts? Please explain.
8. The Tourist Development Tax ("TDT") is collected by providers of short term dwelling accommodations from their customers. As the name suggests, these taxes are intended to be used for tourist development. We have seen the legislature expand the uses for the TDT the last two sessions.
 - Did you support the change our state legislature made to include things such as infrastructure and sewer construction for allowable uses of the TDT?
 - Do you support defending TDT dollars for their historically stated purpose (i.e. tourism promotion and marketing, as well as funding tourism related infrastructure).
9. How do you wish for voters to judge your success should you be elected?
 - Do you want your success to be how much funding you bring to the District? How many laws you pass? Leadership positions you are appointed to, or . . .
10. How important is guidance from the House or Senate Leadership in your legislative decision making progress?

9. Opponents and the media research public records, police reports, credit information and do other background checks in an effort to discover tax liens, lawsuits, arrest records and other unfortunate things. Have you researched yourself to see what might be used against you?

- Are there any issues your opponent could use against you that you should disclose to this group?

Pre-Interview Questions (given in the candidate survey)

1. Assuming you are re/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?

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?

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?

General Election Questions for House District 53 Candidates

- What have you heard from voters? What issues are motivating them?
- What have you learned from campaigning the last few months that you feel like we should now? Maybe something we didn't talk about before or an issue where your answer might have evolved?
- When we last met, we spoke at length about a wide array of issues, and the topic of budgeting came up a lot. You discussed the need to raise revenue to pay for things like education and health care as well as need to keep revenue in its assigned pot, Examples were the Amendment 1 dollars, Sadowski housing trust fund, and TDT. Or your idea for gun owner tax/fee to pay for more mental health dollars.
 - In revisiting our notes, what we didn't hear from you is ideas to cut the budget.... So what areas of the budget do you think there are opportunities to cut spending in order to find revenue for other priorities?
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- Successful primary campaign, did not face serious opposition, but did have an opponent. So congratulations - you won the right to campaign for 8 more weeks! Now what is your path to victory in a head to head campaign for the General?
 - How will you compensate for significant lack of resources compared to your opponent?
- Finally, please tell us why you think the business community should support your campaign or why you would like the support of local business community?
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 - When people ask, how can they help your campaign, what do you say or ask for?