

Candidate Questionnaire Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

November 2026 General Election

Full name as you would like it to appear and age.

Connie Bettinger age 63

Where were you raised and how long have you lived in Collier County.

I moved here in 1972. I lived here until 1982 and returned in 1989.

Education: institutions attend and field of study.

I attended Quinnipiac College as a Chemistry Math major. Then I graduated from Edison Community College with AA in Education.

Current occupation and employer, and a brief summary of relevant work experience.

I have worked at the Collier County Sheriff's Office for more than 19 years as a school crossing guard.

Any prior public service, elected or appointed positions board or committee memberships or civic/ volunteer work relevant to this race.

I served on the Collier County Library Advisory Board for 18 years.

I served on the State Library Technology Grant Board for 4 years.

I currently serve on the Golden Gate Community Center Advisory Board.

I have volunteered at the Receiving Board for the Elections office for 18 years.

I have attended the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District public meetings for over 2 years.

What are your top three or four priorities if elected and why?

I will continue to support the Mental Health programs that are now available to the Firefighters and staff. The retired personnel gatherings were well received. Mental health is so important for the firefighters to process the trauma calls that they respond to.

I will support the capital projects to renovate the Fire Stations that are financed by the increase in the mileage rate from 2024. The stations are old and need to have work done so that the living quarters are safe and in good shape.

I would like to see a plan to protect the wildlife sanctuaries in the district. I think the district and the private owners of the sanctuaries could work together on keeping the animals and firefighters safe during a brush fire.

I will encourage people to take an active interest in their fire department. When people attend the Commissioner meetings, they can see where the money goes and how it is spent. People can ask to tour a fire station by coordinating with staff.

Name one decision or policy of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Board in the last four years that you disagreed with and explain why

There are some personnel issues that I do not completely understand that the Board has handled. I do not have a background in Human Resources. I am willing to learn more about the issues and the decisions that were made. I do understand that the Union has policies and so does the District. I can not say that I disagree with the decisions made or that I agree. I truly do not have enough information on the specific cases to know. I know as Commissioners I will be briefed more completely on the issues before the Board.

Name one decision or policy of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Board in the last four years that you agree with and explain why.

The decision to support an enforceable collection policy was made by the Board. In recent months it was apparent that there was not any consistency in collections of overdue fines. Staff investigated and brought a new policy to the Board. The Staff also researched 3rd party vendors that would do the collection of past due accounts. This is very timely with what may or may not happen with Amendment 3. If Amendment 3 passes and less money is available to budget for the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Department, more fines and fees could be assessed. Having a strong collection policy and vendor will be an asset at that point.

Any endorsements you like listed

Golden Gate Civic Association

Campaign website and any active social media accounts

www.voteconniebettinger4gnfrd3.com

Facebook: Vote Connie Bettinger

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61591055580290>

Instagram: Voteconnieb

<https://www.instagram.com/voteconnieb/>

Connie Bettinger

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