



2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Russell Burland
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Date: August 2, 2024

1. About you:

- a. How old are you? **64**
- b. How long have you lived in Collier County, and where were you living previously? **52 years, Western Springs, IL**
- c. What is your educational background and past work experience? **University of South Florida. Most immediate business experience: Business Development/Sales Manager Hilton Naples, Senior Vice President Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, Director and Franchise Manager for Unishippers Freight Logistics, Regional Director TicketSearch NA**
- d. What qualifies you for this job? **Mosquito Control District Board Chair for two years, Commissioner 4 years, Commissioner of the CMCD Retiree Benefit Trust 4 years, Retiree Benefit Trust Board Chair for two years, Proven track record of accomplishments through community involvement and completion of large-scale local projects**

2. Why are you running for this position? **To continue to work towards the correct balance of current citizen's health needs while planning for future residents well-being. The Collier Mosquito Control District is looked upon by like agencies statewide as a leader in the field of mosquito control. I would like to maintain this status. My three pillars of interest in this position are Public Health – Citizen's Comfort – Community Service**

3. What are three things you want to accomplish if you are elected? **1. Continue to lower the millage rate. CMCD is now operating in its fourth year of a millage roll back rate. I am proud to say I had a major role with this trend of lowering taxes while maintaining a high level of services and protection from mosquito borne illnesses. 2. Harden and upgrade the facility at Naples Airport while adding aero fleet storm ready aero fleet storage at Immokalee Airport 3. Increase technological initiatives in treatment applications, science-based lab research and safe organic chemical development. Adding a fourth: 4. Overseeing the new treatment areas**

voted for by referendum with 71% of the citizens living in the expanded boundary. Note: numbers 2, 3 and 4 can be accomplished over time within the current budget outline and without adding additional expense to the taxpayer

4. Name one past policy decision of the board you are running for that you disagree with and that you would like to change if elected. Why? The immediate past and current boards are functional bodies that work for the safety and comfort of the citizens within the mosquito control district. The residents living within the district can be assured all policies governed by the local board are fully vetted from science, technology and business points of view. Any disagreements are typically on the approach of any one issue not the end goal.

5. What is the most important thing voters should know about the issues at stake in this election before making their decision about who to vote for? The Mosquito Control Board of Commissioners is a deliberative and functional body that has the responsibility on behalf of district residents to review existing policy, create policy to address new needs, review current budgetary items and most importantly monitor the treatments to protect citizens health from mosquito borne illnesses. It seems to me the voters are generally happy with their mosquito control protection, day to day staff responsiveness, understanding of service levels & overall costs associated with the service. There is much more work to be done but CMCD and its board of elected commissioners is up for the challenge and will maintain its statewide leadership role.

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com , no later than August 15. Thank you.