



## 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

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1. What diversity of perspective, attributes, knowledge or skills would you bring to the office that differentiates you or that the other candidates don't have?

My experience as a partner in a financial planning practice and someone involved in community service at every level, volunteer, senior staff, and Board service, fits me to represent SWFL effectively in Congress. Throughout my life I have used my own experiences to propel my work on behalf others.

Seventeen years ago I received medical care from the Duffy Health Center in the early days of my recovery from alcoholism, when I had no health insurance. A few years later I was Vice-President of their Board, responding to a call to give back to those who helped me when I needed help the most. More recently, my experience as the Democratic nominee for this seat in 2018 brought clear to me the critical nature of our environmental catastrophe as it affected the lives of all of us in SWFL. In response, I founded the Collier County Chapter of the Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida in 2019.

I don't just have experience as a leader, I have been trained in leadership while earning an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School. I understand that the core of leadership is the ability to listen deeply and to act wisely and courageously on behalf of others.

2. What are three things you want to accomplish if you are elected to this office?

1. Strengthening the Affordable Care Act and moving America to universal healthcare for all. We must pass new Federal legislation compelling recalcitrant states, such as Florida, to expand Medicaid. The Center on Budget and Policy priorities recently found that, between 2014 and 2017, Florida's refusal to

expand Medicaid cost 2800 lives, trailing only Texas. Quality healthcare is a human right, not a privilege.

2. Adapt to and mediate climate change by implementing much of the Evergreen Action Plan first put forth by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. SWFL is a coastal community, our livelihoods and health depend greatly on clean water and clean air. Climate change is real and disproportionately the result of human activity.
3. Implement real reform of the criminal justice system, policing policies and priorities, and truly addressing racial inequities in our society. This must include robust investments at the Federal level in mental health and substance abuse treatment, ending homelessness, and reducing domestic violence.

3. Name one current public policy position you disagree with. Why do you disagree?

The relentless efforts by the Trump Administration to overturn the Affordable Care Act, even in the midst of a pandemic. President Trump has talked endlessly about the need to end the Affordable Care Act without offering a single clue as to what would replace it. The ACA has its flaws, but it has provided coverage to millions of Americans, protected us from pre-existing condition denial of coverage, and bent the cost curve downward. The ACA provides critical protections for women's health including access to free birth control. It is essential and must be preserved and expanded.

4. What is the most important thing voters should know about you before making their decision in this race?

I am the only candidate in this race committed to preserving and expanding Social Security and Medicare without raising the age of eligibility. As the 19<sup>th</sup> District is the third eldest district in the nation this issue is paramount and speaks to my dedication to the needs of the people of SWFL rather than the demands of Party and special interests. In 2018 I received the endorsement of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and I expect to do so again this year.

**Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, [sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com](mailto:sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com) , no later than June 15, 2020.**