



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?

Early in my career, I gained experience transitioning accounting systems while working for the National Retired Teachers Association / American Association of Retired Persons, in Washington, D.C. Following my time there, I worked at NASDAQ, where I was responsible for all National Broker / Dealer accounts and the nationwide implementation of new broker dealer equipment. As Accountant, and then Finance Director for the City of Key West, I was responsible for accounting for millions of dollars in redevelopment projects including development of the Key West Cruise Port, renovation of the Pier House Hotel, and major capital planning for the water/sewer improvements, including refinancing and restructure of sewer debt. Additionally, I was responsible for accounting for all City functions including Police and Fire operations and housing project grants. In my position at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, we implemented a time and attendance system for 1,100 nursing and hospital staff and restructured hospital costs for improvements to Medicare reimbursements. These experiences gave me a broad understanding of accounting and management in progressively demanding positions, as well as a diversity of perspective working in several distinct industries. All of these experiences helped prepare me to be Clerk of Courts and Comptroller. Locally, I spent sixteen years working as the Finance Director for the Collier County Sheriff's Office, managing not only Finance Operations and reporting, but fleet, procurement and planning and research departments. I was appointed to the Governor's Task Force for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 34 to represent Sheriff's Offices statewide on the implication of the proposed legislation. I regularly instructed training for the statewide new Sheriff's on budget and Commissioner relations. I joined the Collier County Clerk's Office in 2005 as the Director of Finance and Internal Audit, and then, beginning in 2016 I served as Chief Deputy Clerk until Florida's Governor, citing my demonstrated experience, accomplishments and integrity as determining factors, named me interim Clerk of Courts and Comptroller in 2018. On August 28, 2018 the voters affirmed their confidence in my performance with 63% of the vote.

I have broad based experience managing not only the Clerk's Office, but a variety of departments and projects throughout my career. I have experience in not only court processes, but complex financial operations, budgets, investments, debt issuance, audit, and legislative processes. I have

participated at the local level preparing and presenting budgets to the Board of County Commissioners, and at the state level, working on significant legislative issues impacting Clerk's operations, most recently Amendment 10 to the Constitution and Amendment 4 Restoration of voter rights for Felons.

I have worked directly with the Board of County Commissioners and county staff, building strong working relationships, while continuing our watchdog role. I have worked with our local and district Judges, not only on routine operations of our office in support of the courts, but during the recent Covid-19 pandemic, when we have had to make significant changes to our operations to continue services. I have been active in state Associations, previously representing Sheriffs and for the last 15 years representing our Office at the Clerk's Association.

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

1. Protect your hard-earned money.

I take seriously my role as watchdog over hard-earned taxpayer dollars. In 2020, Collier County's budget is over \$1.4 Billion dollars. The Office of the Clerk is charged with managing cash flow, banking, legal payments, investments, debt payments and financial reporting. Our daily audits and oversight of county expenditures have saved the taxpayers of Collier County millions of dollars. Government accountability is critical to good government. Your government should work for you. I take a hard stance on government spending, making sure our dollars are spent legally and for the benefit of our community. As your independently elected Clerk, I provide a critical and independent check and balance on government spending. Conclusion of the Inspector General accreditation process will be instrumental in enhancing our audit capabilities.

2. Continue automation of services.

We have accomplished much over the last few years, but there is more to do to keep up with modern technology and improve user services. We have implemented e-recording, e-filing and e-invoice processing and initiated a multi-year conversion of documents and records to provide for preservation and accessibility of court, recording, board and financial records. Current and future projects include upgrade of county-wide payroll, jury and probate processes and completion of historical archiving.

3. Connect the Public to more services.

Connecting to services is crucial to the government process. The public must be aware of available services in order to use them. In my 15 years with the Clerk's Office, the last two years as your elected Clerk, and with the help of an energized staff, we have accomplished a great deal but there is more to do. Completion of educational videos and website information so that all clerk's information is more accessible to the public is a priority. This is a compliment to automation and streamlining processes. We have worked to enhance our website, making it not only ADA accessible, but more robust and user friendly. We hope to continue increased community outreach so that users/customers are aware of Clerk's services available on-line, at our pro se (do-it-yourself) center or in person at our numerous locations.

3. Name one current public policy position you disagree with that you could change if elected. Why do you disagree?

One of the most significant statewide concerns for Clerks is the current funding structure for court services. The legislature routinely passes unfunded mandates and the revenue sources for court services are unstable. Each legislative session Clerks work with the Clerk's Association to propose a variety of solutions from fee structure changes to new revenue sources. For Collier, we continue to be a donor county, making more in revenues than our operational costs. While this appears fiscally responsible, it does not provide for maximum services to Collier County. I continue to work with the Clerk's Association on the budget structure to promote a more equitable distribution of available statewide funds. I am tentatively scheduled to join the Clerk's legislative committee in June 2020 and will have a more significant voice for change in allocations.

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

I have the proven ability and relevant experience to serve the taxpayers. The role of the Clerk, is not just a job to me, when Dwight Brock passed away two years ago, as Chief Deputy Clerk, I made the decision to run for the Office. I know that it is critically important to preserve the system of checks and balances on government, it cannot be left to chance or inexperience. I hope the voters will review my past accomplishments and experience, as well as my future goals, and give me their vote of confidence to continue my service as their Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller in 2020.

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com , no later than June 15, 2020.