



## 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?**

I look forward to bringing my 24-year Air Force officer leadership, as well as my deep and diverse business, healthcare, and local community experience to the position. As you know (and especially as we see now more than ever during this time of crisis) being a County Commissioner is a huge responsibility making major decisions that affect us all for years to come. Experience & Qualifications matter... and we've got a lot to do in this County. I have deep experience with business, construction, development, and city planning.

As a former military base commander and local healthcare leader, I've dealt with housing and commercial development in the hundreds of millions of dollars, have worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, had Red Tide affect my Florida military base (Eglin Air Force Base) and addressed it aggressively.

Also, as the former Chief Operating Officer for Physicians Regional Medical Center in East Naples and an Executive at Avow Hospice in Naples, I've been on the front lines of necessitating workforce housing in Collier County. In my local past healthcare leadership roles--it was always easier to hire an orthopedic surgeon than a housekeeper, mainly due to the lack of affordable housing for the lower paying workforce.

"Managed growth" is a term thrown around quite a bit by people running for office... but if you've never actually "managed growth" before--how do you know how to do it? I do and have done it at many levels.

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

1. BRING EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS TO THE DISTRICT 1 SEAT FOR DECISIVE DECISION MAKING
2. PROPERLY MANAGE GROWTH (TO INCLUDE WORKFORCE HOUSING) WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
3. FISCAL & BUDGET DISCIPLINE

**3. Name one current public policy position you disagree with that you would like to change if elected. Why do you disagree?**

IMPROPERLY MANAGED DESIGN, GROWTH, APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT

Parts of Collier County look well planned and thought out, but as you drive into East Naples in District 1... many areas turn "industrial looking" very quickly. We certainly need gas stations, convenience stores, and storage areas, but not haphazardly placed. East Naples has some of the most undeveloped green space of all the Districts, so the tendency can be (and many citizens feel) things are often more easily "dumped" in East Naples.

This should not have been the case.

East Naples is a beautiful area unto itself and close to many amazing sites. The same plans that have made other areas of Collier County the showplaces of our community should also be a priority for East Naples. There have been many favorable East Naples improvements when it comes to parks, new communities, and even commercial growth. However, we need to ensure this is not the exception but the *rule*.

East Naples is fragile and vulnerable now more than ever. When you build anything and add excessive traffic and congestion, many other areas are also affected. Water, our environment, safety, enough first responder support, beaches, and the overall appearance of our community. Poorly planned community developments and congested roads together can harm our environment and quality of life. What I bring to the position to ensure our water quality, environmental issues, housing, developments, overcrowding prevention, controlled traffic, city planning, and protection of our vital green space are all priorities and not overcrowded--is proven and deep Experience and Qualifications in these critical areas.

The answer to workforce housing is NOT building sub-quality housing and dumping it in District 1 because the other four Districts don't want it in their backyard. Workforce housing is needed in all Districts. It's also NOT dumping it on Habitat for Humanity and expecting them to solve the issue for us but then complaining about the way they do it. I've already witnessed serious issues, bad policies, and overlooked opportunities due to lack of experience when it comes to housing development and the opportunities the County has missed time and time again.

It takes a strong Commissioner who has the proven experience of dealing with all of the moving parts required to ensure decisive decision making, public representation, and a resume of knowledge to ensure we make educated decisions.

I understand detailed contracts and how to work with developers who may have great ideas, but is it the best plan for East Naples? Is another plan more advantageous to the area and the taxpayer, or should we dive deeper into the plan together to ensure we don't build something in the wrong spot with the wrong design. I would also work closely with the other four County Commissioners to ensure nothing gets forced on East Naples and District 1... as has been the case many times.

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

Collier County has a \$2 Billion dollar budget, that's the reason we need an experienced and well-qualified District 1 County Commissioner who is fully prepared on day one. This is not an election... but rather a job interview to pick a leader who has the Experience & Qualifications to understand, address, and take proper action for the good of East Naples, District 1, and all of Collier County.

During my military and civilian career (and unlike my opponents), I have managed Billions of dollars in taxpayer dollars. I've worked for two U.S. Presidents, been the Commander of Support for Air Force One, commanded multiple military bases, and led military & civilian hospitals. My entire career has involved business, finance, & budgeting. If you're trying to jumpstart the economy especially after COVID-19 as a County Commissioner, it's important to know how the economy works and having been a leader in all aspects of it. Knowing how to solve those challenges and embrace certain opportunities is what takes Experience & Qualifications.

This is where I'm fortunate my military, government, city planning, and healthcare executive experience & qualifications set me apart from my opponents... and will pay big dividends for business & citizens who want to see Collier County "led"... not just managed.

I'm not looking to be politician... I'm looking to be your *public servant*.

**Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, [sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com](mailto:sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com), no later than June 19, 2020.**