



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Submitted by: Jared Grifoni

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Date: 9/9/20

1. About you:

How old are you? 37

In what part of Collier County do you live? Marco Island

How long have you lived in Collier County, and where were you living previously? I moved to Marco Island in 2007 and previously lived in Massachusetts

What is your educational background and past work experiences? I am a graduate of Merrimack College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a double major in Philosophy. I received my Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School, where I received an honorable mention award for outstanding performance in oral advocacy and became licensed by the Florida Bar in 2008. In September 2015, I was recognized as one of Southwest Florida's rising business leaders in Gulfshore Business Magazine's annual 40 Under 40 rising stars feature. I was recognized in part for my work as an integral and leading part of the operation of SWFL Dunkin' Donuts franchise consisting of 20 thriving locations and over 400 employees in Collier, Lee, Hendry, Hardee, and Glades and DeSoto Counties before most of the business was sold in 2016. I am currently an attorney and leader in multiple small businesses currently based in Marco Island and Collier County

What is your website address and/or any other online information about you (bio, resume, etc.) you would like me to share with voters? My website is [www.JaredGrifoni.com](http://www.JaredGrifoni.com) and I would encourage voters to visit and review my full bio, positions, and key issues that I have supported during my time as a Marco Island City Councilor. I live with my wife Elsa, and our three children, Calvin,

Tosca, and Lorenzo. We love living in Marco Island and enjoy gardening, boating, going to the beach, attending art and music shows, and supporting our community events and organizations on the island including Meals of Hope, Salvation Army, Marco Patriots and Kiwanis. I am also a volunteer youth soccer coach and I like to lead by positive example.

**Why are you running for this position?** I have four years' experience on the City Council and I have served as Vice Chairman (twice) and Chairman during my four year term. I am a husband, father, small business owner (both on and off the island), an attorney, and community leader. Our community deserves real action and solutions not empty words and broken promises. I have delivered on my pledges to the citizens of Marco Island based on my principles of fiscal conservatism, limited government, and protection of citizens' rights. There is so much more we can still accomplish, and I am ready to take on the challenges together with all of you.

**I What are three things you want to accomplish if you are elected?**

1. I want to continue to deliver lower taxes and fiscal accountability for our citizens every year.
2. Improve the city's efforts at protecting our unique island environment and wildlife, including working with state and county officials on local water quality projects
3. Ensure that Marco Island's citizens' priorities are met by addressing the needs of children, young families, small businesses, and our retirees with roadway, sidewalk, and parking improvements, green space retention, completing Veterans' Community Park, and having an eye to the future on every item that comes before City Council.

**Name one past policy decision of the board you are running for that you disagree with that you would like to change if elected. Why?**

I would like to see the City fully takeover the sidewalk maintenance program, within the current confines of the existing budget (i.e. not raising taxes). Currently, it is a property owner's responsibility to maintain, repair, and replace a sidewalk adjacent to their property even though they do not own it (the city owns it). This has led to significant bills to individual citizens ranging to upwards of \$15-20,000 for a piece of

property they have no ownership in. The current policy is just un-American and needs to be changed.

**What is the most important thing voters should know about you before making their decision in this race?** My community engagement over the last four years speaks volumes and was a key pledge I made to our citizens when I ran in 2016. I am always there for our citizens, whenever I can and however I can, whether in-person, by email, by phone, social media, or anything else. I am pledging again to continue this involvement and commitment to our community for another four years. Not empty words or hollow promises but real action, solutions, and involvement backed up by my track record, just as I have demonstrated every day for the last four years.

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

**Thank you!**