



Candidate Questionnaire - County Commissioner
August 2022 Primary Election

Your name: Gerald J. Lefebvre
Your email address: gerald@voteforgerald.com
Your phone number: (239) 404-0198
Your age: 54
Today's date: May 20, 2022

What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?
I moved to Collier in 2001 from Connecticut.

What is your educational background and work experience?
REALTOR since 2001 and currently work at John R. Wood Properties
1993 Bachelors' degree in Political Science from the University of Connecticut
1998-2001 Zoning Board of Appeals Town of Wallingford, CT
2002-Jan. 2022 Collier County Code Enforcement Board Chairman for 2 Years and
Vice-Chairman for 11 years
2011 & 2015 Governmental Issues Committee for the Naples Area Board of Realtors
Chairman
2018-2021 Elder at a local church
2017-2021 Assistant Coach for North Naples Little League coaching my children

Describe a time in the last ten years when you led an effort to bring about change in our community. Was your effort a success? Why or why not?
As a member of the Governmental Committee of Naples Area Board of Realtors, I had the opportunity to assist in drafting the recently approved Collier County Short Term Rental Ordinance. The Ordinance has language in it that identifies an individual that will need to address issues within 24 hours of a complaint being made. The property also must be registered with the County. Although not perfect, with a contact responsible for responding to issues it may speed up getting them resolved. Repeat violations will also be less likely.

Describe a recent County Commission decision with which you disagreed. Why did you disagree and what should have been done differently?
I do not agree with the One Naples decision. I think that the public opinion was not taken into consideration and that the rezoning process has to change to include more input from the residents and much sooner in the process.

What is your top priority in terms of Collier County's environment? What county government solutions do you propose to address it?

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We need to assure that we have adequate potable water available for future growth. It is imperative that when a development is approved there is adequate preserve and wetlands onsite to handle storm water runoff.

What is your top priority in terms of Collier County's infrastructure? What county government solutions do you propose to address it?

Developments that are approved in the right locations and to make sure there is adequate infrastructure to handle the traffic. Increase the use of reclaimed water so that potable water is not being wasted on non-essential uses.

What is your top priority in terms of the growth and development of eastern Collier County? What county government solutions do you propose to address it?

Make sure that the area is developed responsibly taking in consideration the preservation of the environmentally sensitive areas and minimizing the destruction of those areas. Ensure that the people that live in eastern Collier County will not need to drive to the coastal Collier County for essential services such as shopping, jobs and medical care. I would encourage developers to make sure that the communities they are building include a mix of housing, employment centers, commercial areas and schools and that they build them simultaneously.

What is your top priority in terms of redevelopment in coastal Collier County? What county government solutions do you propose to address it?

District 2 does not have much raw land that is not already developed so there will be older properties that will be redeveloped. If there was a redevelopment project, I would institute the process as if a developer was to develop a raw piece of land. I would want all the stakeholders to be engaged very early on in the process so that the process could be more open, inclusive, less adversarial.

What is your top priority in terms of affordable housing in Collier County? What county government solutions do you propose to address it?

I am a big proponent of affordable housing. It must be built in the right locations taking in consideration that it is close to essential services like stores, bus routes, hospitals and schools. It must not negatively affect surrounding residential neighborhoods, roads or essential services. I would like to see more single-family and townhouse rental communities built in Collier County. These communities would provide a different product type that the County is lacking. These product types would appeal to families that have moved into the area recently. As a commissioner, the first thing I would do regarding affordable housing would be to complete an analysis of County owned land suitable for affordable housing. I would look into reducing or deferring impact fees, increasing densities, public-private partnerships and if a developer is looking for increasing densities, they will need have to set aside a percentage of units for affordable housing.

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