



**Candidate Questionnaire - County Commissioner
August 2022 Primary Election**

Your name: **Reg Buxton**
Your email address: **reg@regbuxton.com**
Your phone number: **239-572-0051**
Your age: **76**
Today's date: **June 3, 2022**

What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?
Moved here in 1990 from Kansas City Mo. Originally from Michigan.

What is your educational background and work experience? **Community College. Work experience Marketing for major companies, consultant for Federal alphabet agencies, Documentary Film Maker, started and sold three successful companies in Asia, Caribbean and United States. Current owner of print media magazine, Life in Naples.**

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? **Led the effort on Naples City Council to replace septic tanks to the North and East boundaries of the City. It was successful because of the collaboration with fellow Council members to solve a health related and environmental issue which had been a problem of long duration.**

Describe a recent County Commission decision with which you disagreed. Why did you disagree and what should have been done differently? **I disagreed with the 3 to 2 vote not to put in effect a rent increase notice. Recognizing that this would not resolve the long term problem it would have sent a powerful message. It would put the land lords on notice that the commission was concerned and also sent a supportive message to renters that the commission was aware, concerned and interested in a longer term solution.**

What is your top priority in terms of Collier County's environment? What county government solutions do you propose to address it? **Water quality, continue using County/City resources to add oyster beds to Naples Bay. One oyster cleans 50 gallons of water a day. Ensure that water runoff from Bonita flood plain area coming into the Collier canals should be monitored by an independent agency such as South Florida Water Management and Big Cypress Basin Board. Collier needs to prevent Bonita overflow from flooding areas around our own canals. We also need to monitor water quality as it flows flow from the North of Collier County into the county.**

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**Please email your responses to sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com
no later than June 3, 2022.**

What is your top priority in terms of Collier County's infrastructure? What county government solutions do you propose to address it? The stated mission is to construct, manage, maintain, repair, and remodel the county's infrastructure and facilities in a professional and cost-effective manner. Regarding road management; more aggressive advanced planning and more foresight into population expansion needs to go into each decision. The road plans that are currently in place need consistent oversight ensuring that they are not side stepped or get lost in the cue. If and when possible the time frame for both starting a project and completion should be fast tracked. My four years experience on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and four years on the State of Florida MPO Board of Governors gives me the advantage of using my contacts and knowledge to enhance my role as Commissioner.

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? Growth 78% of Collier County is protected land cannot be built on. Of the 22% that can be built on only 13.8% has been developed. Growth in the Rural lands needs to be well thought out with both short and long term goals. A good functional plan would be clusters of homes in the 1500/2000 range which would ensure all needed resources could and would be provided. Larger areas of green space should remain available as natural habitat, for environmental purposes and our quality of life. With proper collaboration between County Commissioners and landowner's / developers this is achievable.

What is your top priority in terms of redevelopment in coastal Collier County? What county government solutions do you propose to address it? The usage of land requires prudent choices with oversight so that we can attest that our beaches are kept in pristine condition with available access for our citizens. This requires collaboration with citizens and Government. This important matter must balance property rights, along with residents' concerns as we carefully develop the few remaining parcels available for build out. We want to maintain what we have securing Collier County Coastal areas as the gem that they are.

What is your top priority in terms of affordable housing in Collier County? What county government solutions do you propose to address it? It is imperative and fundamental that we collaborate with public / private businesses and investors to find a solution. This is multilayered and will need an inventive approach. Consider these thoughts and imaginative solutions. School District already has land and could utilize a portion of it to build apartments for teachers, Fire Departments use some of their land inventory to provide housing for staff. Hospitals could do the same thing for their employees. County Government could assist with partial funding on these projects. Government should not however be in the business of housing management. I have served on three different affordable housing committee's over the last 25 years if you took at my original notes they are very close to the ones taken more recently. We kicked the can down the road long enough and it's time for action.

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