VOTE411 Voter Guide

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Greater Naples Fire District Commissioner Seat 3

Greater Naples Fire District E Naples Div Seat 1

Fire District Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that District staff complies with applicable State and Federal mandates, preserving the District's property and assets, stewarding the District's finances and affairs, adopting an annual budget and monitoring progress towards reaching established goals.

Term: 4 years Salary: $5,000 per year

Click a candidate icon to find more information about the candidate. To compare two candidates, click the "compare" button. To start over, click a candidate icon.

David W. Boothby (N)

Mark Cherney (N)

Charlie Cottiers (N)

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Compare

Mark Cherney (N)

Biographical Information

Campaign Website

http://VoteMarkCherney.com

What, in your professional and personal experiences, distinguishes you from your opponents and makes you the best candidate for Fire Commissioner?

Mark Cherney:
I am a Florida Native and a Collier Co. 50-year resident, with 35 years of Public Service experience working for the Collier County Sheriff's Office. I have a BS Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ. and a MS Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan Univ. I retired from CCSO in 2016 as a Captain following 30 years of service, and remain a Reserve Deputy.

What are the top issues and/or unique challenges facing this district? If elected, what specific actions would you propose to address these issues/challenges?

Mark Cherney:
Building infrastructure has been permitted to deteriorate to the point where as much as $40M is needed to recover. We need a special assessment in conjunction with a bond issuance to rebuild/repair our facilities. Growth is not paying for growth as there has been a failure to adequately adjust impact fees. We need to adjust impact fees ASAP. We need Fire Commissioners that are fiscally responsible, have extensive public safety experience, are situationally aware, also understand the need to keep pace with growth! We must maximize all revenue streams available to the District to ensure public safety and deliver the services demanded by our citizens. Policies and procedures needed to be thoroughly reviewed to reduce District liability.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are increasing the need for disaster response services while at the same time adding to the risks first responders face. How should this be addressed? What, if any, additional funding is needed?

Mark Cherney:
First and foremost, we need to maintain safe and hardened structures for housing our firefighters. Many of our firehouses must be evacuated during a storm leaving major gaps in service areas during a disaster, the very time services are needed most. A defined special assessment with a sunset provision needs to be put to the voters to create a revenue stream allowing the District to repair/replace as many as seven firehouses that have been neglected since the District merger. A long-term strategic plan must be developed in conjunction with the County master plan permitting the District to properly acquire land and build facilities that align with future growth and roadway development. All grant and service revenue streams must be maximized.

How will your district maintain high quality service 24/7 within proposed funding levels for 2023 and beyond?

Mark Cherney:
Due to the dysfunctional behavior of the current board, it is impossible to see what funding levels will be available for 2023. But given the current status of the overall financial situation of the District, it will be necessary for management to work with the union representation and come into agreement on additional duties for firefighters to prevent future layoffs of personnel.

Select this Candidate

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