

VOTE411 Voter Guide

[Change Address](#)
[View My Races](#)

Progress: 30 of 30

North Collier Fire District Seat 1

North Collier Fire District Seat 2

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

Jim Burke (N)



Tyler Hardt (N)



Biographical Information

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

Jim Burke:

My 14 years of service on the fire district board of commissioners. My 16 years of service on the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee. My 8 years of service on the Pelican Bay Services Division Board of Directors.

Tyler Hardt:

My background is in finance and I have experience developing multi-billion-dollar budgets for companies like AT&T and American Tire. I have 14 years of experience as an Equity Analyst and Portfolio Manager. I earned an MBA with Honors from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and I am a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). I am also an alumni of Associate Leadership Collier.

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?

Jim Burke:

The District is challenged by its growth in population, area served and expansion of services provided. My effort will be to focus on the issues involved in funding and cost control.

Tyler Hardt:

The North Collier Fire district is facing significant challenges posed by the combination of an accelerated growth in population and higher inflation. The district is also still navigating the financial implications of the merger with Big Corkscrew. My financial and budgeting experience will be a significant benefit to the Commission as we navigate these challenging financial issues.

The district has excellent leadership with great commissioners with years of experience in operations management, legal affairs, and working with first responders. My financial expertise will be a significant benefit to the district that will complement the existing commissioners' strengths.

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?

Jim Burke:

The District, during my tenure, has dealt with hurricanes, brush fires, a pandemic and economic recession. We have learned from each with steps taken to harden facilities and equipment.

Tyler Hardt:

Extreme weather and sea level rise are significant future threats that represent real long-term risks to our community and first responders. It should absolutely be incorporated into long-term financial plans.

In the shorter term, I believe it is prudent to always have the resources in place and be prepared to support recovery operations that would be required to respond to a significant hurricane event. A large hurricane can strike any year and we need to always be prepared for the worst.

While the increasing frequency of extreme weather is a threat, my greatest concern as a citizen and future commissioner is attracting and retaining first responders and ensuring high quality service in our faster growing sections of the district.

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

Jim Burke:

Funding levels for 2023 & 2024 project to be adequate this giving Board & Staff time to plan for 2025 and beyond.

Tyler Hardt:

The most important step to maintaining high quality service is making sure we have the men and women to deliver that service. Retaining and recruiting is priority number one. Secondly, we must improve our population forecasts to make the best judgment on where we need fire stations and purchase land before land prices jump. Lastly, I promise a thorough review of each line item in the budget.

Select this Candidate

Select this Candidate

Powered by League of Women Voters Education Fund