

Sparker's Soapbox
Supervisor of Elections 2024 Candidate Questionnaires

Question	Melissa Blazier	Tim Guerrette	Dave Schaffel
Your age	46	57	63
What year did you move to Collier County and where did you live previously?	In 1980, just before my 2nd birthday. I was born in Leucadia, California.	1990, Homestead Air Force Base, Florida.	I have lived in Collier County for roughly five years but have been coming to the area for decades. I was born and raised just across the alley in the Miami area.
Where did you go to high school, and if you received any post-secondary education, where did you go, what degree(s) did you receive, and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naples High School, 1996 • Hodges University, BS Business Administration, magna cum laude, 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangor High School, 1985 (ME) • Edson State College, AS Criminal Justice, 2006 • Hodges University, BS Business, magna cum laude, 2007 • Barry University, MA Administration, 2013 • FBI National Academy, 2013 (Quantico, VA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miami Palmetto Senior High School • University of Florida, BS in Business Finance • University of Miami, MS in Statistics
Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.	<p>Collier County Supervisor of Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Assistant, 2006-2011 • Assistant Supervisor of Elections, 2011-2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Air Force 1986-1990 – Sergeant • Florida Marine Patrol, 1990-1993 - Patrol Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT entrepreneur, cofounder and Chief Information Officer for CoStar Group which I grew from inception to a multi-billion-dollar public company.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections, 2013-2023 • Supervisor of Elections, 05/2023-Present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier County Sheriff's Office, 1993-2021 (Retired Chief of Operations) • Real Estate Agent/ Broker/ Broker Associate, 2002 - Present (Compass) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote the software for the first commercial real estate multiple listing ever sold in the United States.
<p>What professional certifications and designations have you received related/relevant to the position you seek?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 - Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA), National Association of Elections Officials, Katy, TX • 2014 - Master Florida Certified Election Professional (MFCEP), Florida Supervisors of Elections, Tallahassee, FL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1993 - Advanced Training Human Relations - FDLE - Fort Myers, FL • 1995 - Line Supervision - FDLE - Fort Myers, FL • 2001 - Human Diversity - Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy - Fort Myers, FL • 2001 - Instructor Techniques - Southwest Florida Criminal Justice Academy - Fort Myers FL • 2003 - Florida Sgt. Leadership Academy - Florida Criminal Justice Institute - Tallahassee, FL • 2005, 2006 - National Incident Management IS-00500 and IS-00700 - FEMA - Naples, FL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 - Instructor Certification - FDLE - Tallahassee, FL • 2008 - Supervisor and Leadership Instructor Certificate - Lee County Schools - Fort Myers, FL • 2013 - MGT Security Planning - Eastern Kentucky University - Naples, FL • 2015 - Incident and Command Course, De-Co.US - Naples, FL 	
<p>What professional organizations or groups are you currently a member of, and how have you benefitted professionally from that involvement?</p> <p><i>NOTE: For benefits, see candidate questionnaires</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Legion Auxiliary Post 135 • Collier 100 Club • Election Center • Florida Supervisors of Elections Inc.- Board member • DHSMV - Workgroup • VR Systems - Steering Committee • iGO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast - Board Member and Big Brother • America's Military and 1st Responders Museum - Board Member • NYPD 10-13 Club (Retired Officers) - Board Member • Naples Area Board of Realtors® - Member (Task Force Chairman) • Collier County 100 Club - Member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier County Republican Executive Committee – Vice Chairman Election Integrity Subcommittee. • Defend Florida (legislative action-based election integrity group) - Member

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiwanis Club of Naples - Treasurer • Leadership Collier Alumni Association, Foundation Advisory Council • League of Women Voters • Men's Right Club of Collier County • Naples Reagan Club • Right Club of South Collier County • Republican Women of Southwest Florida Federated • Women's Republican Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce - Member Leadership Collier Graduate 2008 • Collier County Republican Executive Committee - Member • Republican Men's Club of Collier County - Member • Naples Republican Club Member - Member • The Right Club of South Collier County - Member • Women's Republican Club of Naples Federated - Associate Member 	
<p>What are the three most important functions of the Supervisor of Elections Office? For each, how would you rate the current operation (D = failing, A = exceeding expectations), and why?</p>	<p>Voter Registration/ List Maintenance: A</p> <p>Voter Education and Outreach: A</p> <p>Elections Administration: A</p> <p>We have achieved this excellence due to the efficient operation and execution of each of these vital functions.</p>	<p>Administering Elections: C-; just maintaining the status quo</p> <p>Provide Safe and Secure Elections: D; very complacent and naive about potential threats</p> <p>Election Compliance: C; lacks the knowledge and leadership to accurately interpret election law and communicate the laws, policies and procedures to candidates and citizens.</p>	<p>Election Integrity: D</p> <p>Voter Registration Accuracy: C</p> <p>Cybersecurity: D</p> <p>Collier County is a gold standard community. However, while the process may run smoothly, there is a total disregard for insecure and nontransparent technologies supporting our elections. We should be leading the way on</p>

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			this issue, not just here in Florida, but across the nation.
What specific changes would you make to get each of those functions to an A?	There is always room for improvement, especially with changes in election law and technology. We are always looking for ways to better ensure voters voices are heard in each election.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance voter education, improve the voter registration process, ensure accurate voter rolls, enhance staff/poll worker training, increase community collaboration • Implement updated protocols, protect against hacking, tampering, interference, more audits and hand-counts; advocate for changes to voting and election laws • Enhance voter education, strengthen training and education for candidates, strengthen compliance and monitoring 	Election systems across the nation are broken, antiquated, and at high risk for outside interference and nefarious activity. I am the only candidate that has the background to address and fix the issues. ... the process of protecting free and fair elections starts at the local level. We in Collier County must lead the way...
What changes, if any, would you like to make to the Supervisor of Elections Office policies and/or procedures?	<p>At this time, would not make any changes.</p> <p>Have made several over the past 13 months and will continue to evaluate those for effectiveness.</p> <p>Have made several organizational and operations</p>	<p>Immediately review ALL current policies and procedures; implement changes to improve staff morale and comply with Florida law.</p> <p>Ensure that all employees are provided an equal opportunity</p>	<p>Be more vigilant and vigorous with the vote by mail ballots.</p> <p>Ballot counting should not entirely rely on computers. Hand count ballots above and beyond the post-election audit statute to validate the certified results.</p>

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	based changes that will be evaluated at the conclusion of the 2024 election cycle.	to grow and advance, and that all are treated with fairness and respect.	
Roughly how much is the Supervisor of Elections Office budget? How big is the staff? Are either of them too high, too low, or just right, and what do you base your answer on?	<p>\$6.1 million FY24 budget. FY25 request - \$5.5 million.</p> <p>Budget is just right for day-to-day needs and execution of elections.</p> <p>Staff of 24 is sufficient but may need 1 or more FTE before 2026 election cycle since now operate out of 3 locations (main office, NCGSC and HBGSC).</p>	<p>\$6.1 million budget. Staff of 24.</p> <p>Will carefully review the budget line by line to determine if changes need to be made. I</p> <p>Will always be fiscally responsible and ensure taxpayer money is properly utilized.</p>	<p>\$5 million during an election year; \$4 million dollar in an off year.</p> <p>24 full time positions.</p> <p>During an election year, additionally thousands of temporary and volunteer positions.</p>