

Questions - Tim Guerrette

Your age? 56

Your profession(s)? Retired Law Enforcement Officer / Real Estate Broker / Educator

Your reason for leaving your profession to pursue this political position? To serve the Collier County community and ensure safe, secure, ethical elections.

Are you currently married? Not Married - Currently live with my former wife of 14 years

Current political party and for how long? Republican for 30 + years

Have you held an elected position before? No

What party were you a member of at the time? N/A

What was that elected position? N/A

What was the start/ end dates for that elected position? N/A

Is there anything in your background of a criminal nature that you should disclose or that we should be aware of? (Felonies, felony charges etc?) No

Is there anything in your spouses' background of a criminal nature that you should disclose or that we should be aware of? (Felonies, felony charges etc?) No

What are the main strengths that you feel you possess for this position?

Integrity - Throughout my career as a military veteran and law enforcement officer, I have demonstrate the highest level of integrity and impartiality. I have been committed to upholding and applying laws, policies and procedure under our constitution in a fair impartial manner.

Leadership & Management - I have spent the last 30 years in leadership & management capacities during my careers in the military (Sergeant) and law enforcement (Chief). I have supervised highly successful units and groups ranging from 5 members up to 750+ as the Chief of Operations. I was directly responsible for supervising Patrol - 6 Districts, Youth Relations, Gangs, SHOCAP, Aviation, SWAT (SRB), Traffic, Marine with a combined budget of over 200 million dollars.

Communication and Interpersonal Skills - I have the strong ability to work with the community and leaders in the community. As the Supervisor of Elections, it is important to have the skills necessary to working closely with election staff, political parties, candidates, and the general public. My communication and interpersonal skills will be crucial for fostering positive relationships, resolving conflicts, and providing clear instructions and guidance to the community.

Knowledge of Laws. Policy and Procedures - I have a strong understanding of the laws, regulations, and procedures related to elections. This includes being well-versed in the election process. I posses solid working knowledge related to computer systems and processes.

What are the 5 most important items/issues that you want to address during your term in this position?

1. Election Safety, I will implement updated protocols to protect voters and election workers from potential threats and creating contingency plans to address any emergency situations that may arise throughout the year and during the electoral process. My goal is to create an atmosphere where individuals (staff and citizens) feel safe and confident in participating in the voting process.
2. Election Security - Making sure elections are safeguarded to maintain the integrity of the election. Protecting against hacking, tampering, interference. I will implement additional audits and advocate for opportunities to hand-count ballots.
3. Voter Fraud - As constitutional officer, I will always advocate for laws that will eliminate voter fraud in include prioritizing list maintenance, citizenship verification, identification and removal of fraudulent voting practices.
4. Integrity and Confidence through Transparency and Accountability - Voting is for the people. I will allow for community involvement and offer programs that bring confidence to the election process. I will do this through community programs to include the implementation of a Supervisor of Elections advisory board and Supervisor of Elections Educational Citizens Academy.
5. Develop and maintain a professional working environment within the SOE. Attract and keep talented staff and reduce turnover.

What election (working, research, seminars) experience do you have? e.g. poll worker, election integrity investigations, election data analysis, election software systems.

I have been involved in the election security for 20 plus years as a command staff member with the Collier County Sheriff's Office. My responsibilities included developing Incident Action Plans for election cycles. The plans included physical precinct security measures, communication strategies and contingency plans for issues that may arise during the elections process.

I have been involved in attending canvassing board meetings, recent manual hand-counts for Everglades City, full observation of the recent Presidential Preference Primary and City of Marco and Naples Elections.

I have attended Mike Lindell's online election security/integrity seminars, Election Integrity Network weekly meetings, Florida Fair Elections contributor and many more. I am highly active in following election related legislation during session.

What knowledge do you have in connection with Florida Statutes - Electors and Elections? Title IX, Chapters 97 to 107.

As a candidate for the positions of Supervisor of Elections, I have a sound knowledge and understating of Title IX and Chapters 97 to 107 - Electors and Elections. In addition, my legal background in law enforcement provides a solid knowledge of legal research and law application pertaining to elections.

What are the main strengths in the 2023 Florida election law changes (SB7050)?

SB7050 had some intended strengths (but not to a satisfactory level I am personally satisfied with). The bill added language that increases the security of vote-by-mail ballots, improved and enhanced accuracy for Florida's voter rolls and lists.

Here are a few strengths to the bill that I agree with.

1. Enhanced Signature matching training for ANY person who's duties include signature verification.
2. Requires vote by mail ballots to be clearly marked "Do Not Forward"
3. If two or more vote-by-mail ballots are in the same election are returned in one mailing envelope, none should be counted.
4. Enhanced requirements for 3rd party voter registration organizations. Increased fines and the requirement that non-citizens cannot handle or collect voter registration forms.

What are the main weaknesses in the 2023 Florida election law changes (SB7050)?

1. The bill does not address enhanced requirements or the opportunity for hand-counting.
2. State law currently requires each election to be certified by voting machines. SB7050 should provide language allowing local Supervisor of Elections attitude to increase hand-counting with a pathway to future elimination of machines in Florida.
3. In my opinion, the bill allows for easy access to vote-by-mail. As you will see, I am not in favor of Vote-by-Convenience like we have now.
4. The bill needed improved language for ID requirements and proof of citizenship for voting.

What other weaknesses do you see in the current Florida Statutes voting legislation or processes?

This answer requires a 2000 page book. In my opinion, the conservative forces need to push harder towards legislative change and education over election concerns. In this past 2024 legislative session, there were 3 major bills involving election security improvement proposed and they all failed to gain traction in committees. SB1752 and SB1752 would have banned foreign owned, operated or produced voting machines prior to the 2024 elections. HB359 would have allowed for hand-counting (as requested by the SOE at the precinct level. These bills died in committee. Improved language for ID requirements and proof of citizenship for voting.

How will you ensure that the election data and election systems are secure from external penetration? i.e. hacking, data base manipulation/intrusion?

As the Supervisor of Elections, it is essential to obtain the appropriate knowledge on election system security (individually). It is important to hire and have top level IT Managers.

1. I will Implement strong cybersecurity measures, including firewalls, encryption protocols, and internal intrusion detection systems, to protect against external penetration, hacking, and unauthorized access.
2. I will conduct regular security audits and vulnerability assessments to proactively identify and address any weaknesses or vulnerabilities in the election systems, ensuring they are secure against potential threats. This will be completed to go above and beyond what Florida law requires.

3. Provide comprehensive training to election staff and administrators on cybersecurity best practices, including phishing awareness, social engineering, and secure handling of sensitive data. This helps minimize the risk of data manipulation and ensures that employees are vigilant against potential security breaches.

What measures will you take to reduce fraud in the voting system?

As our Supervisor of Elections, I will be 100% pro-active in eliminating fraud overall, not just for voting systems. I will apply my years of crime prevention strategies, investigative skills, and enforcement to reduce with the goal to eliminate fraud in our elections.

1. Enforce Voter ID Requirements, Secure Voter Registration and advocate for changes in the requirements to prove citizenship, Secure Voter Registration, Increased Audits, Allow hand-counting.

Do you personally agree with having mail in ballots as a valid method for casting votes?

No, I do agree with the use of mail in ballots based on need only (similar to the traditional absentee ballots) for the elderly and those registered voters that are truly unavailable to vote in person. Convenience voting, as we have now, allows for increased potential for fraud and I do not agree with it.

Do you believe that voter identification is necessary when casting a ballot or for voter registration.

Yes, voter ID (Government issued) should be required to vote. In my opinion, the voter should provide the same ID as required to fly. In addition, a form of proof of US citizenship should be required to register to vote in Florida. The current oath and threat of a 3rd degree felony is not enough to deter those with ill intent register to vote illegally.

Will you be attending seminars held in Florida or out of state hosted and sponsored by the suppliers of the election electronic systems, Dominion and/or ES&S and/or other election software vendors? (excluding training on these systems)

I have know intention of attending these conferences.

Are you aware of the audit done on each election in Collier County?

Yes, I have attended this process in the past.

Are you aware of how long the audit takes?

Yes, the audit time will very depending on selection of precinct audited and method used.

Are you aware of who performs the audit?

Yes, the Collier County Canvassing Board oversees the Audit (open to the public)

Are you aware of who signs off on the audit?

Yes, the Collier County Canvassing Board

Will you conduct an in-depth audit, pre and post-election, to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of the election outcome?

Yes, I will conduct in-depth audits, pre and post-election. This will be a priority for me as the Collier County Supervisor of Elections.

Will you use an external audit team to independently audit the election, pre and post-election?

Yes, I will also advocate to authorize additional external audits both locally and state-wide.

What are some of the important areas of focus that you will include in the audit?

1. Audit of the voting machines to ensure they are working correctly without deviation
2. Law compliance and regulations. Did all rules and laws get followed in the elections?
3. I will ensure there is a clear detailed audit trail to verify the accuracy of the all elections.
4. Complete ballot audit/reconciliation and chain of chain of custody review.
5. Voter registration and poll lists.
6. Building public trust by ensuring full transparency in the audit process.

Will you present detailed findings of the election to the public?

Yes, this will be a priority for my office as Supervisor of Elections.

How will you ensure that the voter role is clean and up-to-date and contains no deceased individuals, non Florida county/Florida state voters and other non-qualifying voters?

In the position of Supervisor of Elections, I will strictly enforce all state laws requiring list maintenance (utilizing the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services and Clerk of Courts) In addition, I will go above and beyond and solicit statewide groups to assist in providing names and addresses of potential unauthorized voters. I will be very pro-active in my approach cleaning voter roles.

What financial background do you have?

I possess formal education... Criminal Justice (Associate Degree), Business (Bachelors), Administration (Masters). In each of these degrees, including my criminal justice degree, I have taken college level financial courses throughout my career. I am very active in my own personal finance, as I have a strong knowledge in this area.

In addition to my formal education, as a supervisor for the Collier County Sheriff's office for 25 of my 31 years of service, I have been responsible for budgets ranging from 1 million up to over 200+ million, as the Chief of Operations, leading the largest division at the Collier County Sheriff's Office with over 700+ members. Budgets and overall budgeting were a large part of my daily work routine.

I am also a successful business owner, requiring financial oversight each day.

Are you able to interpret the financial statements of a company/organization?

Yes, this has been a part of my duties for the past 30+ years.

What experience do you have with drafting a budget and reviewing a budget for a large organization?

Very experienced in this area, as as supervisor for the Collier County Sheriff's office for 25 of my 31 years of service, I have been responsible for budgets ranging from 1 million up to over 200+ million, as the Chief of Operations, leading the largest division at the Collier County Sheriff's Office with over 700+ members. Budgets and overall budgeting were a large part of my daily duties. This includes drafting, presenting and reviewing budgets on a regular basis.

Describe what steps you will go through when a CCSOE draft budget is presented for discussion/acceptance/input?

1. Prior to the budget presentation, I will conduct in-house staff workshops to determine the actual budget needs and requests to effectively operate the Supervisor of Elections office. I will ensure all spending request are inline with the goals of the SOE, and the public's conservative fiscal spending (cut any potential fat when needed).
2. I will again review the proposed budget closely to determined any areas of spending that can be cut without impacting the goals and mission of the Supervisor of Elections.
3. I will present the Supervisor of Elections budget to the board in complete confidence that the budget has been thoroughly reviewed and submitted with fiscal responsibly in mind.

What training and experience have you had in preparing and giving presentations?

1. I have been a lead instructor for the Florida Office of the Attorney General for over 24 years.
2. I am the owner of 2 training companies - Law Enforcement and Real Estate
3. I have instructed Crime Prevention, Leadership and Management courses for St. Petersburg College as an Adjunct Instructor for over 25 years.
4. I am a current Florida Realtors faculty members instructing Realtors throughout the country and state on safety and security
5. I am a state licensed Real Estate instructor, primarily instructing on Florida law.

What experience/training have you had in information technology?

I posses multiple college degrees, each degree has required formal education in Information Technology. I have been involved in creating several computer applications to include (Collier County Sheriff's Office) CCSO2go, gang database, image tracker, etc. I have a solid proficiency in data, graphic design, web development, video creation, social media, programming.

What experience have you had in information systems technology, systems architecture, network architecture?

I have a solid proficiency in data information systems technology. My positions at the Sheriff's Office did not require me to build information systems technology, systems architecture, network architecture, however, I have worked closely with our IT Teams throughout my career to develop systems that are customized for the needs of our agency.

Most of us form our opinions based on the news sources we consider reliable. What news sources do you consider reliable relative to election issues?

Fox News (a times), Newsmax, Truth Social, Rumble, Epoch Times, TheBlaze

Many Americans have expressed concerns about the legitimacy of the November 2020 Presidential election. Describe your understanding of the key ways election fraud may have occurred.

Without question, in my opinion, the 2020 Presidential election was not legitimate and stolen on several fronts.

1. Voter Fraud - Machine Security, Ballot Harvesting, Voter Role Maintenance, Ballot Tampering.
2. Campaign disinformation through media, social media, internet.
3. Foreign Interference, cyber attacks on infrastructure, definite attempts to influence public opinion.
4. Issues with vote by mail, multiple ballot voting, votes for sale.

The CCREC Election Integrity Committee has shared with you the graphic results of the Cast Vote Records provided from the Collier County SoE Office for the 2020 Presidential election (copy attached). What insights do you take from this graph?

It is difficult to gather a good analysis on exhibit 4 without additional information. From the information provided, I see a significant drop in the number of Trump votes by mail in group 3 after the CVR numbering gap, in addition, I see clear up down pattern in the 50,000-100,000 segment coming from the same precinct. However, I see similar in the 160,000 - 200,000+ range.

What steps can be taken to address possible inaccuracies in the voter rolls?

As the Supervisor of Elections, I would make this a priority from day one. I would instruct my staff to be proactive, I would work to recruit volunteers to assist with the task of checking addresses, deaths, dual registrations. I would solicit the many groups available statewide that assist in checking voter roles at no cost.

What steps can be taken to ensure Vote by Mail ballots are on legitimate paper and returned by legitimate voters?

As the Supervisor of Elections, I would ensure 100% compliance with Florida Statutes to ensure my entire staff is properly trained in signature verification.

I would ensure secure ballot design, including paper, Government for ALL out going and incoming ballots. No tampering.

I would go above and beyond state law requirements, as permissible, to ensure proper identity of requesters of vote by mail.

What steps can be taken to audit the accuracy of the electronic machines to count the votes?

(Long answer required- short summary here) Secure storage of all technology, to include the machines, constant logic and accuracy check/tests, proactive and routine pre-election and post election checks, updated software and never trust a machine count over a human count. Continually verify that machine output is correct. In addition, all machines must be updated and in upgraded as required. Ensure all machines are tamper resistant and safe from external cyber attacks.

What steps can be taken at the County level to verify US citizenship before approving a Voter Registration application?

I would encourage my staff, within the parameters of the current law, to seek all available opportunities to check the applicant and application for indications of fraud regarding citizenship. Upon election to the position of Supervisor of Elections, I will immediately advocate for changes in the law that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and require government issued ID upon registration. I will also advocate for the same type of government issued ID to be shown when voting.

Florida Statutes stipulate how to conduct the post-election audit. In your opinion, is the post-election audit sufficient to demonstrate that the machine results for the election are valid? Why or why not?

Absolutely NOT! I will have my office go above and beyond the minimum. I am a proponent of hand-count manual audits and I will seek every opportunity to increase audits in both pre-election, logic and accuracy testing and post election manual counting.

Given that our elections are completely reliant on multiple computer systems and minimizing their vulnerabilities, what education, background or experience do you have to oversee these systems?

I would consider myself above proficient in my knowledge of computers, applications, and programs. In each level of my education (associates, bachelors, masters, post graduate) I have received education in IT Technology and computer related topics. During my career at the Collier County Sheriff's Office, I was highly involved in application development and obtain knowledge of security and applications. I am extremely aware of the potential internal and external threats that could impact our election systems. As the Supervisor of Elections, I will seek the best candidates for the Director of IT to ensure safety to our elections.

What are Albert sensors and should their use be continued in the Collier County SoE Office?

Albert Sensors are designed to detect intrusion into a network (SOE network). Upon being elected, I will check into the current use of the Albert System here in Collier County. I will investigate the use of the sensors to eliminate my concerns of big government oversight, privacy, surveillance and tampering potential.

Inactive voters represent about 10% of our total registered voters in Collier County (data as of 12/27/23). Given an Inactive voter can become 'Active' simply by the act of voting, or requesting a Vote By Mail, should they be included when reporting online data for voter registrations and voter turnout? Why or why not? (Note: Volusia is the only county that publishes Inactive Registered Voters on their public website.)

Yes, in my opinion, inactive voters should be included when reporting voter data online. This is to ensure full transparency, increasing voter confidence. Again TRANSPARENCY will be a direct mission as our next Supervisor of Elections.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires that the number of votes counted in a federal election are equal to the number of voters who voted. To date, this data has not been made available either at the Collier County or State level. What steps can be taken to comply with this requirement?

As your Supervisor of Elections, I will investigate why the data is not available at the local and state level and make the changes as required under the law. HAVA was enacted to improve the administration of elections. This will be an example of what I will always do as our SOE.

Did you see 2,000 mules? If not, why not? If yes, what were your key takeaways? Be specific.

Yes, I have watched 2000 mules several times... and I recently had the opportunity to listen Dinesh D'Souza speak on the topic of election integrity.

Key takeaways include exposing the risks of fraud and vulnerabilities of mail-in-ballots, pay for votes, corruption in the election process. This movie has provided an opportunity to get a first hand look of what election fraud looks like.

Did you watch any of the election hearings in Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia and Pennsylvania online after the 2020 election? If not, why not?

Yes, I have been engaged in election integrity issues for several years.

Do you believe that 11pm deadline the night of the election should be enforced, including absentee mail in ballots, regardless of post date? If not, why not?

Yes, a deadline in voting is a deadline and must be enforced. A vote-by-mail ballot is required to be received by the Supervisor of Elections, no later than 7:00pm, regardless of postmark, on election day.

Do you believe that the ability to thoroughly audit election results is essential to providing a transparent and honest election?

Yes, absolutely. Upon my election to Supervisor of Elections, I will ensure our office, along with the community, goes above and beyond to provide post-election audits to build confidence in our elections.

If citizens question election results, do you believe videotaped audits monitored by and transmitted to the public is important?

Yes, again this would build confidence in the elections process. I would request the ability to livestream audits as permitted by law.

If you were presented with requests to audit elections in Collier County, what would you do? How would you conduct a thorough and transparent audit?

As our Supervisor of Elections, I would welcome the request and accommodate the audit to the fullest extent possible. I would view the audits as an opportunity to build confidence with our citizens. Currently the Supervisor of Elections has a history and mentality of US vs THEM (SOE vs The People). This will end immediately under my leadership. I will foster and encourage audit opportunities as our Supervisor of Elections.

Would you be willing to use your position as SOE to demand changes to voter laws in Florida banning use of any tabulators, voting software or any kind of third party mechanism in the Voter Rolls or in counting votes?

Yes, I will advocate to ensure human counts takes precedent over machine counts.

Would you be willing to advocate for paper ballots and hand counts in Collier County?

Yes, I have recently been involved in a local hand-count of the past election in Everglades City. Hand-counts can be accomplished effectively if executed properly.

Would you use your position as SOE to notify voters as candidates became inactive? If not, why not?

Yes, I would definitely convey and notify voters that candidates have become inactive. I believe this was a major failure by our SOE (communication) in the past 2024 Presidential Preference Primary. The lack of communication and guidance given to the community by the SOE was at a bare minimum. Our current SOE lacks the communication skills necessary to convey information to our community, often relying on "Well it is on our website". This is not enough.

I understand that voters need to educate themselves, but often they do not do this thoroughly enough. The sharing of the inactive candidate information is crucial, in my opinion, as a voter may waste a vote on a candidate that is not even in the race.

What is your position regarding having to transmit votes via wi-fi as votes come in? Many of us in 2022 were able to see that all polling locations had an active WiFi that was connected to the SOE's office.

Votes should never be transferred over wi-fi. As we all know (or should), wi-fi networks are extremely insecure.

What is a Logic and Accuracy test? Are they important? Why are they important?

Logic and accuracy test are conducted on election equipment to ensure that the machines used are functioning correctly and accurately.

Yes they are important, as it is a pre-election procedure, open to the public, that verifies the integrity of the equipment in hope to build confidence through transparency.

I have had the opportunity to attend Logic and Accuracy testing at our Collier SOE.

Logic and Accuracy tests must always be followed up by human verification.

Do you believe that software can be altered by a third party changing machine settings, configurations directly as to how ballots are read and tabulated?

Yes without question, software, especially proprietary software, can be altered, changed and/or reconfigured to change election outcomes. This is a major concern, thus requiring the need for post elections audits that go above and beyond. ALWAYS verify by the human element!

What is a "God Key" and can it be used to intercept and change results and re encrypt?

The "God Key" or master key grants access to the "system" and could be utilized by bad actors to bypass security measures undetected.

I believe, this is a "Real" threat and yes, if this knowledge is in the hands of the wrong person or persons, it could be used to change results of an election, possibly undetected.

It is important to make sure the SOE has a top "vetted" cybersecurity team with oversight of the Supervisor of Elections.

Do you think it is a crime for a citizen to question an election?

No, I do not think it is EVER a crime to question an election (Elections are for the People). However, on the flip side, I do believe those who try to lock people up unjustifiably for questioning an election should be investigated and prosecuted. The recent situation in Georgia infuriates me greatly as a citizen and candidate for Collier County.