



**Candidate Questionnaire – Supervisor of Elections
August 2024 Primary Election**

Your name: Dave Schaffel
Your email address: team@schaffelforsupervisor.com
Your phone number: 301-356-1133
Your age: 63
Today's date: July 2, 2024

What year did you move to Collier County, and where were you living previously?

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, what degree(s), what year(s), and from where?

I went to high school at Miami Palmetto Senior High School; I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance from the University of Florida, and a Master of Science degree in Statistics from the University of Miami.

Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.

I have spent my entire career as an IT entrepreneur, most notably as cofounder and Chief Information Officer for CoStar Group. Grew the company from its inception to a multi-billion dollar public company. I wrote the software for the commercial real estate multiple listing ever sold in the United States.

What professional certifications and designations have you received related/relevant to the position you seek? Please include the name of the institution, city and state, and in what year each was completed.

None.

What professional organizations or groups are you currently a member of, and how have you benefitted professionally from that involvement?

Currently, I am a member of the Collier County Republican Executive Committee. My involvement in that organization has allowed me to be the Vice Chairman to the Election Integrity Subcommittee. In that role, I have worked to utilize software to track suspicious activity in the voter rolls, performed statistical analysis on the votes cast in Collier County looking for any suspicious activity in the election results, successfully investigated illegal voters, and managed poll watchers.

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I am also a member of Defend Florida, which is the most active legislative action based election integrity group in the state.

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?

Election Integrity is really what the job of SOE is all about. I believe that we need to lead the way in protecting elections and making sure that all elections are secure and valid (grade D). We need to address the critical issues of voter registration accuracy (grade C), accessibility, and cybersecurity (grade D). 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 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?

Our election systems all across the nation are broken, antiquated, and at high risk for outside interference and nefarious activity. With my four decades of experience in information technology, as well as all of the work that I have done over the last few years studying election systems, I seek to raise awareness on the issues, I am the only candidate that has the background to actually address and fix the issues.

I am dedicated to upholding the integrity and transparency of our election process and ensuring that we develop solutions that can be implemented across the country. That being said, the process of protecting free and fair elections starts at the local level. We in Collier County must lead the way in fixing the issues and work with other counties across Florida to lobby for legislative changes of substandard election statutes at the state and local level.

All the candidates agree on the importance of secure and accurate elections. What is the most important specific change you would make that is not currently underway? Roughly how much will it cost? How long will it take? How will you pay for it?

I will implement software tools that will track and identify suspicious changes to the voter rolls. I already use software tools to do this on the publicly available voter rolls and I'm ready to implement this software immediately as SOE. No SOE office does this, but they should. It would come at no cost to the office because the tools are already available.

What changes, if any, would you like to make to the Supervisor of Elections Office policies and/or procedures?

There are two big policies/procedures I would like to make to the Supervisor of Elections Office. First would be to be more vigilant and vigorous with the vote by mail ballots. Currently, this is a huge vulnerability to our election integrity due to the lack of chain of custody with the ballot. Another change would be to the ballot counting

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process, we should not entirely rely on computers to count the ballots. We must hand count ballots above and beyond the post election audit statute to validate the certified results. This would come at little to no cost to the elections office because this would be done by both Democrat and Republican volunteers. These hand counts are perfectly legal as they are used to confirm the counts, not certify them. Our voters deserve to ease concerns of the nontransparency of vote counting tabulators.

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?

During an election year, the budget is about five million dollars on an off year it is about four million dollars. There are 24 full time positions and during an election year there are additionally thousands of temporary and volunteer positions.

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