



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

Your name: Melissa R. Blazier  
Your email address: [Melissa@MelissaBlazier.com](mailto:Melissa@MelissaBlazier.com)  
Your phone number: 239-272-9447  
Your age: 46  
Today's date: 06/27/2024

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

We moved to Collier County in 1980, just before my 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. I was born in Leucadia, California.

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 Naples High School, graduated in 1996. I have a Bachelor's degree in business administration, magna cum laude, from Hodges University and graduated in 2013.

Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.

I have worked in the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office since February 2006 in the following positions:

- Executive Assistant 02/2006-12/2011
- Assistant Supervisor of Elections 12/2011-11/2013
- Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections 11/2013-05/2023
- Collier County Supervisor of Elections 05/2023-Present

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.

- 2013 - Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) via the National Association of Elections Officials, Katy TX
- 2014 - Master Florida Certified Election Professional (MFCEP) via the Florida Supervisors of Elections, Tallahassee FL

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no later than June 10, 2024.

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

I am currently a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 135, Collier 100 Club, Election Center, Florida Supervisors of Elections Inc., iGO, Kiwanis Club of Naples, Leadership Collier Alumni Association, 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, and the Women's Republican Club.

I currently serve on the FSE Board of Directors, FSE DHSMV Workgroup, VR Systems Steering Committee, Leadership Collier Foundation Advisory Council and am the Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club of Naples.

I have benefitted tremendously both personally and professionally from each of these organizations. Whether it is through giving back to our community via the Kiwanis Club of Naples and the Leadership Collier Alumni Association or professional development opportunities via the Election Center, iGO and Florida Supervisors of Elections. All of these organizations play a critical role in my life and have shaped the leader I am today.

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?

1. Voter Registration/List Maintenance
2. Voter Education and Outreach
3. Elections Administration

I would rate the current operation of each of these functions with an A grade. We conduct excellent elections in Collier County, something our voters have become quite accustomed to. I personally believe that we have achieved this excellence due to the efficient operation and execution of each of these three vital functions of the SOE office.

What specific changes would you make to get each of those functions to an A?

As stated, I currently rate each of these areas with an A. That being said, there is always room for improvement especially with changes in Florida election laws and changes in technology. We are always looking for ways to do a better job of assisting the citizens in our community to ensure that their voice is heard in each election.

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?

We conduct excellent, secure, accurate, transparent and honest elections in Collier County and election integrity is at the forefront of each decision we make regarding election administration. Moving forward, and depending on future legislative changes to Florida election law, I think there are systems available to conduct a more in-depth 100% audit of each election. This is something we have been researching over the past year or so and are interested in learning more after the 2024 election cycle. Additionally,

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we will be implementing updated voting system software and voting equipment in advance of the 2026 election cycle in order to phase out our aging voting equipment.

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

At this time, I would not make any changes. I have made several over the past 13 months and will continue to evaluate those changes for effectiveness. We have made several organizational and operations based changes that we will evaluate at the conclusion of the 2024 election cycle.

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?

The SOE offices FY24 budget is \$6.1 million and the FY25 budget request is \$5.5 million. There are currently 24 FTE's including myself. As it stands the SOE budget is just right for the day-to-day needs of the office and the execution of elections. Regarding FTE's, at this time 24 is sufficient, however, we may need to increase by at least 1 FTE prior to the 2026 election cycle given the fact that we operate out of 3 locations now (main office, NCGSC and HBGSC).

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