



**Candidate Questionnaire – Property Appraiser
August 2024 Primary Election**

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77:
06/26/24:

1. What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?

I moved to Naples in 1968 from Michigan City, Indiana

2. Where did you go to high school? In addition, if you received any post-secondary education, please include the name(s) of the institution(s), city and state, and the degree(s) and year(s) earned.

I graduated with honors from Isaac C. Elston Senior High School in Michigan City, Indiana, in 1965. After graduating, I took several classes in software and program design, as well as business courses. These classes provided me with various diplomas and certificates of completion.

3. Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.

After I moved Florida here is my jobs that I have held since 1968.

After moving to Florida, I have held the following positions since 1968:

- **Collier County Tax Collector** (1970-1973)
- **Naples Computer Access** (Naples' first automated computer company) (1975-1979)

During my time in Clearwater, FL:

- **Self-employed at MDC, Co LLC** (1979-1986), a business and consulting company which is still active but not currently used.
- **BIMECO INC** (1986-1994), a medical distribution company for critical care equipment where I ran the MIS Department until the company closed in 1994.

After moving back to Naples in 1994:

- **Collier County Property Appraiser's Office** (1994-present).

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no later than June 10, 2024.

4. 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.

I currently do not hold any certifications. However, I plan to obtain both the CFE and CFA certifications. As Chief Deputy, I oversee appraisers under Mr. Skinner's supervision and department directors, making it unnecessary to obtain the CFE at this time. Upon becoming Property Appraiser, I will acquire the CFA certification.

5. What professional organizations are you currently a member of, and how have you benefitted from that involvement?

I am a member of the **International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)**. This organization offers education, technical standards, and informative meetings with vendors and other assessors, benefiting all Florida Property Appraisers and Tax Collectors across the state's 67 counties.

6. What are the three most important functions of the Property Appraiser's Office? For each, how would you rate the current operation (D = failing, A = exceeding expectations), and why?

Valuation of property in Collier for the Tax Roll reporting to the DOR – Rating: A

Homestead Exemption awareness, informing Collier residents of their property exemption entitlements – Rating: A

Ensuring accurate assessment by thoroughly reading all incoming documentation such as deeds, trusts, and probate – Rating: A

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

I believe all our processes are already operating at an A level. We continually seek ways to enhance our current systems.

8. All the candidates agree on the importance of updating the website, implementing mobile solutions, and improving public access to information. 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?

Since being appointed Chief Deputy, I have initiated the process of upgrading our office technology. This includes evaluating both hardware and software for mobile devices used in appraisers' fieldwork, and we have conducted several software demonstrations. Significant enhancements are also being made to our website to increase functionality and data accessibility. Additionally, our GIS system is undergoing improvements to offer a better user experience and more features for both the public and internal use.

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The largest anticipated cost is for the mobile units for our 23 in-house appraisers and directors. I am still gathering cost information and therefore cannot provide an exact figure at this time. The technical work is being handled by our in-house staff, minimizing costs for the web and GIS upgrades.

9. What changes, if any, would you like to make to the Property Appraiser's Office policies and/or procedures?

Our procedure manuals are regularly updated to reflect any new policies we implement. Currently, no major changes are needed, but we continually assess and adapt our policies as necessary.

10. Roughly how much is the Property Appraiser's 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?

Our budget is approximately \$11.9 million. We have 64 positions in our office. I believe our budget is adequate, and our staffing levels are appropriate. We base salaries on tenure and job responsibilities, and our generous benefits and salaries contribute to our low turnover rate.

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