

From Write-In Candidate: Michaela Kendall (District 1 Commissioner)				
Type	#	Question		
Main	1	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier ordinance that requires all <u>new ordinances</u> that have a multi-year expenditure to have a 5 year mandatory Sunset Clause?	Yes	A mandatory sunset clause ensures that long-term expenditures are regularly reviewed and justified, promoting fiscal responsibility and preventing unnecessary spending.
Main	2	Yes or No. Do you support development of rural lands in Eastern Collier County?	No	Development in these areas can have significant environmental impacts, and preserving rural lands is crucial for maintaining the ecological balance and preventing urban sprawl.
Main	3	Yes or No. Will you support a resolution authorizing to the Collier County Sheriff to remove the pornography and age-inappropriate LGBTQ content in all CCPS schools?	Yes	It's important to ensure that educational content is appropriate for the age group and aligns with community standards. However, this should be done with careful consideration of the diverse needs and rights of all students.
Main	4	Yes or No. Do you support eliminating the Florida Corporate income tax?	No	Eliminating the corporate income tax could reduce essential revenue needed for public services. A fair tax system that supports both businesses and public needs is essential for sustainable economic growth.
Main	5	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier County ordinance with accountability that prohibits the training of Critical Race Theory or any of its many tentacles to any Collier or state government employee?	Yes	Training that focuses on divisive concepts can undermine workplace cohesion and create unnecessary conflict. It's important to focus on unifying principles that promote equality and respect for all individuals.
Main	6	Yes or No. Do you support moving new Collier County employees to a "Defined Contribution Pension Plan" while keeping the existing employees on a "Defined Benefit Pension Plan"?	Yes	Yes, but with more detailed information. Transitioning new Collier County employees to a defined contribution plan could help manage long-term pension liabilities, ensuring the county's financial sustainability. However, it is essential to thoroughly review the specifics of the proposed plan, including its potential impacts on employee retention and morale, as well as the broader community's support. A well-informed decision should take into account both the fiscal benefits and the needs of the workforce.
Main	7	Yes or No. Do you support the current ordinance declaring Collier is a "Bill of Rights" sanctuary county with criminal and civil accountability for violators?	Yes	Upholding the Bill of Rights is fundamental to protecting citizens' freedoms. Ensuring accountability for violations reinforces the importance of these rights.
Main	8	Yes or No. Will you champion an ordinance declaring Collier County is a sanctuary county for the unborn?	Yes	This stance aligns with the values of many constituents in Collier County, advocating for the protection of life from conception. While I believe that individuals should have the right to govern their own health decisions, I recognize the importance of reflecting the community's values in local legislation. Therefore, under the right limitations, I would support such an ordinance.
Main	9	Yes or No. Do you support reducing Collier County acceptance of federal dollars to our total county budget over the next 5 years?	Yes	Reducing reliance on federal funds can increase local control and autonomy, allowing the county to make decisions that are best suited to its unique needs.
Main	10	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier policy of "zero" tax increases to both the Collier Board of County Commission and the School Board over the next 3 years by holding to the roll back millage current rate?	Yes	I support maintaining the current tax levels by adhering to the roll-back millage rate, but I'm open to considering adjustments if needed. Keeping taxes low is important for residents and businesses, but there may be times when we need extra revenue for critical services like infrastructure, schools, or public safety. If a tax increase is necessary, it should be carefully evaluated, justified, and clearly beneficial to the community.
Main	11	Yes or No. Do you support offshore drilling in Florida outside the 10 mile limit? This means not visible from land?	Yes	While offshore drilling can enhance energy independence and economic growth, our current coastal and marine ecosystems are already under significant pressure. Therefore, any drilling must be subject to the highest environmental safeguards to ensure we do not further harm these critical and vulnerable areas.
Main	12	Yes or No. Do you support the continuation of a .25 mills property tax for the Conservation Collier Program for the remaining 8 years?	Yes	This tax is crucial for preserving environmentally sensitive lands, which helps protect natural habitats and maintain the ecological health of our region. Although there have been concerns about the management and utilization of funds, I believe that maintaining this program is essential for our long-term environmental goals. It's important, however, to address management issues to ensure that taxpayer dollars are effectively used to achieve the program's objectives. Proper oversight and accountability are key to ensuring the program delivers on its promise to protect our natural resources.
Main	13	Yes or No. Do you support a Florida state imposed internet sales tax?	No	While taxing online sales could generate revenue, it could also burden small businesses and consumers. It's important to find a balance that encourages economic growth without overtaxing.
Main	14	Yes or No. Do you support Collier County subsidizing low income housing for school teachers and first responders?	Yes	While it's important to continue supporting affordable housing broadly, targeting subsidies for teachers and first responders addresses specific and urgent needs within our community. These workers provide essential services and often struggle with housing affordability despite broader affordable housing efforts. Subsidizing their housing can help ensure they remain in our community and can focus on their vital roles. It's not about replacing existing strategies but complementing them to directly support those who are crucial to our local services.
Main	15	Yes or No. Will you champion a Collier Resolution to the Legislature and Governor that eliminates Birth right citizenship and requires at least one parent to be a US Citizen?	Yes	While addressing concerns about birthright citizenship, it's important to allow existing non-criminal, working immigrants the opportunity to become full citizens, reflecting both fairness and practicality.
Main	16	Yes or No. Will you champion an ordinance for maximum of two --four year term limits for the Office of County Commissioner (total of 8 years)?	Yes	Term limits can help prevent entrenchment in office, encourage fresh ideas, and promote accountability to the electorate.
Principles/Character	17	Yes or No. Do you support continuing the prayer for BCC meetings and having a Collier County resolution that recognizes our nation was founded under Judeo-Christian values and is One Nation under GOD?	Yes	Prayer and recognition of foundational values can provide moral guidance and reflect the beliefs of many in the community, while also respecting the diversity of beliefs.
Principles/Character	18	Yes or No. Will you support Florida ratifying a National balanced budget amendment, with exception only for periods of declared war or National Emergency?	Yes	A balanced budget amendment promotes fiscal discipline, ensuring that government spending is controlled and sustainable, with flexibility in times of genuine crisis.
Principles/Character	19	Yes or No. Do you support a 5 year transition to privatize all public education in Florida tied to an Education Savings Account (ESA) where the money follows the student?	No	While expanding educational choices for parents is crucial, completely privatizing public education could undermine the public school system and exacerbate inequalities. It's important to support both public and private education options to ensure a balanced approach. Privatization could create a profit-driven model that risks reducing the quality and accessibility of education for all students. Maintaining a strong public education system while expanding options is a better way to empower parents and meet diverse educational needs.
Principles/Character	20	Yes or No. According to our Constitution, do you support our elected County Sheriff's authority to protect the Citizens of our county against unconstitutional Federal and State overreach of "the people's" rights?	Yes	The elected County Sheriff plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights of local residents and ensuring that government actions at all levels respect constitutional freedoms. This responsibility includes standing against overreach by federal and state authorities when it threatens local rights and liberties. While maintaining the rule of law and respecting the balance of power are important, the Sheriff's role is to act as a protector of the community's rights as interpreted through local perspectives.
Principles/Character	21	Yes or No. Do you support the concept of Nullification under the 10th amendment? This gives individual states and the people the authority and power to ignore Federal mandates and laws that are not enumerated under Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution?	Yes	States should have the authority to resist federal overreach and maintain control over matters not explicitly delegated to the federal government, preserving the balance of power.
Principles/Character	22	Yes or No. Do you support the human life protection amendment that establishes life begins at inception?	Yes	This stance aligns with the values of many constituents who advocate for the protection of life from its earliest stages. However, it is also important to recognize the need for balancing this with individual rights and personal health decisions. Government should respect personal autonomy while considering the diverse views and ethical considerations in this complex issue.
Principles/Character	23	Yes or No. Does the County Commission have the legal authority to implement a mask or Vaccine mandate?	Yes	The County Commission has the legal authority to implement mask or vaccine mandates as part of public health measures to safeguard the community, especially during health crises. However, it's important to balance such measures with respect for individual freedoms and personal choice.
Constitutional	24	Does the Federal government have the "right" or the "authority" to take away your individual rights? YES or NO.	No	Individual rights are protected by the Constitution, and the federal government should not infringe upon these rights without due process and lawful justification.

Constitutional	25	Where do our individual rights come from?		Our individual rights are rooted in the concept of natural rights, which are inherent to all individuals by virtue of being human. These rights are not granted by any government or document but are understood to be universal and inalienable. Documents such as the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights formalize and protect these natural rights, ensuring that they are recognized and upheld within our legal system. They reflect our fundamental freedoms and liberties, which are essential to our dignity and autonomy as individuals.
Constitutional	26	What is the role of government in the lives of "free citizens?"		The role of government in the lives of free citizens is to protect fundamental rights and freedoms while maintaining a balance between necessary functions and limited intervention. Government should safeguard individual rights such as life, liberty, and property, ensuring that these freedoms are upheld without unnecessary interference. Additionally, it is responsible for providing essential services and infrastructure that support the well-being and functioning of society, including public safety, education, and healthcare. Government must also administer a fair and effective legal system to resolve disputes and enforce laws, all while respecting citizens' rights. Efficient and transparent management of taxpayer dollars is crucial, ensuring that government actions align with principles of responsible stewardship and effective investment. Furthermore, maintaining open communication with the public is key, as the government needs to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its constituents. In essence, the government should operate within the framework established by the Founding Fathers, balancing the protection of individual freedoms with the provision of essential services. It should act as a servant to the people, focusing on its core responsibilities while avoiding overreach.
Constitutional	27	What is the US Constitutional role of the County Commissioner?		A County Commissioner's role under the U.S. Constitution is to uphold and protect the fundamental rights of citizens, with a strong emphasis on ensuring due process. This means guaranteeing that every individual is given fair treatment under the law, including their right to a fair hearing and legal representation. Commissioners are responsible for enforcing laws and policies that align with constitutional principles, ensuring that no action or policy undermines citizens' due process rights. They must also be vigilant in safeguarding these rights against any infringements from state or federal actions. By prioritizing due process, Commissioners help maintain justice and protect the liberties of their constituents, ensuring that local governance respects and upholds the core values of the Constitution.
Constitutional	28	What was the legal compact (contract between the 13 "Independent Nation States" that created the Federal Government?		The legal compact between the 13 independent states that initially formed the Federal Government was the Articles of Confederation. This agreement, adopted in 1781, established a loose confederation of sovereign states with a weak central authority, providing a framework for cooperation among the states while preserving their independence and authority. The Articles of Confederation served as the first constitution of the United States until it was replaced by the current U.S. Constitution in 1789, which created a stronger federal government with more centralized powers.
Constitutional	29	Does the Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the US Constitution give the Federal Government and the Supreme Court the ultimate power to determine the constitutionality of any law passed by Congress?	Yes	The Supremacy Clause in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution indeed establishes that federal law is the "supreme law of the land" and takes precedence over conflicting state laws. However, the practical application of this principle can be complex. While the Supreme Court has the authority to review and determine the constitutionality of laws, the balance between federal and state power often leads to debates and differing interpretations, as seen in cases like <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and issues surrounding gun laws and marijuana regulation. The Court's decisions can shape federal and state policies, but states sometimes have the authority to address certain issues independently within the framework of federal law. This dynamic illustrates the ongoing tension between state sovereignty and federal authority.
Constitutional	30	What are the basic differences between Keynesian economic theory and Austrian economic theory? How has this affected our country? What is your basic economic philosophy?		Keynesian and Austrian economic theories represent two distinct approaches to managing economies, each with its strengths and weaknesses. Keynesian Economics emphasizes government intervention to manage economic cycles and stabilize growth. It advocates for increased government spending during downturns and reducing it during booms. This approach aims to mitigate unemployment and stimulate demand, but critics argue that excessive intervention can lead to inefficiencies and higher debt. Austrian Economics, on the other hand, champions a free market with minimal government interference. It emphasizes the role of individual decision-making, savings, and entrepreneurship in driving economic growth. Austrians argue that government intervention often distorts market signals and creates inefficiencies. In response to the impact of these theories, it's clear that both have influenced the economic policies and performance of various countries. While the Austrian model supports a free market and limited government intervention, it is important to recognize that balanced approaches can sometimes be more effective. The challenge is finding a middle ground that supports innovation and market efficiency while also addressing market failures and ensuring a stable economic environment. My economic philosophy aligns with a pragmatic approach. I value the efficiency and innovation that a free market can foster but also recognize that certain situations may require targeted interventions to address specific challenges. Balancing these perspectives can help create a more robust and adaptable economic strategy.
Constitutional	31	Do the States have the authority to limit the federal government to its constitutional boundaries? Why or Why not?	Yes	Yes, States have the authority to challenge federal actions that they believe exceed constitutional boundaries, as supported by the Tenth Amendment. This amendment reserves powers not granted to the federal government, or prohibited to the States, to the States or the people. This principle allows States to assert their rights and push back against federal overreach through legislation, legal challenges, or political action... In practice, while the Constitution and federal law generally take precedence over state laws, States can and do challenge federal actions they perceive as unconstitutional. Such challenges often lead to legal battles that are ultimately resolved by the Supreme Court, which has the final authority on constitutional matters. This system is designed to ensure that both federal and state governments operate within their respective constitutional limits, though the effectiveness of state challenges can vary depending on the issue and the political climate... In Collier County, as in many areas, local resolutions and ordinances have been passed to safeguard against federal overreach, reflecting a proactive stance on maintaining constitutional boundaries. However, the real impact and enforceability of these measures can be complex and subject to legal scrutiny.
Constitutional	32	Would you support a congressional law that defines the General Welfare Clause based on the "Original Intent of our Founders?" YES or NO.	Yes	Yes, I would support a congressional law that seeks to define the General Welfare Clause based on the original intent of our Founders. The General Welfare Clause allows Congress to tax and spend for the general welfare of the United States, but its interpretation has broadened over time. By clarifying this clause in line with the Founders' original vision, we can ensure that federal spending and legislative actions stay true to the principles and limitations envisioned during the Constitution's drafting. This approach would provide greater clarity and stability, preserving the balance between federal and state authority while upholding the foundational values of the Constitution.
Constitutional	33	Why does the Bill of Rights include the 9th and 10th Amendments? Explain each and why they are both part of the US Constitution.		The 9th and 10th Amendments in the Bill of Rights play crucial roles in safeguarding individual liberties and defining the scope of federal power. 9th Amendment: This amendment clarifies that the listing of specific rights in the Constitution does not mean that other unlisted rights are denied or diminished. It ensures that the enumeration of certain rights should not be used to argue that other fundamental rights do not exist or are not protected.
Constitutional	34	What does the "well-regulated militia" phrase mean in the Second Amendment?		The Second Amendment grants individual citizens the right to bear arms, with the possibility of reasonable regulation. The "well-regulated militia" phrase in the Second Amendment is often interpreted to mean that the right to bear arms is linked to the concept of a well-organized and trained group of citizens for the purpose of national defense. However, the core intent of the Amendment is to protect the individual's right to keep and bear arms without infringement. This right is seen as fundamental for personal self-defense and for ensuring that citizens can contribute to the defense of their country. Despite this, there has been significant debate and variation in gun laws across states, leading to different interpretations and implementations of this right. The challenge lies in balancing this constitutional right with measures that address public safety and prevent misuse of firearms.

Constitutional	35	What does "shall not be infringed" mean?		"Shall not be infringed" means that the government is prohibited from restricting or interfering with the meaningful exercise of a right. In the context of the Second Amendment, it signifies that the government cannot impose unreasonable limitations on an individual's right to keep and bear arms.
Constitutional	36	In your opinion, what are 2 current examples of the most egregious Federal overreach to Constitutional powers that effect you as a County Commissioner and what is your proposed remedy to each?		Example 1: Lake Okeechobee and the Army Corps of Engineers: One current example of federal overreach is the management of Lake Okeechobee by the Army Corps of Engineers. Their actions have caused significant economic and ecological harm to our region. To address this, I propose advocating for state-led management and restoration efforts. This approach would allow for more localized control and solutions tailored to our specific needs, potentially improving both the environmental and economic outcomes. Example 2: Government Bank Bailouts: Another example is the federal government's handling of bank bailouts, which disproportionately benefited those responsible for the financial crisis while burdening taxpayers. This action is seen as a violation of the General Welfare Clause. To prevent similar situations in the future, I support legislation that imposes stricter regulations on bailouts and ensures that future financial crises are managed in a way that does not unfairly impact the public.
Constitutional	37	What formal training have you had to study the US Constitution?		My understanding of the U.S. Constitution comes from a combination of public school education and extensive self-study. My formal education provided the foundational knowledge of constitutional principles, while my self-study has included detailed examinations of historical documents, legal commentaries, and current interpretations. This dual approach has allowed me to develop a nuanced understanding of the Constitution's role in governance and the rights it guarantees.
Constitutional	38	Many believe the US Constitution is a living, breathing document. What is your view and why?		I believe the U.S. Constitution is a fixed legal framework that should be interpreted based on the original intent of its framers. While some view it as a "living, breathing document" subject to evolving interpretations, I argue that adhering to the principles and meanings established by the Founders is crucial for maintaining stability and continuity in governance. The Constitution serves as the enduring framework within which sound laws and policies should be developed.
Constitutional	39	Do you support Article 1, section 8 of Florida's Constitution, including the exception that makes it unique to most of the 50 states?	Yes	Yes, I support Article 1, Section 8 of Florida's Constitution. Although I believe the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides the fundamental rights needed, Article 1, Section 8 of Florida's Constitution adds specific provisions relevant to our state. It protects the right to bear arms while allowing for certain regulations, such as those related to the manner of bearing arms, including the exception for trading in handguns.
Constitutional	40	Describe what guides your moral compass.		My moral compass is guided by the Golden Rule: treating others as I would like to be treated. This principle aligns with a broader ethical framework that values empathy, respect, and fairness. It is also reinforced by my belief in the importance of kindness and understanding in all interactions.
Constitutional	41	Name three primary principles from the US Constitution that will guide you as our County Commissioner? Explain.		As your County Commissioner, I will be guided by three fundamental principles derived from the U.S. Constitution. First, Due Process will be central to my approach, ensuring that every citizen's rights are safeguarded and that they have the opportunity to be heard. This principle is vital for maintaining fairness and justice in our legal and administrative processes. Second, I will staunchly support Free Speech. This right is essential for a healthy democracy, promoting open dialogue and debate which are crucial for informed decision-making and holding the government accountable. Finally, Transparency will be a key value in my role. I am committed to ensuring that government records and proceedings are accessible to the public, as transparency is crucial for building trust and accountability within our community. By adhering to these principles, I strive to support effective and ethical governance.
Constitutional	42	What is your understanding of "State Sovereignty?"		State Sovereignty means that states have the power and authority to govern themselves and create their own laws and policies, as long as they don't conflict with federal laws. While states can handle many issues independently, they must do so within the constraints set by the U.S. Constitution. This principle allows states to address local concerns and manage their affairs while recognizing that some areas of governance are shared with or overseen by the federal government.
Constitutional	43	In your opinion what is the most important clause in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights?		In my opinion, the most important clauses from each of America's foundational documents embody the core values essential to our democracy. From the Declaration of Independence, the clause stating, "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor," is particularly significant. This pledge reflects the Founders' deep commitment to the principles of liberty and self-governance, highlighting their readiness to risk everything to secure the ideals of freedom and justice. In the Constitution, the Preamble stands out for its fundamental importance. It begins with "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." This introductory statement outlines the overarching goals of the Constitution, setting the stage for its purpose and the principles that guide the federal government. Finally, in the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment is crucial for preserving individual freedoms. It asserts that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This amendment guarantees essential liberties that are fundamental to a democratic society. Each of these clauses represents principles that are integral to protecting individual rights and ensuring effective governance.
Constitutional	44	Would you support the repeal of the 17th Amendment? Why or Why not?	No	I would not support the repeal of the 17th Amendment. The direct election of senators is crucial for ensuring that they remain accountable to the people they represent. It aligns with the principle of democratic participation, allowing citizens to have a direct say in their federal representation and helping to keep senators responsive to the needs and concerns of their constituents. While there are arguments for restoring state legislatures' role in electing senators, I believe that the current system promotes greater accountability and engagement in the democratic process.
Constitutional	45	Have you read these primary source documents from our nation's founding? 1100 Charter of Liberties, Magna Carta , The Petition of Right of 1628, The Grand Remonstrance, Bill of Rights of 1689, US Declaration and Constitution, The Original Federalists Papers, The Original Anti-Federalist Papers	No	While I haven't read all the primary source documents listed, I have studied key texts such as the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Magna Carta. These foundational documents are central to understanding American governance and legal principles, and I am committed to deepening my knowledge of them.
Final	46	Do you agree to have your answers published for public review?	Yes	I am committed to transparency and am willing to have my answers published for public review.