



2020 Board of County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire:

Post-Candidate Forum: The Questions that Were Not Asked

The following questions were posed by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee members and Chamber members but could not be asked at the recent BOCC Candidates Forum due to time limitations. As a candidate, we ask that you submit your responses and email them to ardath@citruscountychamber.com by end of business on Friday, July 17. We will post your responses on the Chamber website as you write them, with no editing:

Your Name: *Holly Davis*

Candidate District #: *District 5*

1. What are your thoughts about the way the County is dispensing the CARES Act funds for small businesses?

I believe they are handling it appropriately. I've been spreading the word among the small business owners I know who qualify.

2. Are you knowledgeable about the regulations related to planning and development in Citrus County? What is your view of the way the Land Development Division is being managed at this time?

I am well on my way to understanding P&D regulations, and my academic and professional background would suggest that I will be successful in becoming thoroughly knowledgeable. I attended last week's PDC meeting (no other candidates there), as well as substantial ongoing studying and coaching. The thorny issue we face is that there are few large parcels of land left in the county, most are already platted and sold to individual owners under Euclidean zoning (single-use), which has fallen out of favor in today's times due to being rigid, car-centric and encouraging sprawl. It is difficult, but not impossible, to shape growth strategically at a high level with this situation while (of course)

respecting property rights. This is one reason it's so critical to have skilled businesspeople on the BOCC. It can be done!

Regarding any county staff, I have gone on record repeatedly as saying that the chain of command must be followed, therefore I will not comment on any LDD management publicly. I believe that county staff as a whole has been pulled in different directions, and may be afraid to push forward with vision and action for the future. To my mind, the BOCC must pull together to iron out any differences, set a unified policy, and then give their two direct reports (county administrator and attorney) the opportunity to manage the success of that policy. If they fail, they should be held accountable, no different than any corporate CEO/board of directors relationship.

3. Many citizens have said that one of the most pressing problems in our county is the condition of our residential roads, especially Citrus Springs. There are homes on the golf course and new construction homes that are on roads that are crumbling. How do you plan on addressing this issue?

We have 2300 miles of county roads, and to resurface every 40 years is estimated to be \$8.4 million in today's dollars (and 40 years is too long for most roads.) We do not have nearly the gas taxes currently to cover the \$8.4 million, and between the trifecta rise of telework, fuel efficiency, and electric vehicles, the math is only going to get worse. We must seek alternate sources of funding, and stop kicking this can down the (potholed!) road. One program that might be one part of a multi-faceted solution is to reimagine the Limerock Road paving program of the 90s.

4. What proactive ideas do you have for any of the topics below:

- Affordable Housing - Low Income Housing
This is a keystone issue that, if addressed, would have a positive effect on multiple needs in the county, including your next two questions (drug addiction and homelessness).

There are two nonprofits already in this county that provide affordable housing for workforce needs, and for low-income seniors and disabled individuals. The county needs to work with them cooperatively to support their efforts. We should incentivize development of lower-cost housing integrated throughout the county, from apartments to condos/townhomes, to “tiny homes”.

Done right, this sort of housing creates opportunities and stability, a “rising tide that raises all boats” in the county – from children to seniors, from minimum wage workers to business owners who benefit from a more stable workforce and healthier community

- **Local Drug Addiction Resources**

We do not have an in-county mental health facility, which is very much needed. Having even a triage center where citizens can be evaluated (short term crisis or need for Baker Act?) will reduce the drain on other resources, and most importantly, provide better service to those in need. If you are addicted to drugs and want help, there are too many roadblocks... piecemealed services exist, but there is no “one-stop-shop” place that provides an integrated solution to foster recovery and reentry into a productive life.

It should also be noted that Citrus has historically tracked several points above the state in unemployment. Becoming business-friendly as a county will bring additional jobs and therefore give hope to those on the margins.

- Homeless persons and keeping homelessness to a minimum in our county. *“Housing is health”... providing a stable home and services to re-integrate the homeless has far-reaching benefits for both the citizen and society at large. There are quality agencies that work on this issue, most predominately the local Mid Florida Homeless Coalition (MFHC), and United Way. It’s just awful that many homeless are veterans, and I applaud the coming Veteran’s Village. I would seek and support more efforts like that, through the aforementioned agencies or other groups.*

- Using the tourism tax on something besides marketing? (Examples: Using the funds for more than an “invitation” to our waterways and activities on the water; such as infrastructure that is needed for the persons that come here, additional restrooms, parking and safety resources, or maybe a conference/community center for corporate meetings and such.

As someone who grew up on Crystal River and still drives a boat there, I know the pain of locals who feel overrun with the success of the TDC’s marketing campaign. Yet, I am happy for the business growth in the community. I absolutely think the tourism dollars should be used for more than marketing (and this is from a marketing firm owner!), for two reasons.

(1) As a marketing professional, I would say that “product improvement” from profits is a good thing... customer happiness is key to getting them to give good reviews and for repeat business. And (2) we must ensure that locals see the tourism as being more positive than negative. If they see their own amenities increase without adding to their tax bill, that would help.

As with most everything, balance is key.

5. Under what conditions do you believe government has a right to infringe on constitutional rights? Please explain how you would apply this when considering how to restrict funds and public access to periodicals in the library (Example: New York Times subscription) ; and how you would apply it when faced with a pandemic.

“Virtually never” is the short answer re: constitutional rights. Yet we must remember that individual rights are granted within a societal framework... “my right to swing my fist ends where your face begins” is a classic metaphor. A great example is mandatory evacuations for a hurricane. The key is that the breadth and scope of the action itself and the timeline are both within reason. If either is not, checks and balances provide for a court system to restrict government overstepping its bounds.

Regarding our library system (with the stipulation that they cannot afford to provide access to every single resource in the world): we have a director of library systems with a master’s degree in library science, which is required for a job of this stature. His job is to ensure he serves the needs of this community, many of whom want to read the NYT. Furthermore, a digital version (1) makes it easier to perform research (2) ecologically a good decision. Let the director run his system, don’t get into the weeds of micromanaging his budget.

Pandemic: I assume the Chamber is wanting a more nuanced answer here than provided by the luncheon’s lightning round “yes or no, would you vote for a mask mandate”. I am pleased for the opportunity to provide fuller answer for what is a difficult situation.

*My career requires a deep understanding of human nature, and how to motivate people to take a particular action. I categorically do not *want* a mask mandate. Human nature says many will mutiny, and it will be difficult to enforce. I would much prefer that leadership get on the same page for *encouraging* the use of masks.*

*Folks can argue about the severity of the pandemic and the efficacy of masks all day long, but we need to de-politicize this issue, and focus on one unifying truth: Whether by government action (rolling back the reopening, e.g. bars already), or by human nature (many more choosing to stay home versus leave the house and spend money with local business), *reported numbers continuing to rise will substantially and negatively impact businesses.* I will choose the small price of wearing a mask over further damage to business owners and their employees any day, they've been hurt far too much already.*

6. Barring unforeseen family and health issues -if elected do you commit to serve your complete 4-year term?

Absolutely. I have no aspirations to continue past the county level in politics. I am here to serve my fellow citizens, and make a positive difference for my Citrus County home's future.