

# Pine Ridge Candidate Forum

June 18, 2024



**Board of County  
Commissioners  
Candidates  
Questions**

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# QUESTION 1

Influence

On behalf of Pine Ridge we'd like to know what measure of weight you will give to those who contribute money to your campaign compared to those everyday people who follow the issues and vote but don't or can't contribute.

***How do you personally square that regarding issues of importance to voters?***





# QUESTION 2

Census

According to Census data Citrus has a population of 155,000. The work force is at 49,000.

The median age in Pine Ridge is 65 years old.

This makes us a community of seniors who have been supporting Citrus through our retirement funds, pensions and social security during our sunset years

***If elected or reelected, how will you provide essential services to both an aging population and to those younger folks we need to attract?***

***Emphasis on BOTH please.***





# QUESTION 3

Developers

We elect leaders to effectively represent our voice to county and state government.

We can't overstate how we all know Citrus has been found by developers. Developers advise they provide essential services regarding business, commercial structures, housing and infrastructure.

All is important to our changing social and physical environment

***As our elected voices, how will you protect the interests of existing tax paying residents who have been supporting the existing infrastructure for years and years?***



An aerial photograph of a community center complex, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The complex includes a large building on the left, a central parking lot with several cars, and two tennis courts in the foreground. A winding path leads from the parking area towards a body of water on the right. The background is a dense forest.

# QUESTION 4

Nature Coast

Citrus County **IS** the Nature Coast. The term Nature Coast has different meanings to different interests.

Pine Ridge was built based on equestrian, golfing and nature interests.

There is so much growth on the way we are at risk of 'paving over paradise'.

We see a county government anxious to accommodate developers

How can the BOCC provide improved oversight to the PDC and the Land Growth Management Division to ensure resident needs are considered with the same weight as Developer wants?





# QUESTION 5

Traffic

A major concern within Pine Ridge Estates is the almost nonexistent traffic enforcement from the Sheriff's Office.

We can expect this to get worse once the Suncoast/486 interchange becomes operational.

In the Sheriff's Office prioritization process, Pine Ridge comes up short. Part of the reason is we are considered a safe community.

Traffic regulation isn't a major variable compared to other higher priorities elsewhere. Vehicular, pedestrian and equestrian concerns are something we live with every day

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***We'd like to know how a positive relationship with the Office of the Sheriff can be cultivated providing the increased staffing necessary for public and traffic safety?***





# QUESTION 6

Equestrian

Pine Ridge has twenty eight miles of horse trails spread through equestrian homesteads on the west side of our community. +  
There are eight color coded trails as platted in the Master Plan. We •  
have forty street crossings and most are not on main thoroughfares.

But five cross Pine Ridge and two cross Mustang Boulevards.

This is already dangerous but even more so when the interchange goes operational Not being able to safely cross these main roads effectively isolates our equestrians, reducing travel distance

***If elected or reelected will you work collaboratively with our State Representatives to ensure the safety of equestrians at these main road crossings?***





# QUESTION 7

Roads

Please explain how the backlog of needed county road improvements will be addressed.

In the past the requirement of high density has meant Pine Ridge Estates, a low density community---even though your largest subdivision at 25 square miles, nearing 12,000 people with 140 miles of roads---has always come up last for road improvements

***If elected or reelected,  
how will you make Pine  
Ridge Estates a BOCC  
priority regarding road  
surfacing?***



# QUESTION 8

Roads



Pine Ridge has some of the worst roads in Citrus County. This is partly due to previous BOCC decisions making high density communities a priority.

Last September our ad valorem taxes increased almost 20% for 2024.

Part of the justification was to fund road resurfacing countywide on a 20-year cycle. So far there's been no progress in Pine Ridge while bad roads continue to worsen.

***As a County Commissioner,  
how will you jump start  
resurfacing Pine Ridge roads,  
continuing the 20 year cycle  
even though a low density  
community?***



# QUESTION 9

Natural Resources

Folks working on how to save the golf course property from a developer have discovered how Pine Ridge is a unique gem having been protected by both the original Master Plan and the Fish and Wildlife designation as a bird sanctuary

***When elected or reelected how will you work with Pine Ridge Estates, Citrus County and the State of Florida to ensure our natural resources, unique to Pine Ridge remain a priority?***



# QUESTION 10

Highways

A few years back there was consistent chatter regarding the extension of the Florida Turnpike while also pushing the Suncoast Parkway north to Georgia.

An East to West Toll Road was proposed to connect them. One connector model had it routed through Citrus County and right through the center of Pine Ridge and Citrus Springs. Just because there is no chatter now, doesn't mean the FDOT planners aren't planning.

The BOCC after months of hesitation passed a resolution against the corridor in Citrus.



***What is your position regarding building the proposed East West Corridor and how will you protect Pine Ridge and Citrus Springs?***







# QUESTION 11

Growth

The water level in our aquifer and local springs are shrinking from outflows. Simultaneously, we are experiencing rapid growth and development continuing well into the future. This translates into tens of thousands of people, houses, apartments, businesses, infrastructure, public services, etc. The rapid growth and development will demand even more water, putting our water supply at risk.



***As a County Commissioner, how do you plan to manage our county's rapid growth ensuring our ground water and springs meet our water supply needs while maintaining healthy natural systems---and why haven't developer impact fees been a part of the solution?***



# QUESTION 12

Consultants

As of late Citrus County Staff  
has outsourced much of the  
planning to consultants on a  
myriad of issues regarding  
future growth



***If elected or reelected what will be your position regarding County Staff spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on consultants--- and should there be a cap?***