

Pine Ridge Candidate Forum

June 18, 2024



**State
Representatives
Candidates
Questions**





QUESTION 1

Water

The water level in our aquifer is in decline 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 State Representative, how will you work to ensure our ground water and springs meet our water needs while maintaining healthy natural systems essential to our quality of life?



QUESTION 2

Equestrians

There are over 385,000 horses in Florida making it the third largest equine state in the country.

Because of continuing growth in Florida, there has been a significant increase in horse-and-car related incidents. The Florida Bar has noted the Florida Statute (316.0825), intended to protect equestrians, contains ambiguous language.

We need stronger direct language advising drivers how they should operate their vehicles when encountering equestrians on roadways.

As our District 23 Representative, how will you work with Pine Ridge residents to sponsor a Bill that creates definitive language magnifying roadway safety for equestrians?



QUESTION 3

Insurance

Homeowner insurance continues to be on the rise. +

Some policies for owners who never had a claim have increased 50, 70 and in some instances 100%. •

According to the Insurance Information Institute, Florida homeowners insurance has more than doubled over the last three years. The average Florida policy cost is 55% above the national average. In addition, many homeowners are being dropped by their insurers. Arbitrary, so called reduction methods, have rated roofs simply by age. If more than 15 years old premiums are higher or they can drop coverage.

If elected how will you represent Citrus citizens with the ongoing problem of Florida homeowners insurance?

What is your plan based on preparing for the office of State Representative?





QUESTION 4

Roads

According to the Florida Department of Transportation's 2021 EV Infrastructure Master Plan, the increased use of electric vehicles (EVs) could reduce Florida's motor-fuel based revenue streams by 5.6–20% by 2040.

While all Counties need the gas revenue to service their roadways Citrus residents already know how behind we are compared to other counties.

Most of our roads are a hodgepodge of filled in holes and ruts. And this is only counting those already paved.

We need a collaborative relationship between the County and the State



If you are elected how will you begin resolving the current plight of Citrus roads---specifically how will you usher revenue toward the County to pave and resurface our roads?

Said another way---how do we put an intense Tallahassee spotlight on this Citrus issue?



QUESTION 5

Health Care

According to datausa.io, the median age of Pine Ridge residents is 65 years old.

We know anecdotally this number is moving downward based on the number of younger folks buying and settling.

Still, it is this aging population now in their sunset years that has been moving to Pine Ridge from around the country. For decades they have been carrying the taxpayer load

Many Pine Ridge seniors are at the end of financial plans established decades ago.



As our State Representative, how will you actively energize medical infrastructure investments and incentives to ensure the aging population of Pine Ridge has the health care they need going forward?





QUESTION 6

Environment

Citrus County has long marketed itself as the Nature Coast.

The natural resources within our county have been unique and abundant: i.e. we are the Manatee capital of the world.

We are at a pivotal point where we need to manage the expected influx of people during the next ten years while not damaging the foundation of our natural habitat.

We are nature lovers, outdoor adventurers, equestrians, golfers and hobbyists of every kind

+



As our State Representative what conservation efforts will you champion inside population areas to ensure the rush to integrate the influx of new residents doesn't damage or destroy what we already enjoy?

Please respond for Citrus County AND Pine Ridge?



QUESTION 7

Roundabouts

FDOT advises **roundabouts** are increasingly popular due to the benefits provided.

Benefits include dramatic reductions in serious injury and fatality crashes as well as reductions in delay for road users.

The Federal Highway Administration designated roundabouts as one of nine proven safety counter measures occurring in both urban and rural areas.

Pine Ridge is expecting a surge in traffic on its main Boulevards once the interchange opens.

You already know our concern regarding equestrian safety

+



When elected how will you lead discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation for the creation of roundabouts at intersections to be determined?

(We are here to help).





QUESTION 8

Traffic Safety

Traffic safety in Pine Ridge and throughout Citrus County is at the forefront of people's minds. In recent years many communities have opted for red light camera enforcement.

Just this month a community opted for stop sign traffic enforcement

Please advise the advantages and disadvantages of this technology and what your position is regarding this evolving enforcement?





QUESTION 9

Last Question

Knowing Candidate Forums are tantamount to job interviews with the public serving up the questions, sometimes the most important questions go unasked



What question would you like asked that will demonstrate how you saw a public issue which generated your action and response?

What was the issue and how did you manage it?





THANK YOU

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www.pineridgeassn.com

SAMPLE FOOTER TEXT

