

Q1. Campaign Contributions

I understand why people ask this question. Most folks work hard for their money, pay their taxes, and want to know their voice matters just as much as anyone else's.

Campaigns cost money. Mailers, signs, ads, events, and getting a message out across a county this large all cost money. I am grateful that more than 260 people have contributed to my campaign, and most of those have been smaller donations.

That support has come from a real cross-section of our community: retirees, working families, everyday citizens, small business owners, and Pine Ridge residents. To me, that is a sign of broad community support from people who care about the future of Citrus County.

But a campaign contribution does not buy my vote. It does not buy special treatment. It does not move anyone to the front of the line.

We live in America, and people have the right to support the candidates they believe in. I respect that right. I also respect the people who never give a dime but still deserve to be heard.

I will make decisions based on the facts, the law, the public record, and what is best for Citrus County. Whether someone gives \$5, gives more, or gives nothing at all, they will be treated with respect.

At the end of the day, this seat belongs to the people, not to campaign donors.

Q2. Serving Both Seniors and Younger Residents

This should not be seniors versus younger residents. A healthy Citrus County needs both.

Many of our seniors worked hard their whole lives and chose Citrus County because it felt safe, beautiful, and affordable. Now many are worried about the basics: getting to medical appointments, finding doctors and specialists, waiting for emergency services, driving on busier roads, and keeping up with rising costs on a fixed income. They deserve to know county government is paying attention.

At the same time, our younger residents need a reason to stay. Too many young people grow up here, love it here, and then feel they have to leave to find a good career. We need nurses, deputies, firefighters, teachers, tradespeople, medical workers, small business employees, and young families. Without them, seniors feel the impact too.

These issues are connected. If we do not have enough career opportunities, we will not have enough workers to provide the services our seniors depend on. If we do not protect seniors and long-time residents, we lose the people who built the foundation of this county.

County government cannot fix every problem by itself, but it can do a much better job bringing people together, planning ahead, supporting medical and workforce partnerships, improving roads and public safety, making it easier to do business, and creating an environment where people can afford to live where they work.

Citrus County should be a place where seniors can age with dignity, young people can build a future, and families can stay connected across generations.

Q3. Protecting Foundational Taxpayers

This question is personal to me because I am a long-time resident too. I understand what it feels like to love Citrus County and worry that the place we know is changing too fast.

I recently spoke with a family that has been here for generations. They love this county, but they are uncomfortable with the pace of growth and are even thinking about moving farther north. That hit me hard. We should never want the families who built Citrus County to feel like they are being pushed out of the place they helped make special.

New residents are not the enemy. Many people move here because they see the same beauty and quality of life we love. But growth has to respect the people who are already here.

Protecting long-time taxpayers means planning better. Roads, drainage, water, sewer or septic capacity, public safety, and emergency services need to be considered before growth overwhelms an area. Development should pay its fair

share so existing taxpayers are not left carrying the cost. Neighborhoods, rural character, springs, rivers, and natural spaces should be protected. Residents should be heard early, before decisions feel already made.

Citrus County should still feel like Citrus County. We can welcome new neighbors and still respect the people who have been here for decades. We can prepare for the future without forgetting who built the foundation.

Q4. Growth Management and Oversight

I understand the concern behind this question. Residents want to know whether the rules that were put in place to protect their neighborhoods still matter. They want to know whether their voices count before decisions are made, not after.

I am not an incumbent, so I cannot speak for every past decision of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). What I can say is that the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan should be treated as guardrails, not obstacles to work around. If changes are requested, they should be reviewed carefully, publicly, and with full consideration of the impact on existing residents and property owners.

Land-use hearings also have legal requirements. A Commissioner cannot simply vote based on emotion or who speaks the loudest. Decisions must be based on the law, the public record, the Comprehensive Plan, the Land Development Code, and competent evidence presented during the hearing. That protects residents too, because a decision made the wrong way may not hold up.

But following the law does not mean ignoring residents. Residents bring real knowledge about traffic, drainage, safety, flooding, neighborhood character, wildlife, roads, and daily life in their community. That information should be taken seriously and connected to the standards the county is required to apply.

The BOCC can improve oversight by requiring clearer staff reports, better notice, earlier community meetings, stronger traffic and infrastructure review, plain-language explanations of proposed changes, and enforceable conditions when projects are approved. Residents should not feel like major changes are already decided before they walk into the room.

Q5. Increasing Traffic and Public Safety Issues

Growth management should not be about finding loopholes. It should be about planning better, respecting existing communities, protecting property owners, and making sure Citrus County grows in a way that still feels like Citrus County. Pine Ridge is one of the largest residential communities in Citrus County. It is home to thousands of residents, families, retirees, property owners, and equestrians who chose Pine Ridge because of its peaceful character, open space, and quality of life.

That is why increasing traffic is such a serious concern. Pine Ridge should not become a cut-through to the expressway. When a quiet residential and equestrian community begins carrying traffic it was never intended to handle, residents are right to worry. This is about more than convenience. It is about safety, emergency response, property rights, and protecting the character of the community.

The Suncoast Parkway ramps may help regional travel, but Pine Ridge residents should not be left to deal with the consequences alone. When state transportation decisions create local impacts, Citrus County must stand up for the neighborhoods affected.

I would work with the Sheriff's Office, PRPOA, county staff, traffic engineers, our state legislators, and FDOT District Seven leadership to identify problem areas and push for solutions. That means traffic counts, speed studies, crash data, resident input, signage review, equestrian safety warnings, intersection reviews, targeted enforcement, and traffic-calming options where appropriate.

The Sheriff's Office can help with patrol visibility, speed monitoring, enforcement, and public safety education. The county and state must also work together on engineering and mitigation, because enforcement alone will not solve a road-design or traffic-flow problem.

Families should feel safe pulling out of their driveways, seniors should feel safe on their roads, riders should feel respected, and Pine Ridge should not be treated like a shortcut.

Q6. Equestrian Safety

We cannot stop every car from coming through, but we can plan better, push for mitigation, enforce the rules, and protect the residential and equestrian character that makes Pine Ridge special.

Improving safety on Pine Ridge and Mustang Boulevards should be a team effort. The BOCC, State Representative, Sheriff's Office, PRPOA, county staff, traffic engineers, and FDOT should all be at the table. No one agency or person can solve this alone.

The first step should be listening to the riders and residents who know the dangerous crossings best. Then the county should back that up with facts: traffic counts, speed studies, crash history, sight-distance review, and a close look at where riders, walkers, vehicles, and cut-through traffic are coming together.

The Sheriff's Office has an important role in enforcement and visibility. Drivers need to know they are entering a residential and equestrian community, not a shortcut. Targeted patrols, speed monitoring, and driver education can help reinforce that message.

The county and state should also work together on practical safety improvements: better equestrian crossing signs, pavement markings, warning plaques, speed review, lighting or visibility improvements where appropriate, and traffic-calming tools that meet engineering standards. If state law or FDOT rules limit what can be done, then our State Representative should help identify whether legislation, funding, or a state-level safety review is needed.

This is not about stopping people from using public roads. It is about making sure those roads are safe for the community they run through.

We should protect riders, protect families, slow unsafe traffic, and preserve the equestrian character that Pine Ridge residents value.

Q7: Road Paving Improvement

A resident should not have to live in a dense neighborhood to deserve a safe road.

Pine Ridge residents pay taxes, maintain their homes, invest in their community, and drive the same roads every day. Larger lots should not mean lower priority. A quiet, lower-density community still has families, seniors, workers, school buses,

emergency vehicles, delivery trucks, visitors, and now increasing traffic pressures from growth around the county.

I have seen this issue firsthand. While visiting Pine Ridge, I came across a road that looked like one of the worst roads I have seen in Citrus County. That should not happen in a community that contributes so much to the county and has been asking to be treated fairly.

Citrus County has many miles of roads, so we have to be honest: every road cannot be paved at once. That is exactly why the process has to be fair, clear, and based on real conditions. Road condition, traffic volume, safety, emergency access, drainage, cut-through traffic, school bus routes, equestrian use, and cost-effective timing should matter more than density alone.

I am encouraged that the county has moved toward a professional pavement management system, but a system is only as good as the formula behind it and the oversight above it. The BOCC should review how roads are scored, make the priority list public, explain the ranking in plain language, and make sure communities like Pine Ridge are not pushed down the list simply because they were designed with larger parcels.

We also need to coordinate paving with drainage, utilities, and **future traffic impacts** so taxpayer dollars are not wasted repairing roads that will be torn up again.

Take the politics and guesswork out of road paving, use fair data residents can see, and make sure Pine Ridge receives the same serious consideration as every other community in Citrus County.

Q8: Preserving Pine Ridge Natural Resources, Bird Sanctuary, Ecosystem

One of the most beautiful things about Pine Ridge is that it still feels connected to nature. The birds, trees, open space, wildlife, and quiet natural areas are not extras. They are part of the identity of the community.

When people see the birds in Pine Ridge, whether it is sandhill cranes, hawks, owls, songbirds, or wading birds passing through, they are seeing something worth

protecting. Those birds remind us that Pine Ridge is more than homes and roads. It is habitat. It is open space. It is part of the natural beauty that makes Citrus County special.

The best way to protect those resources is through cooperation, not conflict. The county should work with the Pine Ridge POA, residents, state agencies, conservation partners, and wildlife experts to identify the natural areas, bird habitat, tree canopy, wetlands, drainage features, and wildlife corridors that matter most.

That starts with mapping and documenting what makes Pine Ridge unique. Then we can look for practical tools to protect it: conservation grants, voluntary conservation easements, stronger tree and habitat protections where appropriate, stormwater improvements, education for property owners, and better review of development impacts before decisions are made.

Preservation should also respect private property rights. The goal is not to punish property owners. The goal is to protect the character of Pine Ridge in a way that is fair, thoughtful, and lasting.

Pine Ridge residents should not have to watch the very things that made them choose this community slowly disappear. Protecting the birds, natural resources, and ecosystem of Pine Ridge is about protecting quality of life, property values, and the peaceful character of the neighborhood for the next generation.

Q9: Water Resources and Growth

Water is personal in Citrus County. It is the water we drink, the aquifer beneath our homes, the springs and rivers we love, and the resource our children and grandchildren will depend on long after today's decisions are made.

I understand why Pine Ridge residents are deeply concerned about the proposed sand mine/Eastern Borrow Site. When a project raises questions about the aquifer, groundwater, wetlands, nearby wells, and long-term impacts, residents are right to ask hard questions before permits move forward. Once water is harmed, we may not get a second chance to fix it.

As a BMAP stakeholder, the county should be active, prepared, and persistent. BMAP work is often focused on reducing pollution that harms our springs, but protecting water has to be bigger than checking a box. It means coordinating with FDEP, SWFWMD, county staff, scientists, residents, and state partners so local concerns are heard and the best information is part of the record.

Residents should not have to become environmental experts just to protect the water under their homes. County government should help make the process clearer, demand transparency, review the science carefully, and push for public workshops when a project could affect groundwater, springs, wetlands, or drinking water.

Developer impact fees should also be part of the broader growth conversation. Growth should help pay for the infrastructure it requires, including roads, public safety, parks, stormwater, utilities, and water-related improvements where legally allowed. Existing taxpayers should not be left carrying the cost of growth that strains our systems.

Protecting water means planning before damage is done. It means septic-to-sewer where appropriate, advanced septic where needed, better stormwater practices, conservation of sensitive lands, and serious review of projects that could affect the aquifer.

Citrus County can grow, but not at the expense of the water that makes this place home. Our aquifer, springs, rivers, wetlands, private wells, and drinking water must be protected for the families who live here today and the generations who will depend on them tomorrow.

Q10: Funding Essential Services

Growth is not just about rooftops. It is about whether the people who live here have the services they need to feel safe, cared for, and supported.

When more people move into Citrus County, the need for law enforcement, fire rescue, EMS, healthcare access, schools, roads, utilities, and parks grows too. These are not luxuries. These are basic needs. A family should know help will come when they call 911. A senior should be able to access medical care. A child should have safe roads, good schools, and a community that planned for their future.

This is especially important in the Central Ridge area, where much of the county's growth has been directed because past planning placed infrastructure and services there. But even in a planned service area, we have to ask an honest question: are we growing faster than our ability to serve the people already here and the people still coming?

County government has to know the difference between needs and wants. Public safety, roads, EMS, fire protection, water, sewer, stormwater, and essential infrastructure must come first. Nice-to-have projects should not outrank the services people depend on every day.

Existing taxpayers will always help fund core services because that is part of living in a community. But existing residents should not be asked to carry the full cost of new growth. Growth should pay more of its own way through impact fees, utility connection fees, grants, state and federal dollars, developer agreements, and every legal tool available.

I would not support increased density or intensity unless the county can clearly show the infrastructure capacity, service impact, and funding plan. Growth should not move faster than our ability to serve it.

We also need better long-term planning. That means regular workshops with the Sheriff, Fire Rescue, EMS, the School District, healthcare providers, state agencies, county staff, and private partners before problems become emergencies. We should be planning fire stations, road improvements, EMS capacity, healthcare access, and workforce needs before residents feel the pain.

Fund needs before wants, plan before approving more pressure on our systems, and make sure growth helps pay for the services it requires.

Citrus County residents should not be asked to accept more growth without a clear plan to keep this community safe, healthy, and livable.

Bonus Question:

I see myself as an extension of my constituency. The government works for the people, not the other way around.

People often ask me whether being a County Commissioner is a full-time job. My answer is always, “If you are doing it right, it is.” That may not be the shortest answer, but it is the honest one.

A Commissioner should not only show up for meetings, vote, and go home. The real work happens by listening before the meeting, doing the homework, asking questions, following up, and staying connected to the people affected by those decisions.

That is why community service has always mattered to me. Serving in local organizations, volunteering, working with small businesses, and having everyday conversations with residents have kept me grounded. My Citrus First Conversations were created for that same reason: to sit down with people, hear what is on their minds, and better understand what they are experiencing in their neighborhoods.

I will never pretend to have all the answers. My husband can confirm I am still working on that. But I do believe in showing up, listening, learning, and working hard to solve problems.

My approach is simple. I’ll stay connected to the people, oversee government with common sense, and remember that every decision should start with the residents who call Citrus County home.