

1 List your top three priorities and discuss how you would address them.

1. **Improve economic health** by creating a Citizen Utility Advisory Board so that the people/owners/customers may have a direct voice and more control over the cost of utilities. Reduce taxes, fees and the costs and delays of permitting.
2. **Control the budget** by developing a formula designed to limit its growth to an adjustable, up or down, percentage that accurately reflects our local market trends and economic conditions. This is necessary because over the past 15 years, the County budget and property tax collections have grown at a rate far beyond our population growth and average wages. The formula shall include variables such as the unemployment rate, mortgage foreclosures, average wages, vacancy rates, permitting activity and sales tax collections. This knowledge will improve the Commission's understanding so that it can quickly respond with tax relief for homeowners and business owners during downturns in the economy. In addition, it will impose discipline, limit budget politics and give more predictability for property taxpayers.
3. **Engage the community** by committing to regularly scheduled town hall and neighborhood meetings. By doing this, I can keep in touch and learn about issues that the County Commission, in its more formal meetings, may not hear about. 200 words

2 Would you raise taxes or fees to balance the budget? Would you make cuts to services, programs or personnel?

I do not support raising taxes or fees. We are still in a recession and many of our neighbors, families and businesses are in financial distress. There were 1,981 foreclosures in Leon County last year more than double two years earlier. Commercial and residential building has plummeted, resulting in business failures and leaving hundreds of people out of work. The government must continue to find ways to give relief to struggling families. The County must reduce administrative cost, non-essential expenditures, travel and training,

delay some projects and purchases and use the reserve fund to keep taxes as low as possible. 100 words

3 How would you address economic development?

I would initiate discussions with the city, state, federal government and the private sector to develop a home-grown, conceptual plan of development for a recreational, leisure entertainment industry, working in harmony with our natural environment, strategically located and combined with existing assets such as Cascades Park, Fairgrounds, St. Marks Trail and underutilized adjacent lands. With a sincere commitment from all levels of government and the use of meaningful financial incentives, the downside risks can be minimized and a new economic engine may emerge to produce sustainable jobs, promote tourism, desirable growth, community health and return government property to taxable status.

100 words

4 Do you see any benefit to consolidating city/county services?

Perhaps? I support an exploration of the merger of city and county services if there is a sincere desire to seek what is best for the community and a willingness to commit the resources to an independent examination of the question. The goal: Develop a process whereby the merger of administrative functions, personnel and facilities may be achieved. In the end, the people of Leon County must be convinced that a merger would actually produce improvements in their public safety, political representation, savings in taxes and fees and an acceptable level of services before they would agree to such a proposition.

100 words