

# County Commissioner

## Candidate Questions - 2022

**Name:** Christopher George Constance

**Date:** July 12, 2022

### **What role should the county play in economic development?**

Charlotte County has an Economic Development Office which answers directly to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners. It is responsible for attracting businesses that will bring good high-paying jobs to the area and expand the tax base. Their other mission is to focus on retention of our current small business base. Helping those businesses grow and thrive, so they can increase job opportunities in our area. We must work to keep regulations low to encourage the small business sector and the creation of those jobs. Continuing to work with the Economic Development Partnership and all three chambers of commerce are critically important and the best ways the county can obtain strategic guidance and help support economic development.

### **Do you support the extension of the penny sales tax? Why or why not?**

I support the will of the people. We, in Charlotte County, have been blessed with citizens who have seen the value of the penny sales tax. Every six years we allow the voters to decide if they have made a good investment. The annual revenue has steadily increased over the years allowing us to accomplish a great deal with the funding we have been fortunate enough to secure. Many of our facilities and infrastructure projects would not have gotten done were it not for the generosity of the voters.

### **What are you the right choice for County Commissioner?**

I have a proven track record of leadership and experience. I work every day to keep our taxes low while maintaining excellent service, support law enforcement to keep our community safe and protect our seniors, and ensure resources are available to protect our environment and quality of life. I have served continuously on the Metropolitan Planning Organization and developed an excellent relationship with each Florida Department of Transportation District Secretary in order to maximize funding for transportation infrastructure. I have represented the commission on the Tourist Development Council for many years, helping with strategy and support, and the Peace River Water Authority to make sure Charlotte County negotiates the best agreements possible. Throughout the years in my role as a servant leader, I have strived to make the best decisions to help all of the citizens of Charlotte County to have a better life.