



Candidate Profile - City Commission

Name Christopher Proia

Office Seeking Florida State Senate, District 27

Do you currently reside in the district?

Years lived in Lakeland? 0

Campaign Address 2252 Clifford Street
Fort Myers, Florida, 33901

Campaign Phone Number (239) 384-4896

Campaign Email ChristopherProia.FLStateSenate@gmail.com

Campaign Website Working on it

Party Affiliation Democrat

Education
High school graduate

Occupation Truck Driver, Caregiver, Stand-up comedian

Employer Multiple

Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?

Have you ever run for office before?

Describe your civic involvement:

I've always been willing to volunteer my time and energy to those closest to me. Recent events have shown me that clearly that isn't enough and I need to serve at the pleasure of the people.

List any Boards on which you serve, including positions of leadership

As a blue collar worker, I've not been on any Boards as of yet. I plan on educating myself on the issues that are most important to workers.

Describe your political involvement:

Other than voting, this is my first real foray into politics. But I think this is my greatest strength because it will guarantee that I will do things differently than my predecessors and opponent.

Why are you running for office?

Again, as a typical, average blue collar worker, I am very passionate about making sure that we're getting taken care of.

For this reason, my number one goal in office is to reduce Income Inequality.

In 2020, the ratio of CEO-to-typical-worker compensation was 351-to-1; that is up from 307-to-1 in 2019, 61-to-1 in 1989 and 21-to-1 in 1965.

Effects of income inequality include higher rates of crime and death, lower rates of social goods and population-wide satisfaction and happiness and even a lower level of economic growth when human capital is neglected for high-end consumption.

Had the more equitable income distributions of the three decades following World War II (1945 through 1974) merely held steady, the aggregate annual income of Americans earning below the 90th percentile would have been \$2.5 trillion higher in the year 2018 alone. That is enough to more than double median income

It's enough to pay every single working American in the bottom 90% an additional \$1,144 a month. Every month. Every single year.

This is the single thread that, once unraveled, can lead to the most amount of positive change in our country.

Another issue I feel strongly about is enacting universal health care.

According to The Hill, 22 different studies have shown that Medicare for All would save all of us money and offer comprehensive health coverage.

Allowing people to remain healthy and not have to stress over medical bills would go a long way towards a well balanced society.

In conclusion, I would like to see a revival of the American Dream that includes all of us. A rising tide lifts all ships. When we all feel seen and heard, then there is hope for the future.

So join me as I take on the corrupt, extremist MAGA establishment that is deeply rooted here in Florida. Let's get them out and get people with common sense in so we can bring about the change to make this this state, this country, and this world a better place for generations to come. Thank you!

What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing the City (listing in order of importance)? If elected, when would you plan to address these issues and hope to see them accomplished?

I.

Income inequality. I would address this immediately. I would work with my fellow Senate to better the lives of everyone and not just the top 1% I would hope to accomplish passing major labor bill in my first month

II.

Healthcare. Again i would be working on this immediately. I could see a bill within the first month a possibility as well.

III.

Free college. Again, this is a highly important issue. Again, I plan on getting a bill regarding this issue on the floor within the first month

Rank the following as you see their current order of importance for the City of Lakeland:

1: Job Creation & Economic Development

2: Improving roads and infrastructure

3: Improving public safety

4: Reducing taxes and government spending

During an economic downturn, how should the Lakeland City Commission handle increasing and decreasing City tax revenues caused by the normal economic cycle? You may check more than one choice. Depending on your choice/choices, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

Other

Depending on your choice/choices above, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

As your typical blue collar worker, I've noticed that these economic downturns are simply ways for the rich to consolidate their wealth while the rest of us suffer. This is causing these economic downturns to happen more rapidly. Therefore I would do the opposite of what we've been doing and focus on making sure that our working class is taken care of during the downturns and keep more equitable distributions of resources available.

What do you believe are the main issues facing Lakeland's downtown urban core?

Income inequality- this will be my main focus

Water quality

Equal rights for all humans

Infrastructure

How are some ways government can encourage and support entrepreneurship?

I feel that government could cut some of the red tape and add funding for small businesses, while making sure large businesses are fairly taxed

What is your opinion on government providing incentives to businesses?

I feel like small businesses should be provided with more incentives and easier access. While large businesses have things figured out, small businesses need all the support and care a properly functioning government can and should give them.

How can the City of Lakeland help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?

If we're talking specifically Lakeland, to be honest, I was hoping you guys could educate me. As my district covers everything from Northern Lee County to Southern Polk I could speak to more generalized ideas.

We can start by creating awareness about values. With recent events culminating into an attack on our nation's capital, and the removal of humanist rights across the board, people are going to reject the extremist MAGA party en masse. We can get out in front of this and show the general public we do care for the typical everyday American and we will show that in our policies and actions.

Next, we can begin consciously developing a positive workplace aligned with certain values. These will not be the values of selfishness, hate, and greed of the extremist MAGA party. They will be of compassion for those in need. They will be of community and celebration of our similarities and differences. They will be of clear and conscious growth that includes everybody.

And finally we will exert leadership at all levels to support in concrete ways the workplace culture. This will not be done by impish men with tiny hands who can't help ordering people around, demanding loyalty, and distributing condiments in places they don't belong. It will be done methodically, as a community. Together we'll build up District 27, Florida, America, and the world to be a safer, smarter, and happier place for us all.

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