



Candidate Profile - City Commission

Name Colleen Burton

Office Seeking State Senate, District 12

Do you currently reside in the district? Yes

Years lived in Lakeland? 29

Campaign Address P.O. Box 2298
Lakeland, FL, 33806

Campaign Phone Number (863) 698-8636

Campaign Email colleen@colleenburton.com

Campaign Website colleenburton.com

Party Affiliation Republican

Education
B.S., Public Administration
California State University, Sacramento

Occupation State Representative

Employer State of Florida

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

Have you ever run for office before? Yes

a. If yes, what office? State Representative

b. Did you win? Yes

Describe your civic involvement:

Many years of service on the boards of nonprofit organizations in Polk County. Leadership Lakeland and Leadership Polk graduate.

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

VISTE, board member
UWCF Community Impact Cabinet, member

Describe your political involvement:

Elected Republican

Why are you running for office?

To continue serving my community and state, utilizing relationships I've developed over many years to the benefit of those I currently serve as well as future generations of Floridians.

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.
Inflation impacts on the cost of living for every family; while the solution requires a federal response, the state legislature should continue to develop policies which support job growth in sectors that provide opportunities for Floridians to earn high wages

II.
Workforce housing-the challenges of attainable housing have been a part of our Polk County conversation for many years and, while the cost of housing is market driven, solutions require public/private partnerships and supportive policies for businesses to thrive and pay higher wages.

III.
Infrastructure, primarily roads and water supply/quality; the state shares responsibility with both federal and local governments to provide sustainable infrastructure; I have and will continue to advocate for projects improving transportation and water-related infrastructure

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: Reducing taxes and government spending
- 4: Improving public safety

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.

Cut Spending

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

In the event of a significant decrease in tax revenue, the State should fund essential services such as education and healthcare, and consider cuts across the board in other funding areas.

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

Same as I, II, III above plus I would add access to mental health resources, and protection of our environment.

How are some ways government can encourage and support entrepreneurship?

Government can and should seek to get "out of the way" of developing businesses

What is your opinion on government providing incentives to businesses?

I'm not supportive of direct cash incentives.

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

Lakeland is a community, rich in diversity, which provides a high quality of life making it attractive to talent. The role of city government in Lakeland in attracting and retaining talent should be a partnership with the Chamber and the LEDC.

*This document will be published on the BusinessVoice Inc. website for public disclosure.