



Candidate Profile - City Commission

Name Phillip Walker

Office Seeking State Representative, District 50

Do you currently reside in the district?

Years lived in Lakeland? All my life

Campaign Address 306 Tucker Street, P.O. Box 2014
Lakeland, Florida, 33805 / 33806

Campaign Phone Number (863) 698-8094

Campaign Email phillipwalker1@gmail.com

Campaign Website www.votePhillipWalker.com

Party Affiliation Republican

Education

High School - Kathleen Senior High School
B.S., Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA
M.S., Rollins College, Winter Park, FL
LUTCF, Insurance Professional Designation

Occupation City Commissioner

Employer City Of Lakeland

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?

a. If yes, what office? City Commission

b. Did you win?

Describe your civic involvement:

Presently serve on various Boards & Committees locally in our Lakeland/Polk County community as

well as the State of Florida number of which are listed below.

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

Currently serve on Boards of Salvation Army; Chapters Health System; Christ Community Christian Center; McKeel School of Technology; Florida Municipal Trust; Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; and Founder of the Lakeland/Polk County Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Also, presently serve as President of the Florida League of Cities organization. Note, currently serves on various committees as a result of my City Commissioner duties.

Describe your political involvement:

Volunteer work for several Campaigns and member of the local Republican Club. Also, was the Founder of the Frederick Douglass Republican Club of Central Florida and 1st Vice Chair of the Polk County REC.

Why are you running for office?

About to term out in my City Commission position and as a result of my service and years of experience gained, I would like to continue to serve the citizens/residents of this District area ensuring an excellent quality of life for all.

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.

Affordable Housing - Support public private partnership to increase more build out providing incentives to developers to address the crisis.

When elected I will ensure funding continues to support this initiative through the Sadowski Trust Fund. Leverage expansion of the trust to enhance additional appropriation funding.

II.

Economic Development - Provide support and a friendly business climate to enhance business opportunities for job creation resulting in an healthy economy.

When elected do whatever it takes to ensure businesses can continue to develop and thrive making Florida a place that is more attractive for business and talent. Explore ways to lessen regulation and red tape.

III.

Transportation - Continue to work with our existing Transit District to promote Public Transit as an alternative for connectivity thinking creatively for its use by educating our public.

When elected provide the tools, resources, and funding needed to support this necessary challenge as our state continues to explode with growth.

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

- 1: Reducing taxes and government spending
- 2: Job Creation & Economic Development
- 3: Improving public safety
- 4: Improving roads and infrastructure

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

Other

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

As indicated cutting spending would be number one as you cannot continue to spend when revenues have decreased. I would explore an increase in sales tax on Tourism related transactions as we serve many outside our state. Of course, preventing an increased burden to Florida residents.

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

Population Growth as we experience continual relocation of people to our state which pose challenges to our infrastructure, transportation (roads & connectivity), housing, and land /water supply.

How are some ways government can encourage and support entrepreneurship?

Government can encourage and support entrepreneurship by a collaborative partnership with other business entities which promote both small and large businesses. Also, support preparing our talent with resources necessary to succeed moving forward.

What is your opinion on government providing incentives to businesses?

As a City Commissioner, I have supported incentives permitting businesses to establish its footprint which enables jobs to be created providing for a healthy economy. I supported policies to make Lakeland an attractive place to do business.

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

The City of Lakeland can help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce by supporting, not hindering, growth strategically. We must ensure we are preparing our talented workforce as we partner with various business organizations and other governmental agencies for those seeking a particular skill set.

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