CBIA

CBIA 2014 District 4 County Commission Candidate Survey Questions & Responses

1. Currently, the Immokalee Airport is not being used to its fullest capability. What changes would you propose for the best use of the airport to promote economic stimulation not only in Immokalee but Countywide? Please be specific.

Candidate Responses:

Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick: Management of the Airport must be non-political, and function as a business.

Privatize? We should promote airport use for transportation of goods, retail/commercial enterprise, and additional passenger flights.

Penny Taylor: A strategic analysis of the direction of the County's future economic development must take place with an eye to the Immokalee airport's role to augment our future. "Opportunity Naples" is a strong beginning in this effort.

2. How/what would you propose to stimulate economic diversification in Collier County? Please outline your plan.

Candidate Responses:

Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick: Improve our Public Relations worldwide to - "Choose Us!" Promote a customer service program that fast-tracks business efforts and reduces impact fees. Educate our public on the need for diversification.

Penny Taylor: We have a strong medical foundation that could be used to develop Naples into a world-class medical destination for treatment and for education. I would promote the medical aspect of our County.

3. A major stimulus in the rebound of our economy is residential construction. What steps would you propose to improve the regulatory environment here in Collier County?

Candidate Responses

Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick: Repeal LDC provisions that are inappropriate or unnecessary. Reduction or 24-month moratorium on impact fees. Mandatory education with interpretive guidelines for staff, for improved permitting and regulatory process.

Penny Taylor: Review the time it takes from the first permit issued until the final certificate of occupancy is issued and streamline the process! Track and document and review and improve. Also a strong lobby must be mounted in Tallahassee to modify conflicting, burdensome laws.

4. One of the key factors in economic growth also includes streamlining the regulatory environment for commercial construction and development. What would you propose to streamline

Candidate Responses:

Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick: Fast-track all businesses with a 60 day goal or less permitting process and require a seal of approval from Fire Inspectors. Appoint (volunteer) liaisons to assist through the process.

Penny Taylor: There must be more efficiency – tangible efficiency and cooperation between the County/Fire regulators to reduce the time factor. Also, an "officer of reasonableness" needs to be appointed to have the last and binding word in all permitting disputes. (State law permitting.)

5. North Naples Fire District, East Naples Fire District, and Golden Gate Fire District will have fire reviewers back at work in the Collier County Growth Management Division. What policy direction will you provide to ensure improvement in these services? Please be specific.

Candidate Responses:

Lavigne Ann Kirkpatrick: Once a plan is approved and permitted, the cost of any additional changes required by the fire reviewer or inspector will be the responsibility of the inspecting Fire District.

Penny Taylor: Time is money and this is very true in the construction industry. Fire reviewers must abide by the time frames established by the Growth Management Division (the 'money-back guarantee' policy). Also, an 'officer of reasonableness' needs to be appointed to have the timely last and binding word in the process. (State law permitting.)