

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable Candidate Questionnaire

Responses provided by 2020 Candidate Felicia Proia for Anastasia Mosquito Control District Commissioner Seat 3

1. What are your qualifications for this elected position?

Growing up in St. Augustine, Florida meant that every summer and after every hurricane we dealt with the infestations of mosquitoes by tossing standing water in the back yard, using mosquito repellent, and calling up Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD) to come inspect and treat our neighborhood. As a practicing school psychologist in public education for the past 5 years, I am ready to problem-solve and advocate for sustainable mosquito control in St. Johns County and maintain and protect this taxpayer-funded, public service. I am a consumer of knowledge by nature and will take that skill to the table when elected. I have attended AMCD meetings for over a year and they continue to amaze me with its world-renowned research facility and remarkable workforce in the field.

2. If elected, what are your goals for this office and what would you like to achieve in this position?

Education on how AMCD utilizes tax-payer funds to protect all people from the nuisance of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases in St. Johns County, FL is critical to fostering trust and partnerships. Today, many in St. Johns County have fears of pesticide spraying and its impact on pollinators. There are also concerns for the release of sterilized mosquitos into areas that have historically been marginalized and exploited. These fears and concerns are justified, and I believe through transparency and outreach AMCD can continue their work with the faith of its community they serve. As commissioner, I will seek to increase what is already an admirable example in transparency and trust by hosting forums with residents, attending community meetings, and connecting with other leaders in our county.

3. What is your vision for the County?

I envision AMCD coordinating with the other County municipalities to effectively treat and contain infestations. Partnerships between St. Johns County Solid Waste and AMCD to promote source reduction and biological control of mosquitoes will be a priority. As a public-school employee, I know how important it is to connect with children to promote public health. You can count on the continued work of partnering with St. Johns County Public Schools to provide quality educational content when you elect me as your next commissioner.

4. What is your educational background?

St. Augustine High School C/O 2006

St. Johns River Community College C/O 2010 - Associate of Arts (AA) Degree

University of North Florida C/O 2012 - Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree

Florida State University C/O 2016 - Master's Degree/Ed.S in School Psychology

I have worked for Duval County Public Schools for the past 6 years in the Elementary and Secondary settings.