

INIE Candidate Questionnaire - Summer 2020

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is a non-profit management support organization. The mission of INIE is to strengthen the capacity and impact of the nonprofit sector through education, collaboration and advocacy. We are comprised of over 180 members with a reach of over 2,400 registered nonprofit organizations.

Collaboration with all sectors is vital to having a vibrant community and a thriving nonprofit ecosystem that is prepared to serve the needs of all residents in the Tallahassee and surrounding area.

Please complete and submit this questionnaire to provide YOUR VOICE regarding the nonprofit sector. We ask that this questionnaire be SUBMITTED by Friday, July 31st. This questionnaire was originally sent in February and other candidates have responded. We are offering another opportunity for your feedback. You can view the received candidate responses at <https://www.theinstitutefornonprofits.org/2020-candidate-voice>

We commend you for your desire to serve our community and look forward to hearing YOUR VOICE. Thank you.

Email address *

tommymillsforsheriff@gmail.com

Candidate Name *

Tommy Mills

Name of desired commission seat and/or position. *

Leon County Sheriff

1. Please describe how you have been personally involved in, supported, or been affected by the nonprofit sector. *

Non-profit organizations have given me the opportunity to give back to my native hometown and County. I am currently the Board Chair of the Miccosukee Youth Education Foundation; a member of 3 Tallahassee Kiwanis Clubs that support children programs; a trustee of the Florida Kiwanis Foundation; and board member of the Fuller Center for Housing. After serving the maximum number of years allowed for board members, I recently stepped down from the Boards of Elder Care Services and Big Bend Habitat for Humanity.

2. There are over 2,400 nonprofit organizations registered in Tallahassee and they have an economic impact of \$3.1 Billion in Revenue. How do you plan to ensure that the nonprofit sector has a voice in the decisions being made in the commission? *

As Sheriff, I would ensure that the voice of the nonprofit section is heard as we make decisions impacting Leon County. One of my goals will be to continue to work with nonprofit organizations as we support each others mission and vision for making Leon County a better place to live, work and play.

3. How would you use the nonprofit sector to advance the vitality of our community? *

As stated above, I would continue working with and supporting nonprofit organizations so the needs of the community can be met. For example, we would be involved with Elder Care Services and Meals on Wheels in support of our seniors. We would encourage officers and staff to participate in Habitat Builds or Fuller Center renovations to ensure citizens have decent housing. We would promote services offered to tutor and provide after-school care for our children. As LCSO develops relationships with the citizens of the County and learns about the needs of the communities, we will identify areas where nonprofit organizations can meet an unanswered need.

4. What suggestions do you have to improve the financial deficit that exists among nonprofits to serve the needs of our community? *

Entities experiencing severe financial difficulties should determine if it is practical to remain in operation. If another entity provides similar services, maybe a merger of the two organizations would have a broader impact than each one separately. If their services are unique, putting an effective fund raising program in operation should become a priority so they can continue to offer their services.

5. 1 in 10 jobs in Tallahassee are in the nonprofit sector. If our community is concerned about retaining and attracting talent, how would you encourage government leaders to assist in growing the workforce in the social sector? *

In my role as Sheriff, I would encourage leaders to provide adequate funding for the Sheriff's office so that we may perform our duty of protecting and serving and making Leon County a place where people are willing to come to work because they feel it is a safe place to live.

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