

# INIE Candidate Questionnaire - Spring 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 FEBRUARY 21st. We will release candidates' responses, including "no response", to our members and the public on Friday, February 28th.

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

Email address \*

billschack@comcat.net

Candidate Name \*

Bill Schack

Name of desired commission seat and/or position.

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City Commissioner, Seat 2

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

I have been an active member of the non-profit community for over 30 years. Having had a career in the Hospitality Industry, you have the opportunity to work with and support many non-profit organizations. Throughout my career, whether a Manager, General Manager, or Director of Operations, I proudly rarely never said no to organizations who needed help. From gift certificates to food donations, I know those help organizations save money, and raise money during their events. Throughout my career, I have become more involved in non-profit world by joining Boards, helping with events, and serving on Committees. Having a son with Autism started my almost 20 year association with Special Olympics, and I am still a Coach and Unified Partner to this day. I had a 10 year relationship with an organization that helped serve the intellectually disabled community, serving on the Board, and becoming their Executive Director for 2 years. I was a Board Member for the local American Cancer Society, and I am still a Road to Recovery Driver taking patients who need a ride to their much needed appointments. I have served on Boards ranging from Florida State University Schools to Keep Tallahassee Beautiful to my Home Owners Association. Most recently, I became a Guardian Ad Litem in 2019, and continue to advocate for 2 small children in Tallahassee. I continue to support numerous organization in Tallahassee who help impact lives throughout the Community, and surrounding Counties.

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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? \*

First of all, I am a huge supporter of the non-profit organizations who serve this community. I understand their value in all communities, and with the non-profit sector being such a large employer, we should be figuring out ways to foster those relationships and keep graduate here to continue the good work. I firmly believe that if those organizations on the frontlines serving City issues and problems had increased funding, they could reach more people. Many of these organizations have incredible leaders, passionate staff members, mission driven volunteers who do so much. Funding will reach more people, and we do not need to re-invent the wheel to do it. Many of these organization have a great method, they have a system that works, and City Leaders need to be funding those who are having success.

I would proudly be the voice for non-profits, as I am on the frontlines daily serving the homeless and hungry in our community, and I see how resources and collaboration are moving people out of the shelter to better situations. This Commission needs a voice who says, I know how this works, I know the obstacles to funding, and one who understands the critical nature of what these organizations do to help City issues.

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

People need to realize that there are no profit in business without non-profits. We much teach young people that volunteering, and being a part of something bigger than themsleves is a worthy cause. We much bring service back to school as a curriculum, not just 10 hours they must complete before they graduate. My daughter had to do volunteer hours in Elementary School, not in Middle School, and a few hours in High School. They should increase as children get older. Those hours must have meaning and purpose. Our youth needs to be taught that there is a big difference in making a living, and making a difference. Philanthropy will become spending money daily, not just at the end of the year for a tax right off. Business should be proud to support non-profit causes, and in turn, they will receive money from those volunteers who share their support. They can support each other.

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

In Tallahassee, one way to do that is by using the process already in place, that many organizations know how to use, the CHSP Grant process. We must increase that funding, because \$2.5 Million dollars is not enough, and everyone acknowledges that fact. However, we can increase that fudning by using the money generated from our City's Utility, almost \$30 million, that has no designation of where is goes in the budget. Everyone uses our utility, so why is that not an option, so everyone can be a part of helping these organizations reach more people. I do not think increasing property taxes, in a City with already high taxes is the way to find a solution.

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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? \*

I mentioned before that we need to get the volunteer "bug" into our young people while they attend school, and not just by requiring a few hours, but teaching it, and encouraging it. Our City leadership has no problem giving tax breaks to businesses who decide to develop in places they want to see grow like Downtown. One of the biggest expenses for non-profits is a building to house their organization and staff, so why not give them some help? There are City owned buildings all around town empty, just one year of free rent to an organization would change their entire outcomes in this City. In addition, if they increased funding through programs like the CHSP, more people can be hired. I know first hand what lack of funding can do to hurt an organization. At the Kearney Center, we had a Case Manager staff of 8 people, and when they lost a \$500,000 grant, that figure went to 4. How do you think a 50% decrease effected moving people out of homelessness? In addition, we can't expect talent who graduates with a Social Science Degree to be able to stay in Tallahassee when we offer high rise apartments costing \$250,000 with \$500 a month fees. We need affordable housing for graduates all around Tallahassee, not just in a few portions of the City. Tallahassee has really great organizations such as INIE, and UPHS who help so many organizations learn about funding sources, and other helpful ways to run their organizations. Why don't we invest in those organizations so they can reach more organizations? Maybe something as simple as featuring non-profits in our community who do such great work on the sides of our City buses instead of Personal Injury Attorneys. There is a difference in talking about how great your City is to live, and actually making it happen daily.

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