

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 *

jack@jackfortallahassee.com

Candidate Name *

Jacqueline "Jack" Porter

Name of desired commission seat and/or position.

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Tallahassee City Commission, Seat 1

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

I've had the great privilege of working with several local nonprofits in Tallahassee, including the Knight Foundation, where I was granted and administered an award for a community enhancement project; the Florida City and County Management Association, which awarded me their annual scholarship for outstanding local government research; and the Oasis Center, which provided staffing support for the the board of the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls, on which I served as a Commissioner.

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? *

Nonprofit organizations deserve the city's consideration, respect, and support. Nonprofits are often tasked with picking up the slack where other institutions and

the public sector have failed our communities. In this way, nonprofits provide essential social services, in addition to enriching the communities they serve in more ways than we can count.

The nonprofit sector in Leon County is a true economic driver for our community by not only employing 1 in 10 Leon County residents and accounting for over 1/5th of our total GDP, but also by providing critical needs and services to our neighbors in need, often elevating residents out of their current situation adding to the local economy. The sector includes organizations working on providing our community with a diversity of needs such as the arts, education, health, and social services. Many of these organizations increase tourism in our area and increase quality of life for current residents and attracting new residents to the area.

As Commissioner, I will make sure that the nonprofit sector has a seat at the table in working groups, committees, etc. I will also make sure to engage with the initiatives INIE and UPHS are working on and give them the same priority the Commission has historically given the business communities, universities, hospitals, and state government. This means making sure the sector is represented in conversations about workforce development, minimum wage considerations, economic opportunity, development, and policies that could not only impact their work but those with whom they work and serve.

I will also fight to make sure we are providing enough funding to the nonprofits themselves, as well as to the agencies that support them. The City must make substantial investments in the long-term sustainability of the sector, which includes direct funding and operational capacity. The level of funding available to the sector currently is not adequate to meet the needs of the people they serve in our community.

As a Commission we must also educate the public about the resources and events nonprofits provide. This means continuing to partner in events that drive people to Tallahassee, and investing in these events and services like we do with major private developments and university events.

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

The nonprofit sector currently advances the vitality of our community by collaborating with and investing in these services, – the City Commission can further this impact. Nonprofit organizations enrich the lives of Tallahassee residents by providing direct human and health services and through the development of education, arts and civics primary. The sector provides a framework for social networks and strong communities through volunteerism and to the communities being served. I would lean into this great framework and work to make sure the City of Tallahassee is supporting these productive relationships.

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

Increased funding through the CHSP process and an enhanced needs assessment process that accurately and comprehensively measures and responds to the gaps in services provided today. The Commission should also encourage collaboration so organizations do not have to compete for the same precious dollars while working towards cross purposes. Supporting INIE and programs like Colabs that help nonprofits band together to move the needle by leveraging their services as effectively as possible would also be well advised, and I would support that strongly on the Commission.

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? *

The social sector needs more development opportunities as well as better pay and benefits which would help the nonprofit sector compete with private and government sector employers. This can only be achieved when elected leaders take to heart the importance of the mission of nonprofits and fight for them – that’s what I will do every day if I assume office with your support.

Human service nonprofit work takes a mental and spiritual toll on you. Health benefits are necessary as well as initiatives like INIE’s wellness series and related fringe benefits that make a big difference to the people performing this important work.

As someone who has benefitted from, worked within, and advocated on behalf of the nonprofit sector, I have no doubt that I would be an effective advocate for these essential institutions in Tallahassee.

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