

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 *

scott@stopdrowning.com

Candidate Name *

Scott Flowers

Name of desired commission seat and/or position.

*

Leon County Commissioner, At-large, Group 1

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

I have been a member of Shriner's International for over 10 years supporting the Shriner's Hospitals for children. My first taste working directly with a non-profit organizations was in helping Lemoyne Art Foundation through troubled times as a consultant and bookkeeper. I am happy to say that was very successful and they are still around over 10 years later. Since then I have taken any small opportunity to volunteer in helping the community whether it is delivering bread from Panera to the Kearney Center or donating toward worthy causes. I was appointed Vice President of One Billion Drops, Inc during its startup phase, and still serve in that capacity although it is currently being restructured. Most recently I have dedicated a considerable amount of energy to helping The Less Fortunate Still Matters Foundation here in Leon County, as they served hurricane victims, less fortunate families during Christmas, hungry kids after school, or sending care packets to deployed soldiers. Right now I am working with Bridge the Gap Sports to get their organization registered to start serving at-risk youth in our community. I also donate my time and my business expertise outside of any registered organizations, but as needed to help small entrepreneurs who are struggling. I normally charge fees for my consulting services, but many times those fees are waived or greatly reduced in order to help businesses in our community thrive, because local entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of any thriving community.

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? *

This is a key component of my campaign platform. In a county with only 290,000 residents, we have a non-profit organization for every 120 people. The heart of our community is unmatched, and I am proud to be an active member of this community! We have to get these entities to the table more often, and I would strive to do that through community round-table events, committees, etc. I believe a unified vision is needed at the county level for helping these non-profits align their efforts for maximum impact, assisting them in accessing local, state, and federal grants, and focusing how we allot and manage those grants for the largest local impact. Coordination is critical for our community's long-term success. With so many dedicated individuals willing to serve, I believe our local government leadership can do much more to support their efforts, and I pledge to make that a top priority as a county commissioner.

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

We need a unified vision and a focused effort to use the strengths of our nonprofit sector to directly impact the needs in our community. We have to manage information so those who need assistance are aware of the resources available to them, and those utilizing the resources are finding opportunities to apply what they have learned or gained. These initiatives must have sustained success, not just localized events. We also have a population with an average age about 10 years younger than the state and national averages, and a population that consistently ranks number 1 in the state for college graduates. There is so much talent and energy here that is underutilized. Our non-profit sector has to be brought to the table with city and county leadership, law enforcement, and education to create real, measurable, person to person programs that are adaptable and reproducible for long-term success.

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

Our local grant money needs to be utilized by local entities. It needs to be working person to person, boots on the ground, in the communities who need it most. There are so many great local non-profits who are not able to successfully apply and win money that is available, or when they do, they can't maintain the grant because of administrative issues. We can fix this. We can support them with experts in those fields. Right now I am aware of organizations waiting for grant money for terrific initiatives, but that money is tied up in bureaucracy. Local bureaucracy, and it is shameful. In addition to fixing those issues, we also need local government to support the non-profit community in successfully applying for, winning, and maintaining state and federal grants to bring that money into our community.

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? *

Our community is unmatched in heart, energy, and education. We must create the opportunities to apply those skills locally. We have to create the opportunities, fund them, and support them for sustained success. The local government has a direct impact in these areas, and we have to do a better job engaging the resources that are available. That is exactly why my campaign slogan is "Helping Leon Grow."

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