

District 1 ~ Candidate Questions

Question 1: [Do you agree with the philosophy that airports are an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of the county?](#)

Ilene Davis (L):

In general, yes. Having an airport can be an added attraction, particularly to businesses that have their own airplanes, or who benefit from close access to an airport facility.

However, at the same time, if the cost of maintaining such an airport creates an added tax burden on individuals or businesses that do not use or need the airport, then an airport could cause a business to locate elsewhere. It is important to be able to quantify both the costs and benefits of any airport under discussion.

Meredith Eberhart (R):

Yes.

Robin Fisher (D):

Yes.

Jeff Rainey (R):

Did not reply

Maureen Rupe (D):

Very much so, Space Coast Airport needs to be focused on, for space tourism and eco tourism.

J. Roger Shealy (R):

Yes. Airports are an asset to the county and part of the return on that asset should be economic growth.

Al Yorston (D):

Yes.

Question 2: [Do you support the continued implementation of the Valkaria Airport master Plan as approved by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners?](#)

Ilene Davis:

As a 30 year resident of north Brevard, I am not familiar with the feelings on the people that would be impacted by the VAMP. As a libertarian, I am a strong believer in the right of each individual to not have his/her right to life, liberty or pursuit of happiness deprived by the actions of another. It is my belief that anyone who would be negatively affected by this plan should have the most say in what happens, since they are going to be the ones to suffer the consequences of actions that are not in their best interests.

As an example, Dunn Airpark in Titusville was there before many homes were built. In my mind, a homeowner who now complains about noise holds no weight in my book. However, those who were there before it was built, should have a say in what kind of traffic is allowed.

Meredith Eberhart:

N/A Would need to review plan before responding.

Robin Fisher:

Yes.

Jeff Rainey:

Did not reply.

Maureen Rupe:

Every Master Plan in the County should be open to change, in case a certain criteria is not working.

District 1, Question 2 continued:

Roger Shealy:

Yes. Airport master planning is a mechanism through which stakeholders can create a long range vision for an airport. It benefits the community in many ways, including establishing support for FDOT and FAA funding. Part of the airport master planning process should be periodic updates to address emerging issues.

Al Yorston:

Yes.

Question 3: Have you attended any of the following General Aviation events? If so, which?

- A. EAA Pancake Breakfast at Dunn, Valkaria, Merritt Island, Space Coast Airports
- B. Young Eagle Day activities
- C. Valkaria Air Fest
- D. Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport
- E. Valiant Air Command Air Show
- F. Other _____

Ilene Davis:

I've attended some of the Valiant Air Command Shows. I attended an air show in Montreal. My dad flew small planes. My former husband was a pilot and we owned a Cessna 172 and an Aircoupe. A former fiancé had a Bonanza. Several of my clients are private pilots, including at least one active with Angel Flight. So I'm familiar with private aircraft. And "Jonathan Livingstone Seagull" and other Richard Bach books are some of my favorites. But as for attending air shows, I generally prefer to do other things with my free time.

Meredith Eberhart:

Valiant Air Command Air Show: Former volunteer on crane crew (3 years).

Robin Fisher:

Valiant Air Command Air Show

Jeff Rainey:

Did not reply

Maureen Rupe:

Valiant Air Command Air Show

J. Roger Shealy:

Yes, I've attended the Valiant Air Command Air Show.

Al Yorston:

EAA Pancake Breakfast at Valkaria and Space Coast Airports
Young Eagles Day
Valiant Air Command Air Show

Question 4: Do you think an airport advisory board should be autonomous or should answer to the county commissioners?

Ilene Davis;

If an airport is supported with tax dollars, it should answer to whatever government entity provides funding, but at the same time, its primary value is going to be capitalized on by those using it, so their wishes need to be considered as well. I would not support an autonomous board if tax dollars are being spend, as this would be unfair

[District 1, Question 4 continued:](#)

to the taxpayers who are funding it but don't use the airport. In other words, any advisory board, in my opinion needs to be accountable to whomever is paying the bills.

If pilots want to have full control, then they need to assume the full cost of operating the airport.

Meredith Eberhart:

It seems to me "advisory boards" should answer to the citizens and the community at large. Not just the county or State of Florida.

Robin Fisher:

Should work together closely.

Jeff Rainey:

Did not reply.

Maureen Rupe:

I do not think it should be entirely be an independent board.

Roger Shealy:

An advisory board's function is limited to making recommendations to a public agency, such as a county commission, and possesses no authority to bind or legally obligate the agency in any way. In that capacity it may make unsolicited suggestions or report on issues as directed or requested by the agency, but in the end the responsibility for action rests solely with the agency.

Al Yorston:

Like most of the other County Advisory Boards, I believe the airport advisory Commission make recommendations to the County Commission, but the Commission is the superior and final authority.

Question 5: [Would you support activities which contribute to the financial independence of area airports?](#)

Ilene Davis:

Yes, yes, yes..... In fact, one of the ideas I proposed to promote the airport and generate revenues was to use Tico (now Space Coast Regional) to have an air, land and sea RADIO CONTROLLED challenge with cash awards and invite contestants from around the world.

And maybe we could do a southern version of the EAA event they have in Oskosh. I still remember listening to the tape from the tower where they were landing one plane on the end of the runway, and another in the middle.

I think you could do something similar at Valkaria. I'm sure there are other ideas, but I totally support helping an organization develop ideas to make it financially independent.

Meredith Eberhart:

Certainly.

Robin Fisher:

Yes.

Jeff Rainey:

Did not reply

Maureen Rupe:

Yes.

District 1, question 5 continued:

Roger Shealy:

Yes. It is in the best interest of area airports, pilots, and taxpayers to have airports financially self supporting.

Al Yorston:

In general, yes, however I would have to review their impact and compatibility with the surrounding area.

Question 6: [Do you agree that an appointee to an airport board should have aviation interests for the benefit of the airport?](#)

Ilene Davis:

This question is a little ambiguous. So let me just say this: I think an appointee to an airport board should have an understanding of both business and aviation. Preferably being a licensed pilot so they can “talk the talk” and understand issues from a user’s point of view. At the same time, if tax dollars are involved, the interests of any taxpayers whose money is being managed needs to be considered as well. Bottom line: no sense in having an airport that no one wants to use, but by the same token, taxpayers should not be taxed to support a lifestyle choice they didn’t make.

Additional comments regarding General Aviation and/or Brevard County Airports:

Personally, I love small planes. It was great to drive 5 miles to the airport, pick up our plane, or meet friends with one, and fly to the Bahamas or New Orleans or the mountains. But as a libertarian, I am always concerned when government and business interact. When tax dollars from a person who loves to go boating or travel is used to subsidize private aircraft owner activities, but the private aircraft owners are not required to subsidize their boating or travel expenses, then in my opinion, that is a misuse of power.

As Thomas Jefferson said: “A **democracy is** nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine.

If I can be show that spending tax dollars benefits the taxpayers who are paying, without harming the enjoyment of life for others, I’ll most often be in support. Otherwise, as a county commissioner, it would be my responsibility to protect the interests of those that might be harmed, even if a majority vote otherwise.

Meredith Eberhart:

Absolutely!

Robin Fisher:

Yes.

Jeff Rainey:

Did not reply.

Maureen Rupe:

Not every appointee. The community must be represented.

Roger Shealy:

It would be ideal for every airport board member to have aviation interests. But it is also necessary to have board members with financial expertise, such as CPAs, as well as individuals with civil engineering backgrounds as development is a part of airport growth.

Al Yorston:

I believe an Airport Advisory Board should represent both the interests of the general aviation community and the residents that live in the immediate area near the airport.

Additional comments regarding general aviation and/or Brevard County Airports:

Meredith Eberhart:

Only vet candidate for county commission District 1 (R) running!

Maureen Rupe:

Airports are going to be a great part of our economic future. Groups like the Griffin and Helicopter Schools bring monetary resources to our hotels and restaurants etc. and take no jobs from residents. Industrial area adjacent must be encouraged with incentives to relocate business and industry.

End of District 1 questions.

District 3 ~ Candidate Questions

Question 1: [Do you agree with the philosophy that airports are an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of the county?](#)

Jan Conrad (R):

Yes - absolutely. Airports are an integral part of the transportation corridor of Brevard County. They contribute to the economic vitality of the community and are an appealing amenity.

Edward Geier (D):

Did not reply.

Trudie Infantini (R):

Yes, I agree airports are essential element to economic growth. Especially in Brevard County where we have many pilots and training programs locally. I used to be the office manager for a flight training school in Opa Locka (back in 1979-1980). That school offering sale/leaseback of planes, tie downs, fueling and maintenance in addition of the flight school. That work experience provides me with a unique understanding of airport operations.

C.R. "Ronnie" McLellan (R):

Yes.

Pat Woodard (R):

Yes.

Question 2: [Do you support the continued implementation of the Valkaria Airport Master Plan as approved by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners?](#)

Jan Conrad:

I am a supporter of the Master Plan and its implementation. As an Assistant in the District 3 Commission office during that community process, I am keenly aware of the multitude of community involvement that went into the endeavor. I believe it has placed the airport in a position of strength in terms of safety and success. It has enabled the "draw-down" of millions of dollars from other government agencies and will assure that safety improvements continue. This is an important process for all involved whether an aviator or a citizen of the community.

Edward Geier:

Did not reply.

Trudie Infantini:

Yes, after reading the Master Plan, I found it has many sound ideas. I would like to look into increasing the number of tie down opportunities though. I would also like to look into additional ways for the Airport to raise money (like the Valkaria Air Show).

District 3, question 3 continued:

C. R. "Ronnie" McLellan:

Yes.

Pat Woodard:

Yes.

Question 3: Have you attended any of the following General Aviation events? If so, which?

- A. EAA Pancake Breakfast at Dunn, Valkaria, Merritt Island, Space Coast Airports
- B. Young Eagle Day activities
- C. Valkaria Air Fest
- D. Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport
- E. Valiant Air Command Air Show
- F. Other_____

Jan Conrad:

EAA Pancake Breakfast at Dunn, Valkaria, Merritt Island, Space Coast Airports
Valkaria Air Fest
Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport
Other: Also have attend Valkaria Airport Advisory Meetings

Edward Geier:

Did not reply.

Trudie Infantini:

Yes, I took my daughters to the last Valkaria Air show. Many of my Florida Institute of Technology students attended that show as well. It was a fun event but I think the offerings may be expanded to increase airport revenues.

C. R. "Ronnie" McLellan:

All of the above except Young Eagle Day.

Pat Woodard:

Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport
Valiant Air Command Air Show

Question 4: Do you think an airport advisory board should be autonomous or should answer to the county commissioners?

Jan Conrad:

I believe the Advisory Board should serve the airport. Whether they are autonomous, or report to the Commission the VAAB should function with a purpose. That purpose should be clearly defined to enhance the mission of the airport and to serve all citizens safely. Within our current government structure, all airport advisory board appointments should be treated consistently. In other words, appointments to the Valkaria Airport should be handled in the same manner that appointments to TICO are handled. As an entity of county government, it is accountable to the Commissioners who are ultimately responsible for the operation of the airport.

Edward Geier:

Did not reply.

District 3, Question 4 continued:

Trudie Infantini:

If the Airport is seeking funding from Brevard County I feel the Commissioners need to provide oversight so they are accountable for the money being spent. If the Airport does not need County funds for operations I do not know why the Commissioners would provide oversight. I need more information on how the board would be selected though to certain of this response.

C. R. “Ronnie” McLellan:

I think any advisory board for any airport should stand alone, for the simple fact they should know aviation better than outsiders like council or county commission.

Pat Woodard:

Yes they should operate autonomously in order to give valued input to the county commission.

Question 5: Would you support activities which contribute to the financial independence of area airports?

Jan Conrad:

I believe that airports are important to the county but support the idea of having them be an enterprise fund and self sufficient.

Edward Geier:

Did not reply.

Trudie Infantini:

Yes, this ties back into my prior responses. I reviewed the financial information in the Master Plan and like I said before, I would like to provide the Airport with vehicles to improve their bottom line. Outside of being a Commissioner, I would be willing to offer suggestions for this. This doesn't mean I am asking to be on your Board. I also have resources available to me at Florida Institute of Technology to provide suggestions.

C. R. “Ronnie” McLellan:

Yes, I was in the off shore helicopter business based out of Houston, Texas and Houma, LA. My older brother & I owned 4 Bell Jet Rangers that flew crew members to off shore oil platforms in the 80's. I am very familiar with the aviation world and also very proud to be a part of it, but at the same time I am also running for a county seat and I'm not real good at walking down the middle of any road.

Pat Woodard:

Yes.

Question 6: Do you agree that an appointee to an airport board should have aviation interests for the benefit of the airport?

Jan Conrad:

An appointee should be an individual who understands the industry and or recreational purpose of an airport. Additionally, they should have the health and welfare of the airport as the motive for service just as any other Advisory Committee within the county.

Edward Geier:

Did not reply.

District 3, Question 6 continued:

Trudie Infantini:

Yes, an appointee should want to see what can be done to make sure the Airport achieves their goals. This does not mean I want the Board to take a one-sided approach to growth though. Neighboring residents concerns need to be addressed. That being said, the residents did buy or build their houses next to an airport and should expect a certain level of activity and lighting to make sure airport operations are as safe as possible.

C. R. “Ronnie” McLellan:

Yes.

Pat Woodard:

Yes.

Additional comments regarding general aviation and/or Brevard County Airports:

None.

End of District 3 questions.

District 5 ~ Candidate Questions

Question 1: [Do you agree with the philosophy that airports are an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of the county?](#)

Andy Anderson (R):

I believe general aviation is a critical component of Brevard’s economy. Our commercial aviation community provides critical transportation and cargo services that are critical to our intermodal transportation. Additionally, our private aviation community is critical to many aspects of our economy and is a component of Brevard’s tourism industry.

Janice Kershaw (R):

Yes.

Keene Maines (R):

Of course! I think County government should be treating the airport like any other business. The need to help promote use and growth of business at the airport.

Cheryl Palmer (R):

Absolutely! Not only do airports provide jobs, but they offer transportation and cargo service to individuals and companies thereby enhancing other job creation and incentives to locate in the county.

Daniel Reyes (write in):

Did not reply.

Question 2: [Do you support the continued implementation of the Valkaria Airport master Plan as approved by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners?](#)

Andy Anderson:

Yes.

District 5, Question 2 continued:

Janice Kershaw:

Yes.

Keene Maines:

Since I am unfamiliar, I can't say whether or not I favor it. I think though, that if the concerned entities agreed to a plan in concept, there would be no reason to change it.

Cheryl Palmer:

I would like to take another look at the plan in light of changes to our area and the economic forecast since its implementation.

Daniel Reyes:

Did not reply.

Question 3: Have you attended any of the following General Aviation events? If so, which?

- A. EAA Pancake Breakfast at Dunn, Valkaria, Merritt Island, Space Coast Airports
- B. Young Eagle Day activities
- C. Valkaria Air Fest
- D. Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport
- E. Valiant Air Command Air Show
- F. Other _____

Andy Anderson:

Valkaria Air Fest
Valiant Air Command Air Show

Janice Kershaw:

Valiant Air Command Air Show

Keene Maines:

No

Cheryl Palmer:

Melbourne Area Pilots Association Aviation Day at Melbourne Airport

Daniel Reyes:

Did not reply.

Question 4: Do you think an airport advisory board should be autonomous or should answer to the county commissioners?

Andy Anderson:

Autonomous.

Janice Kershaw:

By its very nature, an advisory board advises the county commissioners. Therefore, an airport advisory board should advise and answer to the County Commissioners who are stewards of all county property and facilities.

District 5, question 4 continued:

Keene Maines:

I think the airport should operate on its own. I don't think county commissioners will be versed adequately to make aviation decisions.

Cheryl Palmer:

I believe all advisory boards should answer to elected officials so that they remain accountable to the electorate.

Daniel Reyes:

Did not reply.

Question 5: Would you support activities which contribute to the financial independence of area airports?

Andy Anderson:

Yes.

Janice Kershaw;

Yes.

Keene Maines:

Yes!

Cheryl Palmer:

I would support those activities that contribute to the financial independence of area airports as long as those activities do not adversely impact the surrounding area. (Not to include normal take-off and landing airplane noise). Military and helicopter rescue training should not be performed over residential areas.

Daniel Reyes:

Did not reply.

Question 6: Do you agree that an appointee to an airport board should have aviation interests for the benefit of the airport?

Andy Anderson:

Yes.

Janice Kershaw:

Yes, all appointees should have an interest in the boards on which they serve.

Keene Maines:

Unless I'm missing something, that only makes sense.

Cheryl Palmer:

I believe that at least some of the board members should have aviation interests or aviation will case to be a priority.

District 5, question 6 continued:

Daniel Reyes:

Did not reply.

Additional comments regarding general aviation and/or Brevard County Airports:

Andy Anderson:

Aviation is not only a component of Brevard's economy, but also our history. As County Commissioner, I will be supportive of general aviation and support the recommendations of those who have a vested interest in general aviation in Brevard.

Jan Conrad:

Shortly after I was married, my husband Tom decided he wanted to learn to fly recreationally. He worked toward that goal and gained his license in the early 1980's. So as the wife of a private pilot, aviating has been a big part of our family experience. From air shows to airplane rides we have spent hours at airports. I am confident that as your next County Commissioner you will find my understanding of airport issues to be more than adequate. I support the continued progress that has been implemented at Valkaria and will work towards furthering the implementation of the Master Plan. I will also work with all Brevard County Airports to insure their continued safety and security for the betterment of all citizens.

Janice Kershaw:

I support General Aviation in Brevard County as an important part of our economy, recreation and transportation system.

Cheryl Palmer:

I believe that Brevard County Airports should support private pilots and small commercial aviation interests in order to succeed and to benefit the community at large by providing aviation services. Having convenient airfields can be one of the variables that attracts new businesses and residents.

End of District 5 questions.

“D” by a name is Democrat

“L” is Libertarian

“R” is Republican

End of questionnaire.