

# Mike Musick

musickforlakeland@gmail.com

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Submission Date	Sep 24, 2021 7:15 PM
Name	Mike Musick
Office Seeking	City Commisioner
Do you currently reside in the district?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Years lived in Lakeland?	44
Campaign Address	P.O. Box 8782 lakeland, FL, 33806
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Campaign Website	musickforlakeland.com
Party Affiliation	republican
Education	Florida state university-left after 2 years southeastern university-currently finishing my degree in Psychology state licensed building contractor state licensed roofing contractor
Occupation	self employed roofing contractor
Employer	Musick Roofing
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you ever run for office before?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
a. If yes, what office?	lakeland city commision
b. Did you win?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Describe your civic involvement:	sitting city commissioner district d member of age friendly Lakeland member of the Lakeland electric utility committee past member of the Lakeland board of adjustments and appeals past member Lakeland historic preservation committee

List any Boards on which you serve, including positions of leadership

Founder and past chairman of Leverage Ministries a 501c3 dedicated to the underprivileged youth here in Lakeland. Leverage works with kids in the mornings before school with sports and mentorships to encourage them to stay in school and be a product member of Lakeland.  
<https://leverageministries.org/>

Deacon at Heritage Baptist church <https://hbclakeland.com/>

Board member of Camp Gilead in Polk city <https://www.campgilead.com/>

Team trip leader with CWE Missions <https://www.cwe-missions.org/>

Describe your political involvement:

Current City of Lakeland Commissioner  
member of the Lakeland Republican Club  
active supporter of individual conservative candidates  
active voter in all local and national elections

Why are you running for office?

1. To be a value and active stakeholder for the citizens of Lakeland.
2. As a stand between and representative for personal freedoms when other may try to impose an overreach on those freedoms.
3. To fight and keep city management and the other commissioners accountable for the taxpayers hard earned dollars.
4. to be an honest representative for my district and to the city at large.

- I. With Larger and ever expanding budgets there is always room for a possibility for waste. It is critical that we evaluate the budget closely and make every possible attempt to tighten where available without compromising our outstanding city services. In a good economy like we are in now it is easy to get sloppy and cavalier with other peoples money. I want any financial items and contracts that come before the commission to be vetted and analyzed to keep us in a strong financial trajectory.
- II. infrastructure. We are developing and growing so fast we will need to get ahold of our aging roads and utilities. Most of these new subdivisions roads end up being taken over by the city and there isn't enough money in that budget to properly maintain. A large chunk of that money comes from the gas tax. As we have more and more electric vehicle on the road that means less money spent at the pump and ultimately less tax money for upkeep. All of the new warehouses contributing to more tractor trailer traffic are also going to wear on our existing asphalt damage. These vehicles heavy and the traffic will be very active. The growth and business is great, we just need to plan according to the oncoming road maintenance issues.
- III. Hight skill high wage jobs- With all the warehouses that have been approved and constructed we will start seeing lower paying warehouse salaries and less higher earning higher tech type of jobs. Having a vibrant and healthy Chamber working with groups like Catapult and The Well will certainly help small and startup business. We have great colleges within and just outside our city. This should be a great place for our local business to find young highly educated talent. We also need to work with our local high schools to continue to push for excellence in education. When large and growing business look at where to set up shop they look at our school system and that needs to be stellar.

Rank the following as you see their current order of importance for the City of Lakeland:

1: Reducing taxes and government spending

2: Improving roads and infrastructure

3: Improving parks and recreational facilities

#### 4: Improving public safety

a. Other:

public safety would be number one if we didn't have such a great handle on this at the moment.

During an economic downturn, how should the Lakeland City Commission handle increasing and decreasing City tax revenues caused by the normal economic cycle? You may check more than one choice. Depending on your choice/choices, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

Cut Spending

Other

Depending on your choice/choices above, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

When it comes to a downturn in the economy and the potential decrease in collected fees and taxes no "cutting" should be off the table. An open and honest dialogue with all departments will reveal when and where cuts can be and should be made. Those choices will still be difficult I have no doubt, but as a commissioner I don't hide behind difficult.

What do you believe are the main issues facing Lakeland's downtown urban core?

Connectivity to other parts of town. By developing areas just outside our local downtown (like Bonnet Spring) we need to be able to connect these areas to insure both growth and the unity of the core as a whole. If we can connect the RP funding center, historic downtown, the Bonnet Springs area, and the surrounding lakes with pedestrian/bike paths, and smaller easier methods of transportation like the citrus connection Squeeze we will see more activity and growth in our urban core businesses. Currently they are all great but all separate. We need connectivity.

How are some ways government can encourage and support entrepreneurship?

Sometimes one of the easiest things they can do is just get out of the way. I don't want the city to set red tap and unnecessary steps and hurdles in the way of entrepreneurs. There are a lot of federal dollars out there and setting up a portal or designated individual to help navigate those steps could be very helpful. Continuing to support, encourage, and SHOP LOCAL. We need to make it easier and beneficial for local companies to provide their goods and services to the city. We spend a lot of money as a city and we need to continue to give local preference where applicable.

What is your opinion on government providing incentives to businesses?

Incentives need to be thoroughly vetted. If we are going to give tax or fee breaks or discounts we need to make sure at the end of it we are getting out of the deal what we expected. We are fighting with other cities around the country for these business to grow or set up shop in Lakeland and sometimes in order to get into the game we have to put up an ante. I am ok with incentives but as I said in the first sentence they should be vetted.

How can the City of Lakeland help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?

I think this was touched on a bit in the previous questions. A financial strong city with a citizens that feel like their city is safe and heading in a safe strong direction is very attractive to businesses and individuals looking to relocate or grow within Lakeland. Be a place worth being in!