

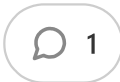
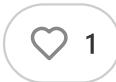
Six questions for Manatee County Commission candidate Robert McCann

An attorney and physician, the Republican is challenging incumbent Ray Turner in the GOP primary in August for the District 5 seat on county commission.

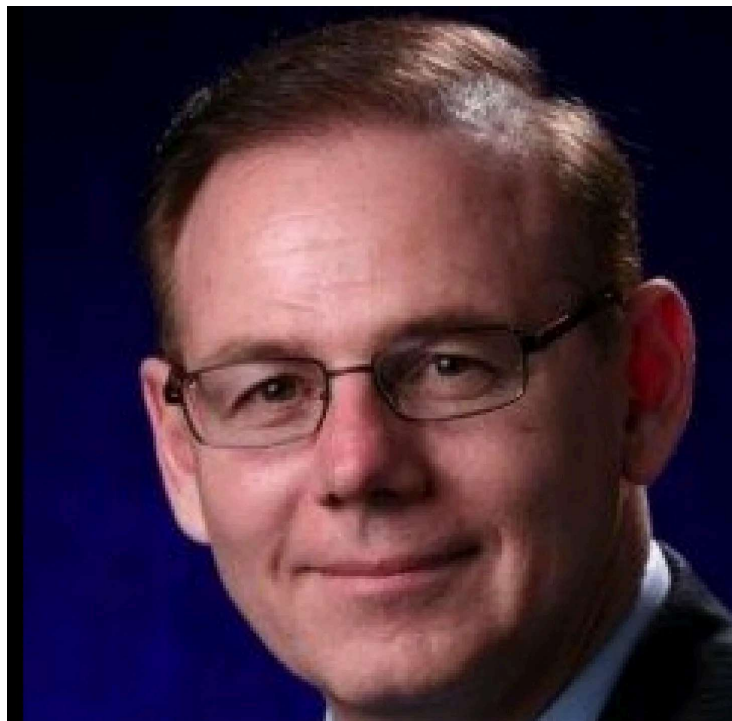


MARC R. MASFERRER

JAN 22, 2024



Robert McCann, a Republican attorney and physician, is seeking to unseat Manatee County Commissioner Raymond Turner in this year's GOP primary.



Robert McCann

McCann is running in District 5, comprised of Lakewood Ranch and other parts of East Manatee. Vanessa Baugh represented the district for almost 11 years before she resigned in July. Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Turner, a local real estate

broker, to complete the rest of Baugh's term. Turner subsequently filed to run for a full term in the 2024 election.



Attorney and physician files for District 5 seat on Manatee County Commission

MARC R. MASFERRER · DECEMBER 8, 2023

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The Bradenton Journal had a few questions for McCann. (His responses have been lightly edited for clarity and grammar.)



Photo by [Element5 Digital](#) on [Unsplash](#)

(By the way, Turner has not responded to similar questions from The Bradenton Journal.)



Manatee County incumbent commissioners answer The Bradenton Journal's 'six questions'

MARC R. MASFERRER · NOVEMBER 29, 2023

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The Bradenton Journal: Presuming you considered political and personal factors before deciding on whether to run, what's the one thing that most convinced you to join the Manatee County Commission and run for election next year?

McCann: Urban sprawl is causing a decreased quality of life. Low-density residential housing, excessive re-zoning, increased energy use, pollution, traffic congestion, a loss of community distinctiveness and cohesiveness, the destruction of wildlife habitat and wetlands, and the fragmentation of the remaining natural areas are characteristics of East County's rapid expansion.

The Bradenton Journal: Which issues will you emphasize as a candidate and as a commissioner if you are elected?

McCann:

- Transparent and accountable leadership for change.
- Community-centered governance.
- Community engagement.
- Economic development.
- Conservational stewardship.
- Education and youthinspiration.

The Bradenton Journal: What will be your priorities when addressing issues related to growth and development in District 5 and countywide, if voters elect you this year?

McCann:

- Individual rights. The commission needs to legislate policy to protect the health, welfare, safety and quality of life of Manatee County residents and stop the urban sprawl.
- Quiet enjoyment of our homes for existing residents. The right to privacy, freedom from unreasonable disturbances and the right to exclusive possession of our property.
- Protect our natural resources, including wetlands, agriculture, wildlife habitats, and Florida's natural beauty and heritage. Everyone needs boundaries!
- Less government interference. People first! Decision-making should be as local as possible, and the free market should control all financial decisions.
- A reformed and responsive county commission enhancing the significance and accessibility of decision-making for regular, everyday people.
- Safe roads. Not more roundabouts, but better traffic controls.

The Bradenton Journal: What should the county government do to incentivize the development of workforce housing and other more affordable housing options in Manatee County?

McCann: A community's inventory of workforce housing can be expanded by renovating or upgrading existing housing units or by developing new housing. Rehab and redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized sites present substantial prospects. Older housing stock is preserved and improved through redevelopment and rehabilitation, which also offers the benefit of effectively utilizing existing infrastructure to save long-term public service delivery costs. In healthy housing markets, communities can use two primary local incentives to support the creation or preservation of affordable workforce housing: direct financial assistance programs (such as grants, loans, and tax breaks) and indirect financial assistance programs (such as zoning incentives). Innovative public-private partnerships are often essential to the success of projects.

The Bradenton Journal: What is one issue facing the county that you think the commission has not spent enough time addressing?

McCann: Community engagement. Encouraging citizen participation, transparency, and open communication between the government and the community. When it comes to the current Manatee County Commission, all the money comes from special interests, and those “interests” seemingly control the county commission and its votes.

The Bradenton Journal: Manatee County is nearly surrounded by and adjacent to water – the Gulf of Mexico, the Manatee River, etc. What should the county be doing to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and more intense hurricanes and tropical storms?

McCann: Purportedly, a week after the commissioners voted down the wetlands protections, the county commission curiously implemented a wetland mitigation program to save money, support the Capital Improvement Plan and keep restored wetlands within Manatee County. However, in order to solve environmental issues including wetlands protection, agriculture and water preservation, as well as procedures to guarantee a thriving and healthy community for future generations that secure public health and safety, a purposeful, defensible development practice and initiative is required, not urban sprawl. Wetlands retain floodwater, regulate surface water flow during dry spells, protect and enhance water quality, and offer habitat for fish and wildlife. Improved natural water quality, protection from flooding, erosion control along the beach, chances for leisure and aesthetic enjoyment and free natural products for human use are all offered. Wetlands provide a habitat for wildlife, replenish our drinking water supply, shield our property from flooding, and filter pollutants from stormwater runoff. Any technological mitigation that the current commissioners suggest is inferior to the responsible use and protection of the natural environment.

POLL

Who do you support for District 5 commissioner?

Robert McCann

Ray Turner

I hope someone else runs

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Maxwell Allan 3 hrs ago

I personally can't un-see

One Toned Turner at his townhall trying to convince the taxpayers and citizens that what we WANT is more urban sprawl.

He is builder driven and he doesn't even try to hide that fact.

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