

## **Joe Di Bartolomeo**

Candidate for District 5 BOCC  
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Dear Neighbor,

I am announcing my candidacy for Manatee County Commission District 5. I have met with many members of our community and the overwhelming message is that the constituents are not being heard, the advantage is always to the Developers and immediate change is needed to reverse the destruction to our quality of life, property rights and environment.

I am an 18-year resident of Manatee County. I am not a politician; I am a public servant. I am a businessman, a teacher, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother, your neighbor and your voice in Manatee County government. Our issues are not Right or Left and solving them is not partisan.

I am currently serving my 2<sup>nd</sup> term as the Chairman of the Tara Preserve Community Development District (CDD). I have fiscal responsibility for the \$3,000,000 Bond issue, which includes an annual budget for repairs and maintenance for all amenities and assets.

In addition, I serve as a member of the Tara Master Association (TMA) Communication Committee, Digitization Committee and have recently assisted in the Bulk Xfinity contract negotiations as part of the Electronic Communications Technology (ECT) Committee. I am also a member of the Tara Community Action Committee (CAC) which is currently addressing the development of a 4-story apartment building entering our community at R70 and Tara Blvd.

I have a BA in accounting from Rutgers University, an MBA in finance, as well as a 2<sup>nd</sup> MBA in Information technology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. I am currently a small business owner in a Lakewood Ranch Management Consulting firm. This education, skills and experience make me your perfect representation on the commission.

The mismanagement and fiscal irresponsibility of our current commission has created an urgent need for me to step up and participate in a solution.

Here are a top 3 reasons I am running for the BOCC District 5.

1. Our “Quality of Life” Matters – This encompasses everything that every person in Manatee County faces, no matter what your party affiliation is.
  - a. It’s the quality of your drinking water.
  - b. It’s your time sitting in traffic, no matter the season.
  - c. It’s the urban sprawl that is straining our roads, utilities and schools.
  - d. It’s the cost of our housing and our home-owner’s insurance.
  - e. It’s the future tax hikes that will be necessary to pay our new bonds.
  - f. It’s the future water bill when we are forced to use Peace River Auth. water.
  
2. Our “Property Rights” Matters – We consistently hear from the dais about “Land Rights” of the developer community.
  - a. Why aren’t our Property Rights just as important?
  - b. What do we need to do to stop over development in our communities?
  - c. Who is advocating for us from the “throne” to protect our best interest?
  
1. Our “Environment” Matters – The economic drivers for all of Florida and specifically Manatee County are Agriculture and Tourism, all dependent on the health of our environment.
  - a. Why have we decreased the “Buffer Zone”?
  - b. Why haven’t we closed Piney Point gypsum stack?
  - c. Why are we changing the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code to not protect our environment?
  - d. Why are we continually dealing with Red Tide and Algae blooms?

My vision for Manatee County is clear and simple. As a member of the BOCC, I will be transparent in all board objectives. I will maintain a consistent means of communication with all constituents, not just special interest groups. I will focus on repairing our “Quality of Life”, our “Land Rights”, our “Environment”. From day one, I will address the associated cost burden for excessive over development, our infrastructure updates and repairs, the need to raise impact fees. I will focus on protecting our environment, which includes protecting clean water and buffer zones. I will also strive to remove big money, its influence and power out of our local Manatee County politics.

I respectfully ask your participation at any level you feel appropriate in assisting my campaign, either through your contributions and or your time, to offset the already huge war-chest of the incumbents funded by special interest groups.

I look forward to a productive and informative conversation with all in Manatee District 5 and earning your vote.