

Airport Authority

Candidate (District 1) Questions – 2024

Name: STEVEN S. LESKOVICH, J.D., ED.D.

Date: July 3, 2024

What role should the Airport Authority play in economic/industrial development?

- a. The Airport Authority needs to “Plan Today for Tomorrow.” The Punta Gorda Airport (“PGD”) is the only income/revenue driving organization for Charlotte County; thus, PGD has an incredibly important and vital role in the economic/industrial developmental impact on and in our community. In 2023, PGD experienced and propagated, in our local community, 1.9M passengers 11,000 jobs, \$541M in payroll, \$902M in value added, and nearly \$1.7B in economic impact. The Airport Authority needs to collaborate, communicate, and cooperate with local offices and officials, the Charlotte County Economic Development division, governmental and regulatory agencies, all in efforts to improve and maximize growth. We will need to review all sources of the airport’s operating revenue to improve ways of sustaining and maximizing growth and working with the airport’s CEO for innovative endeavors for future development (i.e., aviation services, parking, rental cars, commercial leases, food and beverage, vending, etc.)

What are your ideas to continue growth at the airport?

- a. Vision: Through collaboration, communication, and cooperation, produce assistance, appropriations, and resources for the aid of construction, enlargement, or improvement of the Punta Gorda Airport and the surrounding community through sound fiscal responsibility.
- b. Goals/Ideas:
 - i. Maximize the 2000+ acres of airport land
 - ii. Maximize economic growth and development
 - iii. Increase traveling passengers from 1.9M to 2.5M within 5 years
 - iv. Provide resources for the expansion of jobs and construction
 - v. Work with the Federal Aviation Administration and PGD on airline traffic, air quality control, and expansion of airlines.

- vi. Lobby with legislative officials that promotes and generates business opportunities for PGD and its conglomerates, our community, and increase our value-added economic impact.

Why are you the right choice for the Airport Authority?

- a. I believe that the Charlotte County Airport Authority, and our community, needs to have proper representation that can collaborate, communicate, and cooperate with each other, along with the demands and concerns of our local community. I believe that this position requires a business mindset with knowledge of corporate operations, legal priorities, budgeting, negotiations, fiscal responsibilities, lobbying, and understanding United States codes and regulatory/administrative annotations. As a practicing attorney and CEO of my Charlotte County law firm for over 20 years, as well as having my Doctor of Education degree focused on expert organizational management, has driven me to continue assisting in the management of business operations, promoting economic growth, developing strategic mechanisms for maximizing output, and assist in the readiness to meet the growing needs and challenges of our growing community. The Charlotte County Airport Authority manages, along with the PGD CEO, the organization's daily operations, future causes, and sustained growth. I have managed corporations, I have been legal counsel for general contractors, businesses, and stakeholders that have provided the necessary foundation with a strong working knowledge of organizational effectiveness and efficiencies; thus, I believe I have the necessary experience, expertise, and dedication to make the Charlotte County Airport Authority and PGD the best it possibly can be.

Please answer each question in 300 words or less and email back to bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org on or before July 12, 2024.



**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**