



Margaret Blank <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>

Your Questions

Margaret Blank <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 12:09 PM

To: Info <info@hometownkeywest.com>

Yes, please add me to your email list.

I've only recently become aware of Hometown PAC, and definitely appreciate what you do. I've considered joining, however, as a Key Largo property owner I don't know how much membership would benefit me. Hometown appears to be geared toward Key West. But I'll keep paying attention and see how it goes.

Thanks,

Margaret Blank

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 11:45 AM, Info <info@hometownkeywest.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Blank,

Thank you for your email questions.

Hometown has requested its 2015 and 2016 members to propose a question to the panelist for the July 25 and August 30 Forums. You are not a member of Hometown and are thus ineligible to participate in this matter.

We look forward to having you at the event, and trust you will be a member by then by joining through Paypal. Please go to www.hometownkeywest.com and click on the Icon "Join Hometown. The follow the simple directions.

Submitting a question(s) does not mean the panelists will answer them--the panelist make the final decision.

Would you like Hometown to add your name to its email list?

Thank you.

Hometown!

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Blank <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>

To: info@hometownkeywest.com

Date: Thu, 4 Aug 2016 08:48:42 -0400

Subject: Clerk of Court

Hello;

I see that another candidate forum is scheduled for August 8. There are a some things that I would like to see the Republican candidates for Clerk of Court address.

1. Kevin Madok is currently the Strategic Planning Director for Monroe County. When you click on the link to that position, there's nothing there. What exactly does Madok do in this capacity?
2. Madok has harshly criticized Heavilin's performance as Clerk because of timeliness issues early on. However, Kolhage's office was also criticized for late juror payments in 2011. (See page 8 of 10.) I understand that Madok was employed at the Clerk's office at this time. So why should we believe that Madok would do a better job than Heavilin in this regard?
3. The latest report from the state indicates that Heavilin's timeliness issues have largely been addressed. However, there were some late entries because county officials did not submit purchasing card receipts in a timely manner. Heavilin performed an audit that showed numerous problems with the county's handling of purchasing cards. If elected, how would Madok handle this situation? Will his close relationships with current county officials hamper his ability to police this and other issues?

4. Madok authored a white paper in support of Carruthers's proposed Emergency Services Surtax (ESS). That white paper claimed that residents pay 100% of property taxes that support fire and emergency services. (See page 17 of 25.) Does he really believe this? If so, why? Clearly out-of-town property owners pay taxes, too.

5. Madok also claimed in the white paper, that local households would only pay an additional \$125 per year in sales tax. (See page 19 of 25.) Yet Madok's own numbers fail to support this. The white paper claims that the ESS would raise \$34 million. About 40% of that or \$13.6 million would be contributed by locals. According to the Census Bureau, there are about 30,000 households in Monroe County - meaning that each local household would contribute about \$450 per year in additional sales tax. Why did Madok use the \$125 figure even though it is not supported by his own numbers?

6. Related to questions 4 & 5 - Given his performance on ESS issue, what assurances can Madok give the voters that he would carry out his duties as Clerk with the integrity and care required?

7. Heavilin did have issues with timeliness early on. What has she done to address these issues? And are they largely resolved?

I hope that some of these questions can be asked. Personally, I'm especially concerned about Madok's handling of the ESS situation. I understand that the issue is currently "dead", but it wouldn't take much to revive it. It is very disturbing to me that apparently deceptive statements were made in support of it.

Thank you,

Margaret Blank