Voters’ Guide for 2020 Primary for the

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRIMARY ELECTIONS

All responses come directly from the candidates and are unedited by LWV. The League does not support or oppose any candidates or parties.

Manatee County Commissioner District 1

The winner of this Republican primary will face Democrat Dominique Brown in the November general election.

- Priscilla Whisenant Trace (incumbent)  
- James Satcher III

Page 2
Page 3

Manatee County Commissioner District 7 – At Large

There is no Democratic challenger, but there is a write-in candidate. Only Republicans can vote in this primary, and the results will be final unless the write-in candidate does not withdraw. If the write-in candidate does not withdraw, then the winner of the primary will be on the general election ballot with a space for the write-in candidate.

- Ed Hunzeker
- George Kruse

Page 4
Page 5

Videos of candidate forums are available at:

https://lwvmanatee.org/videos/

Complete voting information is available at

https://www.vote411.org/
What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?

My family has lived in District 1 for generations. I love and know the areas. My knowledge of agriculture has helped me with land use issues. I am calm and hard working. Cooperation is the key to getting things done. I get things done.

Why are you running for this office?

I am the incumbent and have many projects still on the board. Would like to see them through. I originally ran to help my district with the growth that is now coming our way. I want to keep Manatee the great county it is.

What do you see as the most important challenge facing Manatee County? How do you plan to handle this challenge?

The easy answer is growth. Growth provides us with many problems but also the revenue to accomplish things. The county has many challenges and need people who will stay steadfast, support the citizens with realistic goals and always communicate.
What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?

I am a husband and father who strives to put Christ first in all I do. This same commitment served our Founding Fathers well, and has made the United States the greatest country on earth. I have worked in ministry for two decades, feeding the hungry, responding to disasters, restoring victims of sex-trafficking, and sharing the Gospel. I also work in the community helping business owners become profitable and strong employers. The combination of family, community, and business experience will bring a much needed perspective to the Board. I am a strong and vocal supporter of President Trump with a commitment to the Conservative principles of strong security, low taxes, and limited government.

Why are you running for this office?

James Satcher III Manatee County possesses beautiful waterways and beaches, a vibrant business community and an outstanding Sheriff’s department. However, our County Commission has consistently shown a penchant for growing government, limiting Constitutional Rights without cause, and missing the most important issues at hand. Curfews on law abiding residents and beach closures were recently given top billing, but protecting our most vulnerable citizens was almost ignored. In fact, at the April 17th meeting, the liberal members said they were keeping positive residents from skilled nursing facilities from coming to the hospital to keep them from being “over-run.” What an asinine position, to sacrifice the most vulnerable to protect empty beds.

What do you see as the most important challenge facing Manatee County? How do you plan to handle this challenge?

James Satcher III Beyond restarting the economy and protecting our senior citizens, I will fight to get the county's infrastructure and road projects completed on time in District 1. As new local emergencies and issues arise, it is important District 1 has a representative that is a life-long Republican. I will protect our 2nd Amendment Right to bear arms, fight for pro-life policies on a local level, and support Governor DeSantis and President Trump. I also will fully fund our Sheriff's office to keep us safe.
Edwin Hunzeker (Rep)

Mailing Address 714 Callander Cove, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Campaign Phone (941) 448-1176

Website http://www.hunzekerformanatee.com

Email Ed@HunzekerForManatee.com

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/edhunzeker

What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?

I have over 50 years of experience in running governments from the administrative perspective and I believe experience counts. I would like to use that valuable experience to help establish policies from the legislative branch of government. In these trying times the ability to know how government works is critically important in establishing programs to assist the community. Developing new jobs, housing, infrastructure and health care will be critical in the ‘new norm’ and I have the knowledge, skills & abilities to help the county commission set the direction without a learning curve.

Why are you running for this office?

I want to maintain the quality of life we in Manatee County have come to enjoy. We have challenges and I have the experience to help us work together, as a community, to maintain our traditions. We have to face the challenges of the Covid-19 impacts on jobs, the environment, housing and tourism. My background in managing crisis situations make me uniquely qualified to help set policies for the future and to do so in a financially responsible way.

What do you see as the most important challenge facing Manatee County? How do you plan to handle this challenge?

Although growth has been on the forefront of our challenges over the years I believe that in the coming years it will be overshadowed by new challenges in the area of jobs losses, business failures and the resulting economic stress to homes and businesses. We, as a community need to revisit programs & policies that will help us through the upcoming economic stress. Job creation, taxation and health care are all going to be on the forefront of our elected officials and I have the experience to move the policies of the Board of County Commissioners in solving these issues.
George Kruse  (Rep) Commercial Real Estate Finance

Mailing Address 12806 Daisy Place
Bradenton, FL 34212

Campaign Phone (941) 321-6393
Website http://www.electkruse.com
Email votekruse@gamil.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/votekruse
Instagram www.instagram.com/votekruse

What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?

I believe a diverse Board of County Commissioners is in the best interest of everyone. It allows for unique views and perspectives when making important decisions that affect the entire community. My background is entirely in the private sector. I have run companies, departments and teams based on free market, limited expense ideals which we sometimes lack in our public discussions. This past and current experience allows for viewpoints to be considered from the private side, and not just governmental views, when making decisions.

Why are you running for this office?

I have spent my whole life on the private citizen side of local government policies. I have seen the impacts of these policies on myself, my family, my businesses and my community. I fundamentally believe there are better ways to grow and prosper in Manatee County. Ways that are both inclusive and sustainable. My experience in real estate and finance is lacking on our Board at a time when it is needed the most. I decided to run to add value through this experience and add a much-needed voice to all the other private citizens within our community that occasionally feel left out of the discussion.

What do you see as the most important challenge facing Manatee County? How do you plan to handle this challenge?

The most important challenge facing Manatee County is our continued growing pains as our population continues to increase. We need to focus on smarter, more sustainable housing that is inclusive to the overall workforce through non-monetary incentives. We need to ensure timely infrastructure development through public/private partnership. Finally, we need a diverse employment base through mentoring and retaining our students to attract higher-wage employers with a skilled base of employees.