

City of Fort Myers Ward 5 Steve Hooper

I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 35 years. As a former insurance defense trial lawyer and senior staff attorney to the circuit judiciary, I have extensive experience in the law in both the private and public sectors. I think that if you are going to make, apply and interpret laws, it would be wise to know something about laws and how they're properly made and applied in a nonpartisan fashion.

I am running for city council because it's time for me to stop complaining about problems and start doing something about them. I aim to accomplish that by helping government fulfill its primary purpose: to promote the health, safety and welfare of the people. To me, all three are not priorities, they are preconditions. Unhealthy and unsafe conditions need to be cleaned up when discovered, not budgeted for. Polluted land and water, the myriad problems with the FMPD identified in the Freeh Report, and chronic unfunded liabilities are issues of paramount importance.

I support the initiative to create a Children's Services Council. It's incumbent upon the city to monitor water quality and preserve water resources. The issues of land use, public transportation and in-fill development need to be part of any effort to amend the comprehensive plan and smart code, both of which should be done together as the product of extensive and prolonged public input. The toxic waste site must be cleaned up and an epidemiologist should be hired to evaluate potentially affected people.