

# Candidate Responses – Orange County Board of Supervisors

**Keith Marshall**

Question 1: Position Seeking:

KM: Board of Supervisors- District 3

Question 2: Have You Previously Held This Position?

KM: Yes

Question 2a: If yes, for how many years?

KM: 2.5

Question 3: Will you be attending the August 23, 2023, Orange County Candidate Showcase?

KM: Yes

Question 4: What is your plan for fostering business growth in the community for the next 5 years?

KM: Business growth and economic development has been a key issue for me, having been in business for over 40 years in Orange County. I am a strong believer that the best opportunities available for people are when they are allowed to pursue their dreams in business with very little government oversight, restrictions, and regulations. Government needs to partner with people to open up as many opportunities as possible. This means diverse economic development areas, school and career training opportunities, and expanding Fiberlync accessibility.

Question 5: According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Orange County has nearly 100,000 acres of farmland, and is home to approximately 417 farms of all sizes and types. How do you envision your role can best support all types of agricultural operations?

KM: Having farmed in Orange County with my family and working with other farmers, I have gotten to know many of the challenges we face in agriculture. We need to have strong leadership that understands these challenges. Agriculture is a tremendous positive in what it provides our local economy and tax base, with very few services and expenses needed. We need to pursue this unique balance that also provides us with the natural beauty Orange County is so blessed with. We need to preserve and strengthen agricultural and forestry's land use, and personal property exemption status. Nothing can guarantee our open spaces and next generation farm opportunities more effectively than this.

Question 6: What specific steps do you believe could be taken by the Board of Supervisors, other county officials, or others in the county to help the county attract businesses that will improve the economic well-being of the county without a negative impact upon the quality of life for the county citizens?

KM: The most common issues businesses look to before investing into a community are...

- Economic areas for development (location)
- Accessibility to their location (transportation)

- Opportunity for water - Business friendly environment (minimal government regulations) - Well trained labor (CTE availability)
  - Affordable and available housing
- Addressing and finding solutions to these and other issues are paramount for the Board of Supervisors leadership.

Question 7: What steps do you think are most important to support existing businesses and encourage healthy growth?

KM: The long-term outcome for Orange County in many ways is going to depend on our local leadership, community involvement, and support. These areas are where we need to focus.

1. Maintain low taxbase.
2. Public safety.
3. Networking with other businesses.
4. Tourism and Buy Local.
5. Lessen the burden of government restrictions.

Question 8: How do agriculture and forestry contribute to your vision for economic growth and development within the County?

KM: Agriculture and Forestry are the foundation on which Orange County has developed into today. These two sustainable economies are what provide the basic necessities of life. (Food and Fiber) We often overlook their importance for the fact they have always been available in ample supply. We need to manage this vital resource to ensure our basic life securities.

Question 9: How do you define "social justice" and, from your perspective, how can the BOS ensure fairness for all Orange County residents?

KM: Social justice is the concept of fairness for all, it is the belief that everyone should have equal access to economic growth and prosperity. We have done much to improve these opportunities. More can be done, but it starts with each one of us. We are all Gods people. Being on the Board of Supervisors, I want to promote education, jobs, home ownership, and family values.

- Education and training are the keys to better jobs and greater prosperity.
  - Homeownership is what insures wealth creation.
  - Maintaining a family structure is what allows for generational security.
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