

Your Name	Peter Kosovsky
Seat running for	1 year Highland Beach Commissioner opening
District	4
Website	N/A
How long have you lived in Palm Beach County?	Eight Years

JOBS

Highland Beach is a small community with only a single commercial hotel entity. Most of the jobs are town government and town services based. I strongly supported the town getting its own Fire and Rescue Department in order to become independent from Delray Beach. This will bring in new employees to our town for essential services along with construction jobs for building the new Fire Station. Presently, there are only 3 job openings posted for town services. This number should increase in the future.

TALENT

If elected as a Town Commissioner, I would only have limited oversight and influence for hiring employees for town services as our Town Constitution gives the Town Manager the job of making most of the hiring decisions. However, I would try to make sure we have very competitive salaries and search for the best qualified candidates for any open positions.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

I would keep Florida's business friendly tax system which has attracted many companies and financial groups to move to the Sunshine State. I believe we rank 4th in the country as business friendly.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The recent rise in Florida housing costs is partly due to nearly 1,000 people a day moving into the state during the last few years. Some came to escape the more stringent covid restrictions in northern states and others for the tax advantages and the weather. Inflation in housing, insurance and everyday items puts a strain on those living on fixed incomes and limited salaries. We should explore temporary or permanent tax relief and/or grant programs. When prices get too high, people may begin to leave and the system may come back into balance. For now, what is needed is reinforcement of social services and if necessary, new services to ensure the vulnerable are cared for and don't lose their homes and workers have affordable housing.

TAXES

If elected, I made a pledge not to raise taxes during my one year term. This is not the same as a pledge to never raise taxes as certain catastrophic events or other unforeseen events may necessitate a future raise. My attitude towards tax raises is that they should be a last resort and that duplication, fat and overspending be trimmed from the budget before considering tax raises. I have outlined potential cost savings in front of the Highland Beach Commissioners as well as in emails to the town's citizens.

COLLABORATION

In the past, I have collaborated with the Committee to Save Highland Beach to defeat a reckless and fiscally irresponsible 45 million dollar bond issue. I also, at my own expense, sent every voter a detailed mailing explaining the folly and consequences of voting for the bond issue. With the help of CSHB and other involved citizens, the bond issue was defeated.

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

The Town of Highland Beach Government has very capable women; one serving as a commissioner and one serving as a vice-mayor as well as an extremely knowledgeable woman Town Clerk. Many other talented women are working in our town government. The Town has an exemplary hiring policy that follows all laws and regulations with regard to equal employment opportunities.

WORKPLACE CULTURE

I have always supported equal rights and equal pay for women. The Town of Highland Beach has several women in leadership positions. We do not have any "glass ceilings" that I'm aware of. If elected and I find a "glass ceiling", I'll do my best to break it. Ultimately, education is the best place to start teaching that women can handle any leadership position.

OUR COMMUNITY

The community of Highland Beach has been heading in the right direction for the last three years. We have started on the road to our own Fire & Rescue Department, and strengthened law enforcement with a Marine Police Unit, etc. That does not mean that there is not room for more improvements going forward.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

As a physician, I have diagnosed and treated patients facing their most critical challenges and have found that the more resilient the patient the better chance there is for a positive outcome. With only a short one-year term, I promise to ensure that Highland beach will be well on the road to becoming the most resilient town in Coastal Florida.

I have been involved in Highland Beach politics for half a decade as a constructive critic. I hope to use my ability to work with others to form a consensus and move Highland Beach safely into the future while keeping taxes as low as possible, maintaining transparency and keeping our government from going off the rails.

I do not belong to a PAC like the CSHB and am independent and self-funded. I won't be asking for your money and I won't be calling or texting you. I believe in public service and if elected, I won't owe any political favors.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Peter Kosovsky