

Gow Fields for Property Appraiser



Background

Gow Fields was born in Lakeland, Florida and is a lifelong resident of Polk County. He is married to Kay, and they have four children and eight grandchildren. He graduated from Kathleen Sr. High School, Polk State College (formerly Polk Community College), the University of South Florida, and holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. He is the President and CEO of Fields & Company, Inc., doing business as Fields Insurance & Financial Group.

Gow served on the Lakeland City Commission beginning in May of 1992 as a Commissioner until he was elected and sworn in as Mayor in January 2010, completing his service in January 2014. He is a past President of the Florida League of Mayors. He has been inducted into the Polk County Public Schools Hall of Fame and the Kathleen High School Hall of Fame. He has received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Kathleen High School and for Polk State College. He is widely recognized for his extensive experience and accomplishments in public policy creation and implementation that successfully improved transportation planning, economic development, education, and workforce development.

In February 2019 the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce recognized him as the 2019 recipient of the prestigious George Jenkins Award. Earlier this year he was awarded the Jere Annis Leadership Award by the Leadership Lakeland Alumni Association.

Why do you feel compelled to run for this office?

About a year ago our current Property Appraiser sat down with me to discuss my interest in serving in public office again. She eventually shared with me she would not be seeking re-election and wanted me to consider running for the office. We had a candid conversation of why she thought my leadership style, business and political experience were well suited to move the Appraiser's office forward. We also discussed my desire to be engaged in public service again where I believed I could make a positive difference serving the people of this community and adding value to Polk County. We agreed I should visit her office and meet members of her team while getting an overview of the operation at a more in-depth level. We additionally agreed that I should pray and discuss this further with my wife Kay and my family before deciding. In the days that followed I received some calls from other professionals asking for guidance as to how best to assist their clients or relatives in the areas of real estate ownership, taxable values and transferring ownership from one generation to another. While in the process of providing guidance and the framework for a solution I realized the answer to my prayer was revealing itself to me.

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Why should citizens vote for you specifically instead of your opponent?

The citizens of Polk County should vote for Gow Fields for several reasons. The primary reasons I believe I stand out include:

1. My unique blend of experience as a business owner and service as an elected official on the Lakeland City Commission and as former Mayor of Lakeland.
2. My deep understanding of delivering excellent customer service and continuous improvement in running a business operation every day.
3. My long-time commitment to serving the people, businesses, and organizations of Polk County.
4. My education and training along with a strong history of leadership and service in a variety of capacities serving Polk County and the Central Florida Region.
5. As a business owner in the insurance industry, I have a deep understanding of how important the information and services of the Property Appraiser's office are to a broad cross-section of professionals and business organizations.
6. My commitment to continuous improvement and respect for the great foundation the leadership and its team members have worked diligently to build in service to all of Polk County.
7. My understanding of the importance of the work of the office serving large landowners, agricultural interests, industry and business operations of varying sizes, economic development professions, real estate and legal professionals, real estate investors, local governments, homeowners and aspiring homeowners. I am committed to leading the office in a manner that improves upon the value it delivers to the citizens, businesses, and organizations of Polk County.

Please learn more about Gow by visiting www.GowFieldsForPolk.com.