



A Community-First Plan for Cultural Diversity, Inclusion & Responsible Growth

District 8 & Orange County, Florida

Orange County is changing rapidly. Across District 8 including Lake Nona, Meadow Woods, Southchase, Hunter's Creek, Moss Park, Sawgrass, Wyndham Lakes, and surrounding communities, residents are witnessing unprecedented growth, development, and outside investment pressure. New apartment complexes continue rising. Luxury developments continue expanding. Corporate investment continues increasing. Yet underneath all of this visible progress, many longtime residents are quietly asking the same question. Who is this growth truly benefiting? Because while the county continues celebrating economic expansion, many working families feel like they are struggling simply to maintain their place within the communities they helped build. Hispanic families, Black residents, Afrolatino communities, Caribbean households, Muslim families, immigrant populations, POC and BIPOC residents increasingly feel economic pressure through rising rents, traffic congestion, infrastructure strain, and growing fears

of cultural displacement. I believe those concerns deserve acknowledgment instead of dismissal. I believe growth without inclusion is not progress. Growth without protection is instability. And growth that prioritizes outside investment over the people already living here ultimately weakens the identity of the very communities it claims to improve.

“The issue is not whether Orange County grows. The issue is whether growth finally begins working for the people already living here.”

The Reality Facing District 8

One of the greatest strengths of District 8 is its diversity. Communities throughout Meadow Woods, Southchase, Lake Nona, Moss Park, Sawgrass, Wyndham Lakes, and Hunter’s Creek are home to vibrant multicultural populations that continue shaping the identity of Orange County every single day. These communities are built through family-owned businesses, churches, mosques, restaurants, schools, local traditions, immigrant entrepreneurship, youth programs, and multigenerational relationships that create the social fabric holding these neighborhoods together. Lake Nona in particular has become home to a growing Muslim population composed of healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers, educators, engineers, small business owners, and immigrant families who were drawn to the area because of opportunity, strong schools, diversity, innovation, and safety. Many South Asian, Middle Eastern, African, Caribbean, and immigrant Muslim families now contribute directly to the growth and success of the Lake Nona Medical City corridor. But just like many other residents across District 8, these communities increasingly worry about affordability, representation, infrastructure overload, and whether development will continue happening around them instead of with them. Too many residents feel disconnected from the decisions being made about their neighborhoods. Too often, the modern political system becomes psychologically conditioned to chase the appearance of success rather

than the lived reality of residents. Success becomes measured by cranes in the skyline, ribbon cuttings, rising tax revenue, and luxury construction while everyday families measure success differently. Residents want to know whether they will still be able to afford to stay in the communities they love. They want to know whether local businesses will survive, whether their children will feel represented and safe, and whether the culture that built these communities will still exist ten years from now.

A Community Stability Framework

I believe Orange County needs a fundamentally different approach to growth and development. One rooted in accountability, transparency, and human-centered planning instead of profit-centered expansion. That is why I support establishing Community Stability Impact Reviews before approving major development projects throughout District 8. Right now, many projects are judged primarily through financial projections, engineering studies, and traffic analysis. But communities deserve something deeper. Before approving large-scale development projects throughout Lake Nona, Moss Park, Meadow Woods, Southchase, or surrounding corridors, Orange County should evaluate displacement risks, affordability impacts, infrastructure readiness, school overcrowding concerns, public transportation strain, environmental preservation, workforce housing inclusion, cultural preservation concerns, and overall neighborhood stability. Development should not only be judged by how much money it generates. It should also be judged by how it affects families, whether longtime residents can still afford to remain nearby, and whether communities emerge stronger instead of fragmented. I believe growth must benefit the people already living here too, not only investors, developers, and outside corporations.

Protecting Culture While Supporting Growth

I also want District 8 to become a county leader in cultural preservation and inclusive community investment. That means making direct investments into Hispanic, Black, Afrolatino, Caribbean, Muslim, immigrant, POC and BIPOC communities through multilingual government services, minority-owned business support, cultural grants, youth mentorship initiatives, immigrant entrepreneurship assistance, community wellness programs, local arts investment, mental health resources, and partnerships with churches, mosques, nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood organizations. Because communities are not just collections of buildings. Communities are living ecosystems built through relationships, identity, culture, and shared history. I want District 8 to establish Community First Development Corridors throughout Meadow Woods, Southchase, Hunter's Creek, Wyndham Lakes, Sawgrass, Moss Park, and Lake Nona expansion areas. These corridors would prioritize local business ownership, workforce housing, public transit accessibility, green space preservation, youth recreation, walkability, public safety improvements, and community gathering spaces that strengthen neighborhood identity instead of erasing it. I also believe one of the biggest mistakes many governments make is waiting until communities begin struggling before taking action. Responsible leadership means planning ahead before affordability crises become irreversible.

Final Vision

I support innovation. I support investment. I support economic development and opportunity. But I also believe leadership has a responsibility to protect the people who already call these communities home. True progress is not measured only by luxury buildings, outside investment, or rising property values. True progress is measured by whether working families can still afford to stay, whether immigrant families feel safe, whether Muslim families feel represented, whether Black and Hispanic communities feel heard, whether small businesses survive, and whether future generations can grow up

believing Orange County belongs to them too. District 8 deserves leadership that understands that growth should improve quality of life instead of simply increasing density and profit. I want Orange County to become an example of what responsible growth actually looks like. A future where development strengthens communities instead of replacing them. A future where diversity is protected instead of commercialized. A future where opportunity exists for everyone, not just those with wealth and influence. Because the future of District 8 should never be built around the community. It must be built with the community. **THIS IS OUR PATH FORWARD.**