

# HardisonInk.com

## Williston man to run for Florida House District 22 seat

**Joe Harding**

*Photo Provided*

**By Jeff M. Hardison**

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**WILLISTON** -- A man who is a Williston native said he plans to seek the post currently held by Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala, Dist. 22) after the incumbent departs from office, due to term limits.

Joe Harding announced for the Ocala Star-Banner on Feb. 4 that he plans to run in the race in November of 2020. An Ocala man previously announced the same intention in the same daily Ocala newspaper, according to that publication.

On Feb. 7, Harding sent his Feb. 4 announcement to HardisonInk.com.

"Defending the Second Amendment and reducing healthcare costs top Harding's conservative agenda," are at the top of the news release.

Those are federal issues and he is planning to run for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives, a state legislative agency, however it shows voters his inclinations.

Harding noted that he is "a conservative Republican and seventh generation Floridian who was born and raised in Williston."

Harding cites ending illegal immigration, outlawing sanctuary cities, and supporting agriculture as key components of his platform. Also topping his agenda are defending Second Amendment rights, protecting all human life, and addressing skyrocketing health insurance and prescription drug costs.

"Throughout my career, I have seen the negative impact of government overreach firsthand," Harding noted. "Wasteful government spending and growing bureaucracy do nothing but stifle innovation and job creation. Too much government involvement in the wrong issues is harmful, but so is inaction on issues like opioid addiction, which I've also had the experience of witnessing firsthand in friends and employees."

Harding noted that he "learned the value of hard work and good stewardship of resources" in his family with 11 siblings, who were "raised by his pastor father and home-schooling mother."

While studying construction management at Florida International University, he worked multiple jobs to support himself, eventually working his way up into project management roles in which he managed multi-million dollar budgets, diverse clients and demanding timelines, he said in his press release.

Currently, Harding owns and operates a lawn maintenance company, and horse boarding and training facility, he said.

Harding and his wife Amanda have three children, he said.

Florida House of Representatives District 22 includes all of Levy County and the western part of Marion County.

