

March 2026

## Candidates Corner

### **Jerry Demings for Florida Governor: A Lifelong Commitment to Public Service**

Jerry Demings grew up in West Orlando, where he saw firsthand the toll drugs took on his community and his own family; his brother battled addiction as a young man. Determined to make a difference, Jerry pursued a career in public service to help rid neighborhoods of drug dealers and restore hope. After graduating from college, an FBI recruiter encouraged him to gain law enforcement experience. He joined the Orlando Police Department expecting to serve for a few years, but he fell in love with the work and the community he served.



### **Leading with Integrity and Results as Orlando Police Chief**

As Orlando's Police Chief, Jerry worked closely with the community to reduce crime and strengthen trust. In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which deeply affected not only our country but the Central Florida Region, he united the city through service, compassion, and resilience. His focus on community partnerships and youth engagement led to measurable results: homicides dropped nearly 30%, aggravated assaults fell 10%, and sex offenses declined by almost 6% during his tenure.

### **Innovation and Compassion as Orange County Sheriff**

Elected as Orange County Sheriff, Jerry brought innovation and accountability to the Sheriff's office. He was one of the first in Florida to deploy body-worn cameras and modernize the fleet with the newest and most advanced GPS and installed state-of-the-art radios. By moving deputies from administrative roles back to patrol and first-response duties, he increased visibility and strengthened proactive policing. These efforts helped reduce overall crime by 30% and violent crime by 34% during his tenure. He also managed budgets responsibly, returning more than \$10 million to taxpayers. After the tragic Pulse nightclub shooting, Jerry led with compassion, helping the community come together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

### **Delivering for Families as Orange County Mayor**

Now, as Orange County Mayor, Jerry Demings is focused on lowering costs and improving the quality of life for working families. He's committed \$160 million over the next decade to affordable and workforce housing, invested in safer roads and sidewalks, and prioritized funding for first responders to keep Central Florida secure.