

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD

APPLICATION DATE: 10/3/25
BOARD NAME: Tourist Development Council

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Rich Larkin
Occupation: Area Vice President
If Retired, previous occupation: _____
Address: 3600 SW 36th Ave
City: Ocala State: FL ZIP: 34474
Phone#: 386.212.9295
E-mail Address: rlarkin@Hiltonoccala.com

MAILING ADDRESS (If different from residence):

Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Is your address or any other personal information exempt under Florida Statute 119.07? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please submit a signed Marion County Public Records Act Exempt Form (available upon request).

What is your preferred form of communication? Phone ___ Mail ___ Email

The following data is collected in accordance with Florida Statute, Section 760.80, for the purpose of statistical reporting and ensuring compliance with diversity and inclusion guidelines. Your responses will be kept confidential and will not affect your application.

Gender: Male Female ___ Prefer not to disclose ___
Physically Disabled: Yes ___ No Prefer not to disclose ___
Race: African-American ___ Native-American ___ Caucasian Other ___
Hispanic/Latino ___ Asian -American ___ Prefer not to disclose ___

Are you a registered voter? Yes No ___

Do you own homestead property in Marion County? Yes No ___

Are you employed by Marion County or have relatives that are Marion County employees? Yes ___ No
If yes, please provide position, department and/or relationship to County employee and their position/department

Do you currently work for an entity or agency that either receives funding from, or has a contract with the County to perform services? Yes ___ No

Are you, your spouse, or children, currently an officer, director, or partner in any entity or agency that receives funding from, or has a contract with the county? Yes ___ No

If yes, please submit a signed FORM 4a - Disclosure of Business Transaction, Relationship, or Interest. (Available upon request).

Have you been convicted (including a withholding of adjudication), pled guilty or pled to a Nolo Contendere (no contest) to a misdemeanor or felony (including a criminal traffic violation)? Yes ___ No

A 'YES' answer will not automatically disqualify you from serving on an advisory board. The nature, severity, and date of the offense will be considered in relation to the position. If unsure about the details of a criminal case, contact the relevant agency to ensure accuracy when reporting your history. Failure to do so may result in removal from the board. If you answered 'YES,' please provide details. You may use an additional sheet if needed.

WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS/THESE BOARDS?

(Include current or previous work experience; community involvement; interests/activities)

See Attached

SERVING ON OTHER BOARDS

Do you currently serve on any other boards in Florida, or are you an elected or appointed state, county (Marion County or other county) or municipal ("city") office holder? Yes No ___

If yes, which board? Hospice of Marion County

(Important: You may not serve on more than one (1) Substantive Board: Board of Adjustment; Code Enforcement Board; License Review Board; Land Development Regulation Commission; Historical Commission; Hospital District Board of Trustees; Housing Finance Authority; Industrial Development Authority; Tourist Development Council; Parks and Recreation Advisory Council)

Have you ever served on a City or County advisory board? Yes No ___ TDC

If yes, when, where and which board(s)?

REFERENCES - Please list three (3) personal and/or business references

(PLEASE DO NOT USE COMMISSIONERS or COUNTY ADMINISTRATION STAFF as REFERENCES)

Name: Jim Hilly
Phone Number: [Redacted] Email: [Redacted]

Name: Ken Daley
Phone Number: [Redacted] Email: [Redacted]

Name: Eric Churchill
Phone Number: [Redacted] Email: [Redacted]

INITIAL: ML I authorize Marion County to contact my references and I understand that all statements made on this application may be verified by Marion County.

INITIAL: ML I understand the responsibilities associated with being a board member, and I have adequate time to serve if appointed.

INITIAL: ML I agree to complete training within six (6) months from the date of my appointment.

INITIAL: ML I understand that submitting this application makes all provided information public record, subject to disclosure under applicable laws unless exempt under Florida Statute 119.071. I confirm the accuracy of all details provided and their suitability for public release.

By signing this application, I certify that the information I provided in this application is true and correct, and that any misstatements or material omissions on my application may result in my removal from my appointed position.

SIGN: *Rich Clarkin*

DATE: 10/3/25

PRINT: Rich Clarkin

RECEIVED BY BCC:

This application will be kept on file for a period of one year from date of receipt by the Board of County Commissioners.

RETURN FORM TO:
MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
Or via email to: Commissionadmin@marionfl.org

PLEASE CALL THE COMMISSION OFFICE AT (352) 438-2323 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR APPLICATION.

Rich Larkin
General Manager
Hilton Ocala
3600 SW 36th Ave
Ocala, FL 34474
rlarkin@hilton.com
(352) 873-6440

Date: October 3, 2025

To:
Marion County Board of County Commissioners
601 SE 25th Ave
Ocala, FL 34471

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my interest in serving the remainder of the unexpired term on the Marion County Board of Commissioners. As the General Manager of the Hilton Ocala and Area Vice President with Meyer Jabara Hotels, I have had the privilege of contributing to the growth and vitality of our local economy through hospitality leadership and community service.

Marion County's tourism industry is a cornerstone of our economic development, generating over **\$6.4 million annually in Tourist Development Tax (TDT)** revenue. This 4% bed tax, collected from overnight stays, funds essential services such as infrastructure, parks, and public safety—while reducing the tax burden on residents. Tourism now contributes more than **\$1 billion in annual economic impact**, supports over **11,000 jobs**, and generates **\$300 million in wages and salaries**. The Hilton Ocala plays a central role in this ecosystem, hosting equestrian events, conferences, and leisure travelers who directly contribute to this revenue stream.

In addition to my professional experience, I am deeply committed to serving our community through nonprofit leadership. I am honored to serve on the board of **Hospice of Marion County**, where we provide compassionate end-of-life care and support to families across the region. I also actively support **United Way of Marion County**, particularly the Strong Families initiative, which empowers families to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

These roles have given me a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our county—from economic development and workforce readiness to healthcare access and social support. I believe my background in strategic planning, fiscal management, and community engagement can contribute meaningfully to the Board's mission.

I respectfully request your consideration for this appointment. I am eager to serve Marion County with integrity, collaboration, and a deep commitment to the well-being of our residents and the prosperity of our region.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Larkin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rich Larkin

Area Vice President/General Manager, Hilton Ocala
Board Member, Hospice of Marion County
Supporter, United Way of Marion County