

Joshua Borem
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February 1, 2026

Amber Smith
Communications Director
Polk County

Re: Industrial Development Authority Appointment – District 5

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on Polk County's Industrial Development Authority. I currently reside in Commission District 5 and would welcome the opportunity to be considered.

I am a long-time Polk County resident and the owner of a local business operating here for several years. As a business operator, I regularly work with decisions involving capital investment, risk, payroll, and long-term planning. While I am not a finance or legal professional, I am comfortable reviewing complex information, asking practical questions, and relying on subject-matter experts to support sound decisions.

I am interested in the IDA because of its role in supporting responsible economic development while maintaining appropriate safeguards for the county and its residents. I value thoughtful oversight, transparency, and decisions grounded in practical outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to serve if selected and am happy to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
Joshua Borem

Joshua Borem

Lakeland, Florida

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Professional Summary

Business owner and operator with 21 years' experience in Polk County. Background includes capital investment decisions, operational risk management, and workforce oversight. Interested in contributing practical business judgment and thoughtful oversight in a civic service role.

Professional Experience

Borem Fire Protection, Inc. – Lakeland, FL

Owner / President | 2018–Present

- Founded and operate a local fire protection services company serving commercial customers throughout Polk County and surrounding areas.
 - Operate a multi-service fire protection company employing 18 staff and completing thousands of service jobs annually.
 - Responsible for capital purchases, budgeting, payroll, and long-term planning.
 - Manage workforce operations, regulatory compliance, and customer contracts.
 - Coordinate regularly with local businesses, municipalities, community organizations, and businesses both large and small.
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Civic & Community Involvement

- Business Voice of Greater Lakeland – Chairman
 - Homeowners Association – Board Member
 - Children's Evangelism Fellowship – Committee Member
 - Lakeland Chamber of Commerce – Member (highly active)
 - Bridge Local – Member (highly active)
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Civic Education & Leadership

- Lakeland Citizens Academy
 - Lakeland Police Citizens Academy
 - Political Leadership Institute
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Education

- College coursework completed (no degree), Southwestern Michigan College
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