

## Key West Citizen, The (FL)

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### **It's time to get political once again** *TIMOTHY O'HARA Key West Citizen*

Just as people have recovered from the last election, one Key West-based civic association is hosting its first political forum of the campaign season.

Hometown! will hold its bi-annual "Call to Candidates" at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Salute! restaurant on Higgs Beach.

Hometown is inviting all incumbents, candidates or anyone wanting to "test the waters," said Todd German,

"It is the easiest time to speak," German said. "It is a good way to get your name out if you are a first-timer. It is also a good way for people to talk with the candidates in person."

The event kicks off what should be a very active political season. There are three Monroe County Commission, two school board and three Key West City Commission seats and the Key West mayor's seat up for grabs. Every local constitutional office will be on the 2020 ballot. So far, former Key West Mayor Craig Cates and current Islamorada Village Councilman Mike Forster have filed the paperwork with the Supervisor of Elections Office to run for County Commission. County Commissioner Sylvia Murphy has said she also plans to run for her Upper Keys seat again, which is the seat Forster has filed to run for.

Cates is running for the seat that is currently held by County Commissioner Danny Kolhage. Kolhage has not said whether he plans to run again. Kolhage said he will make an announcement later this year about whether he plans to seek re-election.

Supervisor of Elections Joyce Griffin has also put a new feature on her office's web page, [keys-elections.org](http://keys-elections.org), for people interested in becoming a candidate. Griffin placed a series of questions and statements candidates needs to know before running.

"There are things they need to think about," Griffin said.

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