

Candace Kelly for Atlantic Beach City Commission Seat 4



I choose to live in Atlantic Beach. After joining the Navy and seeing the world, I chose to settle down here, close to paradise. I served our country, I served our schools at Fletcher High School, and now I choose to serve our city. I live here, worked here, play here.

In my tiny hometown of Cornwall, Connecticut they have an impressive 85% voter turnout record. Citizens serve the town in many capacities: neighbors serving neighbors. My parents were city clerk, mayor and fire chief. We fed people, raised barns, cared for elders. From this upbringing, I developed an interest in political affairs and a passion for community service.

My career roles in the Navy and the school system developed many skills desirable in a city commissioner. For example, I managed and lead complex government organizations, executed critical Navy missions, implemented new data systems, and taken care of employees, both on deployment and in the school. As a farsighted Safety Officer, I enforced fire, hazardous waste, OSHA regulations, hazardous weather, and building security procedures. A diligent Quality Control Officer, I researched and wrote procedural manuals and developed monitoring systems to meet the highest standards of production. I am familiar with police operations; after completing the Jacksonville Beach Citizen Police Academy, I went on to qualify as a Citizen on Patrol volunteer. I also take care of the basics: the aircraft, vehicles, buildings, and people before embarking on any critical task.

When I enlisted in the Navy, I was fortunate to be assigned to aviation commands, where education and training are highly valued. I earned a BA in Political Science and Public Administration from UNF off duty while stationed at NAS Jax and NAS Cecil Field. Once commissioned as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer, I also earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from UNF while off duty at NAS Mayport.

A proud member of the Fletcher family, I've taught hundreds of Beaches 10th graders World History and Government. I took graduate level courses in history and qualified as a National Board Certified Teacher. I believe education goes a long way toward maintaining a thriving, civil society.

I bring to the city enthusiasm for the outdoors as a National Park junkie, and a lifelong interest in music and dramatic arts as a musical theater costume designer. As a Fletcher HS club sponsor, our children and I participated in community events, ceremonies, parades, and service projects. I give of my time, talent and treasure in ministry and veteran's organizations. I am kind to dogs.

As commissioner, I would be dedicated to transparency in decision making and to improved communication between city hall and citizens. I would be a defender of neighborhood character and our natural resources. I believe in sound fiscal management and efficiency in delivering city services. I would be my great pleasure to serve.