

Jacksonville Beach Candidate Written Questions

1. How will you address the budgetary shortfalls caused by the loss of the Better Jacksonville Plan, as well as the proposed amendments that change property tax exemptions? What is your plan to preserve the levels-of-service for Jacksonville Beach residents?

Jacksonville Beach stands to take a serious deficit to the city coffers with the passing of the Homestead Exemption amendment (should it pass). This will, in turn, burden the Council and Mayor to come up with creative ways to save dollars, yet maintain or even increase the lifestyle in which Jacksonville Beach Residents are accustomed to living. There are several means to achieve this. First and foremost I intend to address the viability of the Inter-local agreement. The core of this instrument is based on services funded by the municipality. Taking a hard look at the services the city provides versus the percentage received by the COJ will have to be addressed. My position on the agreement is that it has not been revisited for quite some time and the changing of the homestead exemption brings cause enough to readdress the agreement.

A clear evaluation of the City's services must be determined. We also currently suffer at the per capita level as it pertains to public services. Although our city population is floating around 23000, on any given summer day we have a transient population that exceeds doubling that amount of persons.

Addressing our Central Business District needs with the CRA is certainly another avenue that can be looked at to compensate for budgetary shortfalls.

At the end of the day, conversations with our residents as to their expectations, desires and willingness to compromise if or when necessary will be what makes moving forward the easy path to follow.

2. What are Jacksonville Beaches' infrastructure needs when it come to sea level rise and resiliency and what would you propose to address these issues?

As a coastal community we are faced with the challenges that come with Nor'easters and hurricanes; flooding, beach erosion, debris removal and salt corrosion are amongst primary concerns. Dune protection and restoration are paramount. The powerful destruction caused by mother nature may not be preventable, but the damage can be somewhat reduced.

Indigenous plant life, sand fencing (controlled by Chapter 62b-33 of the FDEP, beaches and coastal systems) and minimization of pedestrian traffic all aid in dune preservation. Coupled with the current storm water drainage project underway, we should see significant water management improvements over time.

Other infrastructure needs to be considered is the renovation of the Penman Rd. corridor, storm water drainage in the 6th Ave. N. lots, the expansion of natural gas services for residential homes moving forward, and improving upon the 2007 Downtown Vision Plan.

3. Do you agree with the current parking solution? Why or why not?

I do not agree with the current parking solution. Quite frankly, using ocean front property to park cars seems to be counter-intuitive to an already challenged budget. Ocean front property holds a value that can significantly bring back funds to our budget, albeit via the Inter-local Agreement. Identifying a lot in which an aesthetic parking garage that is eco-friendly yet technologically advanced with tag readers, vacant space locators (per floor and row), and interactive phone parking locators at the citizens approval, should be implemented. The costs for parking are open for discussion with many variables (COJB residential preference, overnight night parking, hourly or daily rates, vehicle sizing rates etc.).

4. Please explain what personal and/or professional community service experience has prepared you to serve as an elected official for the citizens of Jacksonville Beach?

Having a distinguished career of 26 years of public safety experience in Duval County and working to keep our citizenry safe across all four corners of this county is exemplar of the public servant leadership I bring to the table. With the up-tick in violent crime in our community we need to focus on bringing today's current standards of policing into our downtown district. I have ideas of crime prevention through environmental design that is currently under-utilized and is an effective and proven method to increase safety. I also hold certificates in Incident Command Systems (emergency management for catastrophic events) and I am a member of the Statewide Emergency Response Team.

Vetting a new Police Chief to replace our retiring Chief will be paramount. I bring the institutional knowledge to the table that will solidify a good selection. We need to focus on building a robust police department and improve upon employee retention. I have a plan to do just that.

My family and I are active members and participate on Serve Staff for the Church of Eleven22. The CoE22 has tremendous community out-reach and a large following from the Beaches community.

I am the Vice President of the First Coast Republican Club right here in Jacksonville Beach, serving all three Beaches communities.

I hold a position on the Board of Directors with Project Cold Case, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to bring about awareness of unsolved homicides, provide training to law enforcement and advocates, and establishment of Cold Case Units nationwide.

I am the Director of Communications with The Police Council of Jacksonville a non-profit organization focused on supporting local law enforcement agencies with various needs during major events/investigations and providing reward funds.

Right now is the time to add a forward thinking public safety leader to the council!

5. What differentiates you from your opponent?

A commitment to a cause greater than self has been and will continue to be my mantra in life. I am willing to take the same public servant heart I have given over the past 26 years into our city council. I have fought in the streets of our city and I will continue to fight for our citizens as their voice on the City Council!

I hold strong endorsements from Congressman Rutherford, State Senator Aaron Bean, State Representative Cord Byrd, Sheriff Mike Williams and other prominent Law Enforcement Leaders. These are endorsements I do not take lightly and will surely be instrumental in achieving many successes for Jacksonville Beach!

Our family is generationally invested in our community. My mother lives right here in Jacksonville Beach in the same home my siblings and I grew up in. Some of my own, now grown, children work here in Jacksonville Beach. My wife, Becky and I are Fletcher High School grads and Becky is an educator in our Jacksonville Beach community. I am the only candidate that can say that Jacksonville Beach has truly been and will continue to be our family's home for generations!