

Beaches Watch 2019 Duval Candidate Questions

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1. Interlocal Agreement:

- a. What is your opinion of the interlocal agreements between Jacksonville and the three beaches municipalities? I am currently researching the agreements and amendments to gain a clear understanding of the provisions. Until I understand the intent, rights, privileges, and responsibilities, I cannot form an opinion. As Mayor, I will become well abreast of the agreements and move toward whatever is best for all parties.
- b. Are there any changes to the agreements you would suggest? Not without completing my research.

2. Mayport Village:

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village? My plan is to engage the stakeholders of Mayport Village and surrounding areas to gain a consensus on what's needed and/or desired, then use that input to devise a workable plan that includes economic development for the area.
- b. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality? As I am not privy to all or the budgetary information and available funding, it is impossible to give a dependable response. However, as Mayor I will always make informed decisions and do what is best for the community.
- c. Are you willing to vote for additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport? Before I can agree or disagree on funding, I would need to know our current position as well as the availability and possibility of state and federal funds.

- 3. Penman Road:** Penman Road is a heavily utilized roadway by all the beaches communities and has a myriad of problems from traffic flow to pedestrian and bicycle safety. What is your plan to ensure that adequate planning and resources are dedicated to Penman Road? The decisions to be made must be done according to the provisions set forth in the most recent amendment to Inter-local Agreement, collaboration between myself and the Beach's Mayor, and the current statistical data regarding the activity and occurrences along. As Mayor, I will take seriously the safety of our citizens and do what is necessary to ensure that safety.

- 4. Dredging the St. Johns River:** Both the St. Johns Riverkeeper and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have stated that dredging the St. Johns River will increase storm surge and flooding at the beaches and Jacksonville without a mitigation plan in place. What mitigation plan, if any, would you support to protect the beaches communities and Jacksonville? As a result of my communication with the National Department of Fish and Wildlife Services regarding dredging, I am not convinced that dredging is the appropriate action for our waterways. We would run the risk of altering the balance of our ecosystem that is vital to healthy marine life and stable shore grounds. We have a thriving fishing industry and it cannot be overlooked in the process. In my opinion, the purpose for dredging is not clear; therefore, sufficient facts are still needed to make a determination on dredging.

5. **Resiliency:**
 - a. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise? I must first know what the efforts are and whether they align with best practices for the issues at hand. After fully vetting the situation, as Mayor, I will support what is best for the community at large.
 - b. Would you support City of Jacksonville continued funding of beach renourishment and, as a result of a disaster, City of Jacksonville funding of dune restoration? The provisions of the Inter-local Agreement play an important role in Jacksonville's involvement and responsibilities in this relationship. I would have to allow it to be the guide in funding re-nourishment. Typically, federal and state funds are available to address damage from natural disaster. As Mayor, I will seek funding sources to address disaster related issues.
6. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities? I believe open and honest communication is the key to any successful relationship. As Mayor, I will work diligently to achieve and amicable working relationship with the leaders of the three Beaches.
7. **Beach Visitors:** Spring and Summer holidays, especially July 4th, bring a great number of people to the Beaches, straining the resources of all three communities. What suggestions do you have for Jacksonville to assist the communities in shouldering that burden?
8. **July 4th Fireworks:** Will you support continued funding assistance of \$25,000. By the City of Jacksonville for the July 4th fireworks at Jacksonville Beach? As Mayor, I will seek the most cost effective and frugal means of supporting the 4th of July celebration that offer the same level of entertainment for visitor and residence alike.
9. **Other issues:** What other specific issues that affect the beach communities top your priority list?