

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? The interlocal agreements with Jacksonville and the three beaches municipalities were designed to eliminate redundant services throughout the county and to ensure efficient and effective services to beaches' residents. I am aware of no current issues with the agreements and believe it is important to maintain open and active relationships between the beaches communities and the city of Jacksonville to ensure the agreements continue to reflect the intent of all of the parties in the best interests of the citizens.
- b. Are there any changes to the agreements you would suggest? I'm not aware of any changes desired or needed at this time. However, routine review and assessment of the agreements' effectiveness should ensure that all citizens are served.

2. Mayport Village:

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village? I respect and appreciate the unique character and distinction of many neighborhoods and communities in the consolidated government of Jacksonville and have enjoyed reading about Mayport Village as a fishing community in books, both fiction and nonfiction. I want to listen to the people and understand Mayport Village's vision for its future so that we can work collectively to realize that vision.
- b. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality? Telling a community what is in its best interest without listening to members of that community benefits no one. Community members should be afforded the opportunity to provide ideas that they will support, and Jacksonville's city leaders should seek their input, listen to their ideas, and work with them to implement their ideas. When the community participates in addressing its challenges solutions to those challenges have a much better chance of succeeding.
- c. Are you willing to vote for additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport? I would like to be a partner in helping Mayport Village realize its vision and that includes identifying funding sources. As Mayor, I will not have a vote on additional funding.

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? Having served on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board, I understand there is a beaches representative on the board who advocates for transportation needs within the beaches communities. Through a combination of the TPO, as well as working with the District 13 Councilmember, I look forward to supporting the needs of the beaches communities, including priority projects like Penman Road.

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? **I absolutely support mitigation efforts to protect the beaches communities and our interior low-lying neighborhoods. I will work with St. Johns Riverkeeper, area academic experts, and other cities such as St. Augustine to develop the best mitigation plan possible. Input from beaches' residents will be essential to developing this plan. We must take this issue seriously, and recognize that sea level rise coupled with dredging will exacerbate our current flooding challenges.**
5. **Resiliency:**
 - a. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise? **I intend to right the wrong that Mayor Curry performed when he took office and returned the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities grant. I will appoint a Chief Resiliency Officer to specifically address the effects to our community of the rising floodwaters due to climate change. I want to learn from those 100 Resilient Cities who have already performed work in this space and understand how we can become a leader in combatting these effects. I also intend to learn from and work with the city of St. Augustine as the threats to us are regional and not specific to Jacksonville.**
 - 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? **Yes**
6. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities? **I would start by listening to and respecting the diverse individuals and perspectives that exist within our city, and allowing their voices to be heard when the city makes decisions that affect them. I anticipate holding regular, actionable meetings with the leaders of our municipalities to help ensure that we are acting in each other's best interests, and in the best interests of our mutual citizens.**
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? **It is my understanding that the city of Jacksonville has provided additional public safety resources during such peak events. I am open to the suggestions of the beaches communities to help understand what the issues are and to help alleviate the 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? **Yes**
9. **Other issues:** What other specific issues that affect the beach communities top your priority list? **I think the list of issues outlined here — sea level rise, a need for a resiliency plan, the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, ensuring that our governments work well together to protect and serve our citizens and local businesses— are the issues most important to the beaches.**