

Beaches Watch 2019 Duval Candidate Questions

Candidate Name: Jimmy Hill

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1. Interlocal Agreement:

- a. What is your opinion of the interlocal agreements between Jacksonville and the three beaches municipalities? [The inter-local agreements are critical documents that affect all beach residents daily. I have in-depth knowledge and understanding on this subject as a result of my time as an elective official in Atlantic Beach and my experience with local government, including the city of Jacksonville.](#)
- b. Are there any changes to the agreements you would suggest? [For the most part, the agreements are equitable at this time. One basic observation is opening the agreements for review is occasionally necessary; however, it has risk for both sides. I would be in favor of defining and establishing a review process for the inter-local agreements that provided necessary stability so that each opportunity to review does not become a renegotiation of the agreement. Many issues sit unaddressed out of fear of opening the entire agreement – this needs to be addressed.](#)

2. Mayport Village:

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village? [Mayport Village is first a neighborhood of residents that have the same needs as any other taxpayer citizens. They need a voice – Mayport Village is also Jacksonville’s best representation of our authentic identity.](#)
- b. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality? [My vision from years of listening to stake holders in this community is a mixed-use commercial fishing village with an element of visitors that support the economy of the community. A two-tier dock with a working level and an observation level adjacent to shops and restaurants with boutique accommodations. I feel that this is incumbent on the City of Jacksonville and the Port Authority to participate in restoring some infrastructure in the Mayport Village because it was their actions and missed steps that removed most of the waterfront facilities even though they were older.](#)
- c. Are you willing to vote for additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport? [Yes.](#)

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? [Community input is always critical and often overlooked. I plan to engage a citizen review process at every significant infrastructure change. It makes a better end product and saves money when any project is done right the first time. I will have to review the county responsibility on this specific roadway, but again, stakeholder input is the key to any successful project.](#)

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? The answer to almost all issues revolving around the complex issue of potential flooding will be served by securing as much wetland as possible from the hands of development. The likelihood of repurposing developed lands for storm water use seems cost prohibited. Better management of spoil storage areas also offers some solutions. I have concerns about the dredge project as well.

5. **Resiliency:**

- a. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise? I am open to a conversation about sea level rise and recognize that locally we can affect our environment to its detriment if we do not take the responsibility seriously. There is no candidate in this race more intimately involved and informed on matters related to our waterways and ocean. I look forward to hearing from experts on this controversial subject and I have great faith in the involved stakeholders and will commit to doing what is necessary and practical related to this subject.
- b. Would you support City of Jacksonville continued funding of beach re-nourishment 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? Clearly, no other candidate in this race is more interested in regular productive communication with the beaches cities and all parties. I would schedule regular satellite office days at the beach just like I intend to do with other neighborhoods in Duval County. These days will be used for community interaction including municipal elective officials.

7. **Beach Visitors:** Spring/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? Duval Counties' population becomes transient in the warmer months and shifts to area beaches in massive numbers. No other candidate comes close to understanding the logistical impact this has on local government and resources. I look forward to offering many suggestions related to this issue directly as a result of my 28 years working in public safety in the beaches area and my time spent as an elective official in the beaches area. I look forward to establishing a detailed plan for this issue.

8. **July 4th Fireworks:** Will you continue to support 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? Public Safety, Parking and beach access, and shared county and city park facilities. All these issues and others should be regularly assessed and resources adjusted as needed.