

Beaches Watch 2019 Duval Candidate Questions

Candidate Name: Ron Salem

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1. **Interlocal Agreement:**

- a. What is your opinion of the interlocal agreements between Jacksonville and the three beaches municipalities?

I believe they are a positive development and should continue when it benefits both the beach community and the city of Jacksonville.

- b. Are there any changes to the agreements you would suggest?

The changes I would recommend are in the area of Public Safety. The agreements need to ensure the citizens are well protected.

2. **Mayport Village:**

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village?

Development that maintains the character of the area

- b. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality?

Working with the community in Mayport and the district Councilman to ensure the changes are acceptable.

- c. Are you willing to vote for additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport?

Depending on the plan and the contribution of other parties.

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?

I have heard about the problems on Penman Rd when attending other community events at the Beaches. I would work with the district Councilman to ensure the plan involves community input and receives adequate funding.

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 support the dredging of the St. Johns River and would support an appropriate mitigation plan if brought to the City Council.

5. **Resiliency:**

- a. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise?

A resiliency plan developed by the community and elected officials needs to be established.

- 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 beaches are very important to the entire Jacksonville community. We need to continue to fund projects such as dune restoration.

6. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities?
I believe the communication in recent years has been excellent. I would help facilitate quarterly meetings before the Mayor of Jacksonville and his staff with counterparts from the 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?
The city of Jacksonville already assists the Beaches with security and traffic control. This needs to be enhanced as necessary.
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?
Public Safety is my top priority. I will ensure the police departments at the beaches are supported by JSO.