



2020 Atlantic Beach COMMISSION Candidate Written Questions

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1. **Qualifications and Motivation:** What qualifications in terms of education, experience, and prior community service do you bring to your candidacy for public office? Please explain what motivates you to run for office at this time? I have been involved in public service all my adult life. After a 30-year career as a Naval Officer, I chose to make my home in Atlantic Beach and have continued to be involved in my community. I currently serve as a trustee on the Atlantic Beach General Pension Fund and remain active in various local charities. I currently work for a nonprofit Alaskan Native Corporation and feel strongly about their values of community and family. I can bring firsthand emergency management experience having lead the Navy's response to hurricanes Katrina and Wilma for all the bases in the Southeast. In my last job in the Navy I was charged with running all the police and fire departments on Naval Bases in the Southeast. I graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and have a master's in political science from Auburn University and degrees from the Air Command and Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College. I have been decorated for valor 5 times for aerial combat.
2. **Priorities:** What is your number 1 priority to address during your tenure on the City Commission. Why is this your number one priority. Please be specific. My number one priority is to maintain and upgraded the needed stormwater infrastructure. I support the 2018 Stormwater Master Plan. We must prepare for the future and flooding can only get worse as water levels rise. Climate change is a fact which we must face now.
3. **Budget:** In the event of a budget shortfall, would you consider a millage increase to maintain levels of service? If not, what specific items in the budget would you recommend adjusting? What specific strategies would you suggest to raise additional funds? Please be specific. In the event of budget shortfalls, I would look at all Departments to find inefficiencies and ways to save. I prefer a holist approach across the board to find needed cuts. If minimum service levels couldn't be achieved, I would support a minimum millage increase, but I don't see that anytime soon after a careful analysis of our budget.
4. **Charter Amendment:** The proposed Atlantic Beach Charter Amendment will extend the Mayor's term of office from two to four years, reduces the number of allowable consecutive terms for the Mayor from four to two terms, and limits any Mayor holding office as of November 2022, who has served two consecutive terms, to one additional consecutive four-year term. What is your position on the proposed Charter amendment? Please be specific. I am for the proposed Charter Amendment. For the mayor to produce needed

and substantial changes it is extremely hard to do in just two years. Also, by limiting terms we a guaranteed a new approach after 8 years. With the Mayor's vote equal to each Commissioner I believe we will have a balanced approach.

5. **IN-house Attorney:** Would you support hiring an in-house city attorney? Why or why not? I am for hiring an in-house attorney because of the annual legal bills of over \$150,000/year. Having a solid legal review at all levels of Government can save time and money further down the line. It makes sense if it saves money after analysis.
6. **Land Development Regulations:** Describe specifically any changes to the Atlantic Beach Land Development Regulations you would support. What would you aim to accomplish by these changes? I support the current Land Development Regulations and feel that strict enforcement of the current zoning regulations must be enforced. I am against allowing any more nonporous land development that does not follow the current restrictions.
7. **Parking:** Are the present parking arrangements in the Town Center and beach accesses adequate for residents and visitors? What changes (if any) do you favor? I am against paid parking at Towncenter; it has been a failure and we need to move on. Strict enforcement of timed parking is the key both at Towncenter and 18th/19th Street Parking. I am open to discussions, but any solution must be a balance between residents and visitors.
8. **Parks:** What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Atlantic Beach parks? I am in favor of adding amenities to all City Parks on the westside of Mayport Road and specifically a bike path at Donner Park. I support the Parks Master Plan but am waiting to see an actual prioritization of projects.
9. **Public Safety:** What are the most important crime & public safety issues in Atlantic Beach and what should be done to address them and fund them? Please be specific. As Atlantic Beach becomes more attractive to visitors and tourists the burden of Public Safety becomes even more critical. Enforcing our current laws and regulations must be paramount and careful analysis of the size and make up of the force is critical. Many large city issues are occurring at an increasing rate and we must build the infrastructure to provide the safe environment Atlantic beach is known for.
10. **Resilience:** What are the Atlantic Beach infrastructure needs when it comes to sea level rise and resiliency and what would you support to address these issues? Sea level rise is a long-term issue that must be faced now. We need a beach master plan that coordinates Federal, State, Local agencies and include possible grant money to face our growing issues. There are several agencies that can assist us such as the North Florida Land Trust, that can help point us in the right direction. I have seen firsthand what water damage can do and the results varied between communities that were prepared and those that were not. Resilience is my number one issue.
11. **Campaign Pledge:** Will you make a pledge to carry out a campaign based on issues and facts and renounce the use of name-calling and inuendo? What will you do if such literature (for instance by mass mailings) is distributed? I will not and have not commented on any other candidates. I am strictly about the issues.
12. **Other issues:** Are there any other issues you would like to address if elected? Please explain. I do not claim to be an expert on every issue confronting Atlantic beach but I am willing to learn. What you can count on from me is fact-based analytical decisions-I will do

the homework it takes to make informed decisions. Metrics will drive any vote I make, and I am willing to discuss my views with any member of our fantastic community. We are all lucky to live in this vibrant community. I believe I have a unique skillset and can be of use to my fellow beach residents. Please look at my website to read more. Thanks for the interest in our community. www.bruceboleforatlanticbeachfl.com