

**Beaches Watch**  
**2021 At-Large Group 3 Candidate Questions**

Candidate Name: Dr. Tracye Polson

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1. **Interlocal Agreement:**

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

These interlocal agreements are necessary to the structure of our beaches community.

I'm not aware of any 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.

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

No changes at this time.

2. **Mayport Village:**

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

I see a walkable, mixed use neighborhood in the Mayport Village — with residential and commercial development that honors both Mayport's history and its potential. But that can't be reached without clear communication with neighborhood stakeholders, Mayport residents, local council members, and small business owners, there to discuss and agree on the best options.

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

As I said in my previous answer, the first and most crucial step will be assembling a committee of neighborhood stakeholders to discuss and shop the plans they want for the neighborhood, then support their conclusions with funding and zoning efforts. And all of this must be seen and discussed under the lens of resiliency to climate change to ensure we're protecting our residents and businesses from damaging flooding.

c. Are you willing to support 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 proper resources are dedicated to improve Penman Road?

I'm passionate about making our roads and intersections safer and more accessible everywhere, including along Penman Road. Bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, and tree canopy only improve roadways and neighborhoods and I will fight for their funding.

4. **St. Johns River:**

a. 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 and Jacksonville?

With the dredging of the St. John's River set to be finished in 2022, it's more important than ever before to mitigate flooding and prioritize resilient infrastructure. We've seen the damaging flooding that comes with Hurricane surges and heavy rainfall — we can't leave our communities unprotected from this devastation. As councilwoman I will work closely with the newly appointed Chief Resiliency Officer to create and fund plans for planting intentional greenscape and trees that mitigate soil erosion, building innovative and resilient infrastructure, and collecting data and research to anticipate how much flooding to expect and where.

b. What, if anything, would you do to protect the health of the St. Johns River?

Beyond mitigating erosion and flooding as much as possible, I want to put an end to the leaky private septic tanks that are polluting the St. Johns. This would include providing grants and incentives to low-income families who face many obstacles in the process of converting their septic tanks.

5. **Resiliency:**

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

I'm in full support of efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise — they are crucial to the wellbeing and future of our city, especially the beaches community. I think we should provide the beach communities with funding as well as the support of subject matter experts like our Chief Resiliency Officer.

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?

As an at-large councilwoman, I will be available to and in regular communication with all of our neighborhoods and communities, including the beaches, with open and consistent communication with community stakeholders and regular town halls to hear the concerns of residents.

On a larger scale, our city has to do a better job of connecting with our communities and building a cohesive coalition of stakeholders to keep city government in touch with the everyday lives of our residents and business owners.

7. **Beach Visitors:** Spring and Summer holidays, especially July 4<sup>th</sup>, 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?

We must provide more funding for safety measures including first responders to manage crowds and traffic and maintain a safe atmosphere for our businesses to thrive.

8. **July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks:** Will you support continued funding assistance of \$25,000. By the City of Jacksonville for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks at Jacksonville Beach

Yes.

9. **Other issues:** What other specific issues that affect the beach communities top your priority list? Resiliency is my highest priority for the beaches community.