

Beaches Watch

2023 Jacksonville Mayor Candidate Questions

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- 1. Priorities:** What are your priorities as Mayor over the first 4 years of your term? And how would those priorities impact the beaches, either positively, negatively or neutral?
Crime, affordable housing, storm resilience/readiness, public schools & solving traffic congestion. Positively.
- 2. Interlocal Agreements:** At the beaches, the 1982 primary Interlocal Agreement was revised, only after the beaches sued for parity and the agreement was updated in 1996. Today, 27 years later, each beach municipality gets just pennies back on every Jacksonville tax dollar they pay. Will you commit to reviewing and amending the interlocal agreement, without penalty, as provided for in a 1996 amendment to the agreement, to assure we get our fair share at the beaches? Please explain your answer.
Absolutely. Paying taxes & not getting your fair share is wrong. Incumbent politicians want to continue piling everything downtown. I want to focus on the rest of Jacksonville.
- 3. Crime:** Crime in Jacksonville directly impacts the beaches because 80% of all arrests at the beaches are not residents of the beaches. Will you pledge to make the consistently high homicide rate in Jacksonville a top priority? While we can't police our way out of this, what will you do as Mayor to promote prevention and intervention and to address the root causes of gun violence in Jacksonville?
Yes, it is the first item on my platform. I will do everything I have to, to get stolen & illegal guns off the streets. If I am able, I will create some kind of penalty for leaving guns in unlocked vehicles. I have others, but one important investment would be streetlights everywhere. They have been proven to reduce crime by 39%, in high crime areas.
- 4. Resiliency and Sea Level Rise:** How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise?
According to several earlier interviews I went to, I was the only candidate who had storm resilience/readiness on my platform. Some candidates have recently added it to their's. I consider the beaches more important than the Jaguars & I consider the Jaguars very important. I will do whatever it takes to keep beach residents safe & improve their lives. It's good for residents, small business & tourism.
- 5. Sanitation:** Hauling garbage from the Beaches to the landfill is the greatest hauling distance in the county with the Beaches being in the extreme east of the county and the landfill on the extreme west. Many large urban counties have established transfer stations to lower the cost of such hauling. Would you at least initiate a study to see if a transfer station located on the east side of the county

would be feasible and would lower the costs for the entire east side of the county including the Beaches?

I am honestly shocked that you have to ask this, with Jacksonville growing so fast. This should have been done a long time ago. The study will happen if I am mayor. I am a fiscal conservative, so if it lowers costs, it will be built. When we do it, we will do it considering future growth, so we are prepared.

6. **Funding:** The City of Jacksonville as a county, receives funding from federal and state sources, such as the Covid relief funding. Where the rules allow for pass through to municipalities, would you agree to using the same formula in determining the amount, as the population formula for CDBG funds found in the Interlocal Agreements with the Beaches? If you would not, please explain why not?

Yes.

7. Are there any other issues you would like to address that would impact the beaches?

By addressing the 5 items on my platform, we will make Jacksonville a better place to live for all residents & it will make our area desirable to new business, which will bring new, better paying job opportunities.