

LeAnna Cumber Questionnaire

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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?

I will work to make smarter and more efficient investments in our infrastructure using local dollars and leveraging federal and state dollars to address our infrastructure needs at the beaches, not wasting taxpayer funds on the Skyway to Nowhere.

As mayor, I will audit how our tax dollars are spent, ensure a strong return on investment for planned projects, ensure projects are purposeful and not disconnected from other developments and projects, and create a comprehensive plan to address the infrastructure needs facing the beaches.

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.

Yes, it is time to revisit the interlocal agreement and ensure that the beaches have the resources they need for infrastructure improvements and other county services. As mayor, I will work to leverage my professional experience to leverage state and federal opportunities to fill funding gaps that exist.

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, I know the beaches have their own effective police departments but I will do my part as mayor to ensure the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has the staff and resources it needs to aid and support beach police departments when needed.

We must be proactive in reducing crime. That is why I passed a landmark sex trafficking bill that raised the stripping age to 21. Texas has since copied my bill - because no high school girl should ever think a strip club is her way to success. I also created a Public Nuisance Abatement Board which allows this city for the first time to shut down businesses that are harboring illegal activity.

I also believe crime across the city is rooted in the broken education system in our city. With a literacy rate of only 47% and dropping, students are being left behind and as teenagers and adults, turning to crime when they feel they have no option to succeed.

Fixing crime begins by investing in our students and having the best education system in the entire state of Florida. We do that by being the best school choice city in the state. We can no longer be satisfied with a low literacy rate. We also must bring trade schools back to Jacksonville to ensure that we have a thriving workforce. Trade schools not only provide kids with a skill but help resolve the workforce challenges faced by companies.

4. Resiliency and Sea Level Rise: How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise?

Yes, as mayor, I will work to address beach renourishment and intercoastal flooding.

I will take steps to address persistent flooding throughout our beach communities. Businesses and communities cannot thrive if there is a constant threat of flooding. We need to fund flood mitigation projects, like the pump station I funded in San Marco. But we also must learn from cities around the world that have had to tackle similar flooding issues and explore solutions to the flooding that has plagued our city for years and take action. A master plan of projects that can then be funded by local, state and federal funds is a top priority.

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 always willing to look at the reduction of costs of services for our residents.

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?

As Jacksonville receives formula federal and state funding, I am committed to ensuring the beaches get their fair share to address needed projects and provide necessary services.

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

Overdevelopment - I am against the overdevelopment of our beaches that will interfere with the quality of life of citizens who live there. I believe the beaches are part of what makes Jacksonville so special and provide so much for our city. We need to preserve and protect the quality way of life at the beaches. I will also always support the beaches' desire to retain height restrictions on new construction.

Accessibility - As mayor, I will ensure that I have regular engagement with the beaches mayors, elected officials and residents. I am committed to having a designated Beaches liaison in the mayor's office to ensure that the Beaches are represented daily in my administration. To be clear, my liaison WILL be from the Beaches.