

Beaches Watch 2023 Jacksonville City Council Candidate Questions

Candidate Name: Ron Salem

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1. **Priorities:** What are your priorities over the first 4 years of your term? And how would those priorities impact the beaches, either positively, negatively or neutral?

JEA, Opiate Task Force, Solid Waste, Northeast Florida early start coalition
All had a positive impact on the community including the beach

2. **Interlocal Agreement:**

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

Necessary document

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

No changes at this time

3. **Mayport Village:**

1. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village?
2. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality?
3. Are you willing to support additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport?

I have been very active with the Mayport partnership since I was elected. I recently obtained funding to implement their strategic plan I suggest you talk to the leadership

4. **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 have worked with Councilman Diamond to obtain funding for this road

5. **St. Johns River:**

1. 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?
2. What, if anything, would you do to protect the health of the St. Johns River?

A mitigation plan was put into place by JPA for the dredging

6. **Resiliency:**

1. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise?
2. How would you support beach renourishment and dune restoration efforts?

I supported the appointment of a CRO for the city of Jacksonville. I look for her recommendations.

7. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities?

I am in regular contact with all three beaches Mayor's. They contact me as well as issues develop.

8. **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 beaches are important to all of us. We need to work with them on security and other issues that develop on these holidays.

9. **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

10. **Other issues:** What other specific issues that affect the beach communities top your priority list?