



2024 Jacksonville Beach Candidate Written Questions

Candidate Name: **Dan Janson**

Phone Number: **904-568-5854**

Email Address: **jansond@comcast.net**

Campaign Website: DanJanson.com **also on Facebook: Dan Janson Jacksonville Beach City Council**

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? **My college education is in Criminology and I held a well decorated career in law enforcement, achieving rank and being recognized as "Supervisor of the Year" for my efforts in "Continuous Improvement" in 2011. I retired after 28 years and was elected into office in the same year. Prior to being elected I served on the Jacksonville Beach Board of Adjustments.**

Once in office as a City Councilman for Jacksonville Beach, I immersed myself in all things governance. I established friendships and networks that would effectively bring the most back to our city at all levels of government (local, state and federal). Furthermore, I got involved with the Florida League of Cities (FLC) as a Policy Committeeman for the "Development, Code and Compliance, Redevelopment Policy Committee." Stemming from this role I was nominated through FLC to become a Director on the Florida Municipal Loan Council and selected as a Trustee on the Florida Municipal Investment Trust.

Most, recently I was asked to serve as Vice Chair for the Advocacy Committee and as an alternate for the Nominating Committee for FLC. Bringing Jacksonville Beach on to the national stage as an municipality became a priority of mine and I was able to become your representative with the National League Cities., again leveraging networking with our congressional representatives to bring our citizens' hard working tax dollars back where they belong, here in Jax Beach!

On the local level I have achieved my certification as a Certified Public Pension Trustee and currently serve on the City's Pension Board. I am also the Vice Chair for the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) Sales Surtax Oversight Committee. Through this role I asked by DCPS to serve on the Feeder Patter Focus Group for the DCPS Master Facilities Plan where I currently hold a position assisting with information in driving the direction for the future use of our local elementary schools.

In just three short years I've carved out a path of continued public service to maximize my role in government to bring back the best and most for our citizens in Jacksonville Beach. You are my customer and quality customer service is my focus.

2. **Priorities:** If elected, what are the three most important issues you would address during your term and how would you address them? Please include how you would ensure adequate funding to address the issues. The three most important issues continue to be the following: **1) Public Safety** - Public safety is the primary responsibility of any government, and mine as well. There is a reason that this issue is the largest portion of any municipal budget. We have recently addressed needs and changes at the behest of our astute Police Chief. We have added four new positions in our police department (3 Officers and 1 Sergeant) and established an amazing recruiting and retainment plan taking us into the near future as the premier police agency in which to be employed!

2) Infrastructural prioritization and needs - As a city we will be faced with aging infrastructure needs. I will focus on prioritizing the most critical needs first in terms of hardscape and then soft scape projects. To ensure fiscal sustainability and maintain our status as a debt-free city, I recommend focusing on a long-term, strategic budget outlook of 3 to 5 years. This approach allows us to prioritize projects across various departments while adhering to a balanced budget. By carefully evaluating and prioritizing expenditures, we can effectively allocate resources, avoid unnecessary debt, and ensure that critical projects are funded without compromising our financial health.

3) Maintaining our community schools in avoidance of closures and mergers - This has been a top priority recently. I am advocating, networking and collaborating with Duval County Public School officials to ensure our voices are heard in these decisions. Keeping walkable community schools not only maintains inviting charm to our community, but also has a positive property value component, as well.

3. **Communication:** What, if anything, do you think should be done differently to inform citizens of upcoming issues and solicit their input on the issues? As a City Councilman, I believe we need to take a more proactive and inclusive approach to inform citizens about upcoming issues and gather their input. First, we should leverage multiple communication channels—social media, email newsletters, community meetings, and even live video/television—to ensure we reach all demographics. Additionally, I propose the implementation of an online platform where residents can easily access information on upcoming issues, provide feedback, and participate in virtual town halls. This would allow for more real-time interaction and transparency. Finally, it's crucial to engage with community leaders and organizations to help disseminate information and encourage participation from those who may not be as connected to digital platforms. By doing so, we can ensure that every voice is heard and that our decisions truly reflect the will of the people we serve.

4. **Land Development Code:** Jacksonville Beach has begun the process of updating the Land Development Code. Please explain what specific aspects of the Land Development Code you believe are not functioning and what changes you would support? **As Jacksonville Beach updates its Land Development Code, several key areas need attention to better align with our community's growth and character.**

First off, the issue of **permeable ground coverage** is critical. Current regulations have created a vast amount of variances base on substandard lot hardships. These variances carry on with the properties in change of ownership. Also, our current lot coverage is inconsistent with our surrounding communities when it comes to continuity. Establishing a well defined approach to 50% lot coverage taking in consideration of under-roof coverage, pools and ADU's we can set a standard that lends itself to smart growth without over density.

Secondly, **setback limits** have been a point of contention, particularly in residential areas. The existing limits may not provide sufficient space between structures, leading to overcrowding and a loss of neighborhood charm. I advocate for reviewing and defining clear setback requirements to preserve the open, spacious feel that our community values.

Regarding **RS1 zoning definitions**, there's a need for clarity and possibly reevaluation to ensure that these zones are consistent with the community's expectations for low-density, single-family housing. Any ambiguities in these definitions can lead to disputes and developments that may not align with residents' vision for their neighborhoods.

The rise of **auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs)** offers both opportunities and challenges. While ADUs can provide affordable housing options and allow for multigenerational living, it's essential to implement regulations that maintain the character of single-family neighborhoods. I support clear guidelines on ADU size, placement, and usage to balance these benefits with the need to preserve neighborhood aesthetics and integrity.

Finally, the **emergence of short-term vacation rentals** has significantly impacted our community, sometimes leading to noise, parking issues, and a transient feel in residential areas. I believe we need to establish more robust regulations for short-term rentals, including limits on their concentration in certain areas and clear rules for owner responsibilities to mitigate these impacts.

Overall, I support a Land Development Code that promotes sustainable growth, preserves the character of our neighborhoods, and addresses the evolving needs of Jacksonville Beach.

5. **Penman Road:** What is your opinion of the proposed improvements to Penman Road? What, if anything, would you want to see changed or done differently? **Penman Road has long been a critical thoroughfare for the north end of our Beach community. While the City**

of Jacksonville may own the roadway, we, as citizens and stakeholders, have a vested interest in its development. It's no secret that Penman Road has needed improvements for decades. The roadway must be brought up to modern standards to ensure safety and efficiency.

Although the initial design proposals fell short of our community's expectations, I appreciate that the City of Jacksonville returned to the table with a revised plan that better aligns with our citizen's desires. I fully support these necessary renovations, as they are long overdue. However, it's crucial that the City of Jacksonville remains mindful of the impact these improvements will have on the residential and business corridors along Penman Road.

We must strike a balance between modernization and preserving the character of our community. This means ensuring that the changes not only enhance traffic flow and safety but also protect the interests of local businesses and residents. I will continue to advocate for a Penman Road that serves our community's needs while respecting the unique charm of our Beach neighborhoods.

6. **Urban Trails Master Plan:** What is your opinion of the Urban Trails Master Plan? Like the Penman Road improvements, I believe the Urban Trails Master Plan offers significant benefits for our city. While some residents have expressed concerns that this project might compromise their property's curb appeal, I want to assure you that this is not the case. The intention behind the Urban Trails project is to enhance, not diminish, our community.

We have carefully reviewed successful Urban Trail Plans from other Florida communities and will incorporate best practices that suit our unique environment. It's crucial to balance the individuality of properties with the broader goal of preserving our community's charm. The Urban Trails will provide an innovative and safe way for residents to access our parks, enjoy shaded and well-equipped paths, and easily reach our greatest natural asset, the Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, this plan will offer a safe and accessible route for our children to walk or bike to our local schools, which are conveniently located within walkable distances for many families.

I fully support a functional and well-tailored Urban Trails project that enhances mobility, safety, and the overall quality of life in our community.

7. **Other issues:** Are there any other issues you would like to address if elected? If elected, there are several critical issues I plan to address. With the State legislative season underway, we are facing challenges such as short-term vacation rentals, sovereign immunity, mobility policies, and density concerns, especially as our city is now "built out." Additionally, I am committed to tackling the problems posed by unsanctioned, unruly, and un-permitted events that attract bad actors to our community.

I'm also actively working to secure federal funding for a significant roadway project in the south end of our city. By electing me, you can be confident that these projects will be guided to sound conclusions, and that your voice will remain strong and influential in shaping our community's future. Vote DAN JANSON on November 5th, 2024!