

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?

I was born and raised in Neptune Beach. I am a property owner and pay Neptune Beach property taxes. After graduating from Fletcher High School, I attended the University of Florida and obtained a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Building Construction. I have spent my career managing large construction projects. Their budgets added together would total hundreds of millions of dollars. Beyond the buildings, my projects have included roads, large-diameter water mains, sewer mains, lift stations, and force mains. Neptune Beach faces serious infrastructure issues, and we desperately need people with relevant experience in these areas.

I'm running because I want my tax dollars spent wisely. I want a responsive government. Since I do not feel like I have been getting that, I am running to change it. Our accounting has been a mess, simple projects take years to finish (if ever), and our infrastructure has been neglected while discretionary projects have been funded. We should do better.

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.

1. **Infrastructure. Under the current city council, our water and sewer systems have not been maintained appropriately. Just recently, we saw sewage in our streets in multiple locations. In previous presentations, our Public Works Director has stated that it will take tens of millions of dollars to bring our systems up to the State of Florida requirements. Our city council has asked JEA to evaluate taking over our utilities because of the poor state of our utility system. We should establish a clear capital improvement plan that will bring us into compliance. We should lobby our state representatives for relief from costly mandates, seek out grants to comply, and use the money we already have in the city's bank account.**
2. **Competency. The current city council has overseen financial mismanagement, waste, large staff turnover, budget overruns, schedule overruns, and neglected infrastructure. Discretionary projects have been pursued while basic needs have been ignored. We need people with relevant business and practical experience who can independently evaluate important matters and provide oversight and guidance to city staff.**

3. **Trust and transparency of our local government. The city council is essentially nonresponsive to resident concerns. Agendas for city council meetings are often posted only one or two business days before the meeting. If you take the time to appear at a city council meeting to comment, you are met with silence. Despite our serious problems with our accounting and infrastructure, subcommittee meetings for finance and infrastructure are essentially non-existent. Most items that come up for a vote at the City Council pass 5-0 with very little substantive dialogue. It costs nothing for the city council to be transparent and responsive, to host budget workshops, and to restore subcommittee meetings – all of which we should do immediately.**

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?

Post city council agendas a week rather than 1 or 2 days ahead of time. For items that require two readings, stop trying to cram them in over two weeks by putting them on a special agenda and then a regular agenda. It denies people the opportunity to hear about it and voice their concerns when things move quickly and without any real debate by the city council. Hold subcommittee meetings where residents can have a two-way dialogue with staff and city councilors. Have budget workshops well in advance of when budgets must be completed.

4. Land Development: What is your opinion of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code update by Dover Kohl? Is there anything you want to change?

It was a total waste of money to send hundreds of thousands of Neptune Beach's dollars to that South Florida consultant. Our community development director will tell you that our codes are terribly written and fixes are being proposed as they are discovered.

5. Penman Road: What is your opinion of the proposed improvements to Penman Road and what, if anything, would you want to see changed or done differently?

I am against medians on Penman Road. We should see multiple options for improving the 5-way intersection and then decide on the best course with ample time for the residents to review and comment. Anything that takes place on Penman will be enormously disruptive during construction. It should not be undertaken lightly and competent people with relevant experience should be on our city council to evaluate the plans from the City of Jacksonville on behalf of our residents. We currently have no one with relevant experience on our city council. I have worked on projects with large infrastructure elements.

6. Infrastructure: Neptune Beach has an aging infrastructure that will be very costly to replace and/or repair. What do you propose be done to address this problem and how would you fund it?

Our toilets must flush. Our sewer treatment plant must function without excess noise or smells. Our sewer mains must carry waste safely without leaking sewage into our streets when it rains. Our water mains must reliably supply water for drinking and firefighting. There is no magic to correcting years of neglect. It will take time and money and a capital improvement plan that sets priorities based on available funding. We can use the fees we are already paying, issue bonds, seek out grants, and seek relief from mandates to ensure we have reliable infrastructure.

7. Other issues: Are there any other issues you would like to address if elected? Please explain.