



2024 Neptune Beach Candidate Written Questions

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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?

Education:

University of Wisconsin – Green Bay: Bachelor of Science. Public Administration, double emphases in Public Policy Analysis and Public and Nonprofit Management; Minor in Political Science.

Florida Coastal School of Law: Juris Doctor.

Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator

Experience:

Started working for a paycheck at the age of 14. Worked in restaurants, hospitality, retail, and sales through college graduation. After college graduation, worked as a paralegal before going to law school. Moved to Jacksonville in 2002 for law school. While in law school, worked in banking and as a law clerk.

Zisser, Robison, Brown, Nowlis & Maciejewski 2003 to 2015 (2003 to 2005 – law clerk). Handled beaches family law cases immediately upon starting.

Bylund Law, PLLC since 2015. Office has been located in San Marco, Jacksonville Beach and Deerwood. At all times, handling cases from the beaches. Currently handle family law litigation, appeals and mediation.

Institute for Paralegal Education – since 2007 lectured in the areas of: case development, implementation of structured management procedures, legal writing and communication.

National Business Institute – since 2008 lectured in the areas of: child custody, child support, legal research, discovery, ethics, taxation and contracts.

Writer/Author - Published articles in the Florida Times Union and Dads Divorce.com. I have also written materials for instruction with NBI, IPE and others.

Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association Awards Chair_– writing grants for the organization to obtain funding for programming and community outreach.

Business Networking International – Member in 2018 and 2019 was voted as Vice President of BNI Synergy.

Family Nurturing Center of Florida – Officer and Executive Committee member 2007 through 2014.

Community Service:

Pro Bono Work - Extensive pro bono work, including recognition in multiple years for outstanding pro bono service.

Justice Teaching - Volunteered in area elementary schools teaching the Bill of Rights.

Deck The Chairs – Supervised/Monitored the slide for the children’s area.

Jacksonville Beach Volunteer Life Saving Corps – Carried the buoy to collect donations for the Corps during Deck the Chairs. Dedicated wife to a corps member and supported the corps by speaking to City Council of Jacksonville Beach about the importance and history of the corps to our community and to my family.

Muscular Dystrophy Association – Volunteer – MDA Lockup

Five Star Veterans Center – Helped with holiday decorations for the Center.

Jacksonville Humane Society – Walked dogs.

OneBlood – Donates Blood.

Mission House_– Worked the front desk, sorted donations and worked in Kulik’s closet giving out clean clothing, towels and toiletries to those in need.

Beaches Soccer League – Volunteer Coach U5 2014-2015.

Motivation: My parents set excellent examples for my sister, my brother and me. My mother taught Sunday School and volunteered in the Library at my school. My father is a Vietnam Veteran who led my brother’s Cub Scout troop and volunteered for CPR and Firefighter training through his employer. They taught me that when you are needed, you don’t look away, you help. I have enjoyed decades of volunteering in our community, but I know I can do more. My degree in Public Administration makes me uniquely suited to a role

in municipal governance. I have lived at the beaches for 18 years and in Neptune Beach for almost 10 years. I have attended dozens of city council meetings and currently serve on the Community Development Board and the Historical Subcommittee. I am running for Mayor because I love Neptune Beach and it is time for me to step up to the plate to move us forward toward dependable infrastructure, a sound financial base and an inclusive and cooperative relationship between City Hall and our citizens.

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.

First: Develop a strategic plan to revitalize our infrastructure with 3, 5 and 8 year objectives that include: replacing old and/or inadequate watermains and sewer lines, identifying and addressing drainage issues and reconditioning inadequate drains, and refurbishing our roads. The goal is for this plan to be useful to future administrations.

Second: Secure our budget with fiscal responsibility, timely presentations and budget workshops. Revisit our Interlocal Agreement with Duval County to address disproportionate taxing of the beaches residents. Increase grant research, writing and acquisition. Build and maintain relationships with local and federal representatives so that Neptune Beach will not be forgotten when it is time to allocate funding.

Third: Restore faith and cooperation between the residents of our city and those who work in city hall, including our elected officials. Bring a townhall format to a portion of the City Council Workshop Meetings so residents will get immediate answers to questions where possible, and so they may clear up misinformation. Hold office hours at City Hall. Bring back committees to gain perspective, fully utilize our vast resources in Neptune Beach and increase community involvement.

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?

We have a city website that can be improved. Our social media presence can also be improved so citizens will be informed of upcoming issues on the platforms people actually use. Since our population is diverse, our communication plan should also be diverse, including phone, email and local news coverage.

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?

I do not believe the Dover Kohl investment was wise, but that money has already been spent. I like the beautification aspects of the plan. I like preserving green space and appreciate the language that suggests we will do more to protect our natural resources. I like making our city friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists. However, the plan includes density and suggestions for development that I do not believe the people of our city want and if we would actually follow the plan as it was written by Dover Kohl, the effects would

be disastrous for our infrastructure and the character of our city. It was a mistake to hire experts from an area of the state which exemplifies the opposite of what the people of our city want for our future.

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?

The last plan, which was presented in August in Jacksonville Beach was drastically different from the plans presented in August 2023 and March 2024. I find it encouraging that Peters & Yaffee are listening to residents. I like the fact that this project will improve Penman Road. I like the beautification aspect, as well as the pedestrian and bicycle friendly crossings. I am apprehensive about the roundabout at the five-way, but like that they have added safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings with lightup crosswalks. I am optimistic that the plans are not finished and that the current engineering team is open to communication with residents. I hope this 90 million dollar project will be something that will benefit all of us.

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?

There are multiple funding sources outside of Neptune Beach that need to be explored. There are many federal agencies that grant millions of dollars to communities like ours every year. Our state also grants money for infrastructure repairs and investment. It is important that we do not let these opportunities pass us by. Other cities are facing the same issues regarding their infrastructure and competition for these dollars will be challenging. I have already started building the relationships that will be needed

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

My main concerns are covered in my prior responses. Thank you for this opportunity.