



2024 Jacksonville 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?

I have a bachelor's degree in political science from University of North Florida and my experience ranges from customer service relations, volunteering for local non-profits, small business owner, Vice-Chair of the Board of Library Trustees, and currently serving my first term as a council member on the Jacksonville Beach City Council. The residents, the locally owned businesses and our first responders are what continue to motivate me to run for re-election.

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 important issue is public safety. If re-elected, I will continue to make sure our Police department have a voice, the necessary tools to combat any crime and have competitive pay. To help alleviate the funding of certain tools for the department, this can be done by receiving grants which would help cover the cost.

The second important issue is infrastructure improvements. Many municipalities are not as fortunate as we are in Jacksonville Beach with our robust public works and utilities department. Currently, Jax beach has an unfunded mandate regarding Senate Bill 64, wastewater discharge. The city has until January 1st, 2032, to meet the requirements. There are many ways to address this unfunded mandate and one of them is through grants. I have encouraged our Public Works director to seek grants that the city may qualify for to help with the cost. The city is currently debt free and acquiring any debt for projects should be last resort. If the city was to face any financial constraints, I would recommend pushing any minor projects to a later date and reallocating funds to those much-needed projects.

Third, preserving our way of life is an issue, including regulations surrounding short-term rentals. For the past 4 years, I have visited our legislators in Jacksonville and in Tallahassee to discuss bills that would severely impact our beach community. I will continue to fight for our

residents and their quality of life and make sure the city has enforcement in place to deal with the bad short-term rentals.

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?

Since taking office in 2020, our social media presence has grown which has helped us to communicate with our residents and businesses. I think doing either a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly informational videos and posting them on our social media channels including our city's YouTube channel would be a tremendous help. Also, if any community input is required, a link can be attached to the videos.

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?

I believe some sections of the Land Development Code has room for improvement. Sec. 34-402 parking of heavy vehicles is one for example. Right now, it does not address the maximum number of boats allowed to be parked in a residential home. The new LDC addresses parking and only a max of 2 boats will be allowed to be parked in a residential home. Another LDC change I voted for is increasing the minimum width of townhomes from 15ft to 24ft just west of 3rd street. This will alleviate any parking issue in front of the property with congestion.

Another LDC change I approve of is parking reductions for businesses in the CBD and other zoning areas. Allowing businesses to add more bicycles and golf cart parking or landscape enhancements may help businesses achieve the desire square footage.

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?

I believe any improvements to the road are always good, especially if it addresses pedestrian crosswalks and bike lanes. In addition, addressing our drainage problem on penman road is necessary and must be put underground. I was not in favor of having long lengths of medians on penman road nor roundabouts, but I am in favor of the multiple pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks that will be widened and or fixed.

6. **Urban Trails Master Plan**: What is your opinion of the Urban Trails Master Plan? What, if anything, would you change?

I think sections of the Urban trails would be a plus to the community, but certain sections should be looked at more in depth and see if it would work for the neighborhood. Every section of the trail is unique and should reflect the neighborhood if its feasible and of course input from

the neighborhood should be highly taken into consideration. I want to see the width change if its possible and ensure the project is ADA compliant.

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

I think every issue I have stated above encompasses all the issues we have in Jacksonville Beach. Communication with our elected officials with the city of Jacksonville is important especially since many of our visitors are from Jacksonville and surrounding counties. Other issues I want to continue to address include any bills from Tallahassee that could impact our wonderful beach community.