

2015 Beaches Watch

Atlantic Beach Mayor Candidate Questions

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When answering the questions, please provide specifics as well as supporting data and facts wherever possible.

1. Important Issues: For the whole of Atlantic Beach, in your opinion, what are the three most important issues that should be addressed? How would you propose they be addressed?

Through LEADERSHIP focused on respect for others opinions and integrity:

- a. **Build an improved sense of community and neighborhood including a strong defense of our cul-de-sac geography;**
 - b. **Assure that all deliberations, recommendations and decisions by city personnel and our city commission allow for openness and inclusiveness of those in favor of and those concerned with the details – in an environment of mutual respect and civility. (Open-door policy).**
 - c. **Ensure our finances are managed astutely by weighing today's needs and future hopes with an eye on priority and affordability.**
 - d. **Build working relationships with our neighboring beach cities. We are three separate oceanfront cities but one beach community with similar issues to address: in particular as they relate to the City of Jacksonville.**
2. There are a number of Charter amendments on the ballot. Do you support the recommended changes? Please explain why or why not.

See comment under Question #3

3. There is a proposal on the ballot to change the election of district commissioners from at-large to election by those living in the district. Do you support the proposal? Please explain why or why not.

I do support the 'concept of district only voting' but after I saw the detailed 'how' in the amendments I'm troubled by the risks of the current proposal. Had the proposal advocated an expansion of commissioners to 7 from 5 with 3 at large and 4 voted in by districts I would have felt more comfortable. Under the proposed amendments, the risk of inequality of representation exists.

4. Seaside Community Council: What is your opinion of the Seaside Community Council? Please be specific regarding the reasons why you support or oppose this council.

I believe this to be an unnecessary expansion of government without clarity of purpose.

5. East Coast Greenway Bike Path: A representative of the East Coast Greenway has said that Mayport Road is the weakest link in the East Coast Greenway. How would you propose to connect the greenway from Mayport to Neptune Beach?

First, I find it difficult to agree with the statement since the East Coast Greenway (ECG) has large stretches of their Bike Path that have not even been paved or adequately marked, as yet. I personally worked on designation of the beaches corridor in recent years as a representative of the Friends of the St Johns River Ferry helping the ECG have this route dedicated. I stand ready to help again as the group makes suggestions that are mutually beneficial. I do not support an East Coast Greenway Bike Path using Seminole Road through Atlantic Beach. Nor do I support the opening of Hannah Park at the North end of Seminole Road for use of any Bike Path.

6. Mayport Corridor CRA: What would you like to see happen in the Mayport Road Corridor as a result of the Mayport Road Corridor CRA?

Well-designed investment in the corridor to provide safe transit for all modes of travel, car, bike, pedestrian, etc. Better ingress/egress routing for customers and businesses.

7. Parking: How would you address the parking problems at the Town Center and beach accesses?

I applaud the success of business in Town center. Parking problems are first a requirement of any developer/land owner in accord with all zoning/planning ordinances. Beyond that a private/ public partnership is required. Going back to the first question in this survey, improved relationships among beach cities could produce better ideas and perhaps results. All that said, improved access and incentives for other modes (bikes, golf carts, etc.) would help a great deal.

8. Budget: In the coming years, balancing the city's budget will continue to be an issue due to continued revenue shortfalls and demands to maintain infrastructure and essential services. What, if anything, would you propose be done to reduce the budget and/or increase revenues?

Proactive approach to the Cities Pension Fund. Making sure all city Departments understand a budget is not an expense account.

9. Quality of life: What do you think is the most important quality of life issue for Atlantic Beach at this time? Please explain.

Reducing the excessive and potentially dangerous parking by non-residents for events and beach days during much of the year. Traffic will increase and alternative transportation modes will become more acceptable. I think this is a beach community issue that I would address with our beach cities as mutually beneficial solutions are developed. Not preventing beach goers but making accessibility easier and safer across all beaches.

10. Are there any other issues you would like to address? Please explain.

"I have a vision and plan for Atlantic Beach to make it not only a safer community, but a better community to live in. My vision is not the only vision. As we move ahead, I value input and information from all of our Atlantic Beach citizens to jointly define not only how to make our community truly great, but to also work together to achieve it."