

Beaches Watch
2015 Jacksonville Candidate Questions

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1. Interlocal Agreement:

- a. In your opinion, do you think the Beaches are receiving their fair share of county services as stated in the interlocal agreement? If not, what would you propose be done to resolve any issues?

As an at-large member, the Beaches communities will always have an open door and can look to me as someone who will represent their interests on City Council. As noted in the recommendations of the consolidated task force, there is some opportunity for awareness by all parties regarding the terms of the interlocal agreements to ensure proper execution of the services included therein. I agree with such recommendations as a means of making sure that the Beaches are receiving their fair share of county services.

- b. How would you resolve the disagreement between the City of Jacksonville and Neptune Beach over tipping fees?

The community as a whole would benefit from a trusting and collaborative relationship where all parties are aware of and abiding by the terms of the interlocal agreements, and engaging in constructive dialogue to create a win-win solution. I will call on the experts from both sides of the outstanding issues and advocate for and drive a fair resolution, knowing that both parties will likely need to compromise.

- 2. Jacksonville Beach Fireworks:** Would you vote for or against the City of Jacksonville contributing \$25,000 (half the cost) for July 4th Fireworks at Jacksonville Beach? If you answer no please explain your reason.

I would be open to working with Jacksonville Beach to see how we can share resources in support of the fireworks event and see if bed tax funds or other funding sources can be used to fund the \$25,000 share of the cost. A successful fireworks event at the Beaches will be beneficial to the entire city economy.

- 3. Human Rights Ordinance:** Would you vote for or against including the categories of gender identity and gender expression with the other categories of persons protected by law from discrimination?

We live in a great community and, if elected, I look forward to serving all citizens. No one should be a victim of any form of discrimination, all citizens should receive fair and equal treatment, and our laws should extend such protections to all. As a Member of the City Council, I will always have an open door policy and will listen to concerns from small business and religious institutions if, in fact, legitimate legal issues arise from any city ordinances.

4. **Consolidation Task Force Recommendations:** Which consolidation task force recommendations would you support implementing if elected?

The consolidated task force report produced an in depth and thoughtful set of recommendations for consideration, some of which have already been proposed as legislation. I support the work of the consolidated task force and all of the resulting recommendations.

5. **Police and Fire Pension:** What is your opinion of the current proposal regarding the police and fire pension? What, if anything, would you recommend be done differently?

I believe that the existing proposal, after multiple touches by the Administration, the Police and Fire Pension Board, and the City Council, represents significant progress in meeting a shared-sacrifice solution that honors and respects our men and women in uniform, while also respecting the taxpayers.

6. **Library:** The Beaches Branch Library was threatened to be closed due to lack of funding for the library system. Do you support continued funding for the Beaches Branch Library? Please explain your answer.

Yes. I will work to ensure that the Beaches library is funded and remains open.

7. **St. Johns River:**

- a. Do you support the proposed dredging of the St. Johns River to 47 feet to accommodate Panamax-ready ships? If so, how do you propose the dredging be funded?

I support dredging our port. With the upcoming expansion of the Panama Canal, Jacksonville needs its port facilities in the best possible position to be able to compete regionally. I support both deepening and extending productivity and we should not be opposed to exploring bonding issues for a project such as this that can be an economic tool for our manufacturers and industry in the region.

- b. Do you support the removal of the Rodman Dam?

I believe that we need to work with our friends in Putnam County and, if we can find a mutually beneficial solution, I am open to moving forward with restoring the Ocklawaha River to its original state.

8. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities?

I have a history of developing strong relationships based on effective and proactive communication, as well as understanding and respecting others' needs. Examples include leadership of a 35-person CPA firm and its employees and clients, and my role as Board Chair of United Way of Northeast Florida promoting a culture of communication with its 57 partner agencies in Northeast Florida. As an at-large council member, I pledge that I will make regular visits to the Beaches communities to ensure that communication is open and respectful.

9. **Mayport:**

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport? What factors are essential for realizing your vision?

As the daughter and wife to members of the U.S. Navy who were stationed at the Mayport Naval Air Station, I appreciate Mayport's history of being strongly tied to the military and as a fishing community. I support a community-driven vision for the future of Mayport.

- b. In your opinion, is future funding of the Ferry secure? What changes would you advocate? Please explain your answer.

As an important part of our Mayport community and North Florida overall, I support keeping our ferry open and we need to make sure that its future is secure. As an accountant and auditor, I will work to identify savings from other areas in the budget and establish a dedicated funding source for ferry operations.