

St. Petersburg Council Member District 1

Edwin Carlson

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Retired, Dentist, Veteran

Professional Experience: US Air Force Captain

Dentist 25 Years

Grandmaster in Martial Arts

(10th Degree Blackbelt)

Education: Doctor of Dental Surgery, DDS

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I LOVE St. PETE!

Born and grew up here. 6 Children grew up here, 10 of 12 Grandchildren growing up in area.

Natural Leader from Class President in High School to Captain in U.S. Air Force, to successful business 25 years, to President of Neighborhood Association 16 years . . . among largest, oldest and most awarded in city.

Many years of identifying issue and interfacing with City Staff and City Council to resolve to keep our neighborhood healthy.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS = HEALTHY CITY

10 Years Adopt a Mile of Pinellas Trail

22 Artists paint 21 Pillars and 10 Walls beneath Tyrone Overpass

+ + +

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

YES I would... when economic research/data shows that is an economic benefit to the Citizens and City.

Economic Vitality

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

Learn from the Netherlands, for centuries 20% below sea level, and 50% three feet or less above sea level.

Shore Acres is out local "demonstration" area since it has flooded several times.

Apply the technology and science that gets results, including vaults and pumps.

Jungle Terrace and Jungle Lake impacted by two major sewage incidents in 2015 and 2018.

In our area, 2 older Deep Well injection sites rehabilitated. 2 New wells drilled for redundancy.

Sci Ctr property purchased to build two 7.5 Million Gal. Storage Tanks.

KEEP BALL ROLLING on Sewage Treatment initiatives, and Stormwater mgmt.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

I am for Home Rule!

Though city may be reined in from impact fees, increased building is creating large increases in property taxes.

The increased property taxes need to be

1. Parceled to infrastructure, and

2. Create "Rainy Day" funds for infrastructure and for Police and for Fire Fighters and Paramedics, plus other essential services.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

"Assist to Own" program, and "Rent to Own" program, in addition to current housing affordability initiatives by city.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Be certain the City is a leader achieving Constitutional Amendment for \$15 per hour minimum wage, AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

Support and encourage small business, and large to accomplish the same, including in their contracts with the city.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

Eager to see the details of the study, and where we can specifically improve City equality issues.

I know that 30% of population of St. Pete are citizens of color.

I know that of 3,510 city staff, 40% are citizens of color.

Black population is 22%, with 25% of City Council representation. Charter Review Commission 33% representation.

We have Black Deputy Mayor, Black Police Chief, Black Director of Sanitation, and many more all doing admirable jobs.

Yes, we can and will improve.

Thus the "details" are important.

Copley Gerdes

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Growth and Development Director for Northwestern Mutual of Tampa Bay

Professional Experience: Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual, a Business Analyst with FrankCrum Inc, and an Assistant Baseball Coach at Saint Leo University.

Education: Saint Leo University, B.A. - Religious Studies.

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I believe that we can build a stronger city and take on the challenges we face when we work together. My career as a financial advisor has given me the skills to prepare St Pete for a prosperous future. I also volunteer my time with the Police Athletic League supporting our young people and the Community Planning and Preservation Committee to preserve our city's unique character.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

Any plan with the Trop site needs to be thoughtfully considered based on how it benefits the people of St Petersburg. If a part-time team arrangement is a financial winner for the city - of course I would consider it. I won't support any plan that equates to a handout for a professional sports team and any proposal needs to do more for St Pete than provide a place for the Rays to play ball.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

I applaud the efforts outlined in the Stormwater Management Plan, but there are so many other pieces of our city that are in desperate need of repairs, updates, or capital investments too. I'd also like to advocate for strict compliance with standards outlined by StPete2050 - specifically the importance of proper development and disaster plans. City Council should prioritize plans that meet those standards when approving new developments.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

St Pete needs to get creative to work around the restrictions Tallahassee has levied on local governments. We can also work with our federal partners to make needed improvements to our infrastructure. Above all else - the city needs to take ownership of these issues and communicate with constituents about why these investments are necessary to maintain our quality of life.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

The city should focus on building denser, multi-family and multi-use buildings where necessary around urban centers. We would benefit by connecting these centers with well managed transit systems that make moving between them easier and more efficient. Outside of those urban centers, we should look at modern ideas for single family housing that is both affordable and is an effective use of space.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Anyone who works 40 hours a week shouldn't struggle to make ends meet. I applaud the work of the council to implement the Responsible Contractor provisions. It's our responsibility, as a city, to set an example with the hopes that these standards will be adopted by local private businesses as well. People are the backbone of every company and business, they should be invested in as such.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

We can't, and shouldn't, ignore our past and the ways our policies have impacted our Black residents. Righting that wrong will take an "all-of-the-above" approach. I favor making significant infrastructure investments in South St Pete and prioritize local hiring for those projects, but we also need to partner with our school board, our state partners, and nonprofits to lift up our neighbors.

John Hornbeck

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Attorney at Law

Professional Experience: Law Office of John M. Hornbeck, PA

Education: High School-Keswick Christian

College-USF St. Pete

Law School-Stetson Law

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I am the only candidate running for district one who is an attorney. I believe attorneys are uniquely qualified to analyze complex problems and effectively communicate solutions. I am a lifelong resident of Saint Petersburg, specifically district one. I am the only candidate in district one who has not taking special interest money from big development and construction services.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I will keep the Rays in Saint Pete so long as it is in the best interest of our community to do so. From most of the residents I spoken to, we do not believe it is worth fighting for a part time team. I will push for the Rays to be here permanently. From most of the community I spoken to, they do not think the existing site at Tropicana Field would be good for a new stadium. They seem to favor a smaller mixed-use stadium shared with the Tampa Bay rowdies at the current Al Lang site.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

It was very important for me to have as part of my staff a resiliency and sustainability expert, so I hired Melissa Fultz. I asked her about Saint Pete integrated sustainability action plan and what can be further done, and she said although it's good on paper, it's not really being enforced, we need to make sure it is properly funded and has the proper oversight.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

I have supported the Linkage/impact fee for big development. I think we can solve a lot of problems with this. Our residents that want new luxury apartments still get it, we can use some of the impact fees to address the affordable housing crisis in Saint Pete, and developers will still make money, just maybe a tiny bit less. I firmly believe for the state of Florida to limit that via preemption, is an overreach and should be overturned.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

We can start by loosening a little bit of the regulations on zoning, to allow for upzoning and using accessory dwellings/mother-in-law suites.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Working with wonderful organizations that support workers rights such as SEIU to come up with creative solutions and put them into action.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

My number one priority on my platform is my youth development initiative. I had the privilege to attend Walter Fuller recreation Center as a kid, but I understand that not every family can afford to send their kids there for summer and after school camp. I would like to change that by helping subsidize families who need the help. I would like to take the kids off the streets where they are unsupervised and put them into the social and focused driven program. I believe every child despite their socioeconomic background should have access to these wonderful programs.

Bobbie Shay Lee

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Consultant

Professional Experience: I have been national spokesperson and breast cancer advocate for 2 decades. In 1999 through 2001 I represented TECO, Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas at both the local and state level. I have served as Executive Director of two non-profit organizations, and a published contributing writer for Huffington Post and Everyday Health.

Education: MSW in Policy and Administration, Florida State University

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

Throughout my life I have been a public servant. I have been a national spokesperson, an executive director of two nonprofit agencies. I do not approach my work seeking recognition or awards, I just do what needs to be done to improve the lives of others. I am the only candidate that has had local, state, and federal government affairs experience. The current red tide crisis is a perfect example of why having experience at every level of government will allow me to better serve this community more effectively.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I support what the residents of St. Petersburg want. I hear resoundingly that this community wants to keep the Rays here. Should we need to make decisions about how to fund a new stadium I do not support adding a tax burden without a referendum, that is for the people to decide. I also believe that whatever is built should provide the opportunity to generate revenue year round for surrounding small businesses.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

We need a comprehensive strategic plan addressing sewage and infrastructure upgrades. It is time to develop clear measurable goals, cost analysis, and timeline for upgrades. While that is being determined, we need to bring the Albert Whitted Wastewater Treatment Plant back online.

In addition, using renewable and reusable energy sources are essential. Homeowners need to be reminded about the importance of weather-proofing homes, recycling, reducing food waste and reducing water waste. I believe the new "work from home" trend will continue to show an impact on our carbon footprint.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

It is time to take a pause on new development. We must put our priorities on a strategic infrastructure improvement plan and focus on public safety. We are still navigating this new normal in a post Covid world. I understand affordable housing will continue to be an important conversation, and I welcome that. It is time to review, assess and promote the small businesses that have survived and incredibly difficult 18 months.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

I would love to see a plan that focuses on assisting those living at 80%-120% below AMI including our first responders, teachers, and nonprofit professional. These residents hold some of the most important roles in our community with minimal pay. I would encourage further discussions that expands the opportunity of home ownership opportunities, bringing with it personal investments in our communities, and empowering our residents to feel as though they belong. The city has approved its first container housing development plans and that is very exciting.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Minimum wage was never intended to be a living wage. Trade schools are an essential part of empowering individuals to reach new potential. It is not just about making more money, it is about encouraging trades that our community needs today and will continue to rely on in the future.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

I have been working with, and advocating for, individuals with health disparities for the last two decades. Until you have walked in the shoes of someone who has been impacted by these disparities, been shut out of the process, and desperate for resources you will not understand. In these cases, it is not always based on race. Your measure of worth is the insurance card you hold. Understanding and investigating the depth of any disparities is the first step forward. I believe the city council still has work to do in understanding where to begin.

St. Petersburg Council Member District 4

Jarib Figueredo

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation:

Professional Experience:

Education:

No Candidate Response

Lisset Hanewicz

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Attorney

Professional Experience: Office of the State Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, opened private law practice in 2014.

Education: Florida International University - B.A., M.B.A, University of Florida - J.D.

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I would serve on the City Council the same way I have as the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association president - listening to the concerns of my constituents, working with them to form sound policy, and putting that policy into place. I also believe my background as an attorney will help me effectively advocate for our city.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I want to keep baseball here, but I am not willing to put significant taxpayer money towards a new stadium. I agree that the stadium situation needs to be solved sooner than later and I'm keeping an open mind - but I would only support a proposal that benefits the city as a whole. We are still recovering from the pandemic and it would be irresponsible to put the financial burden of a new stadium on taxpayers.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

The City needs to continue addressing and planning for climate change using available data to plan for the future. I would support capital investments now to prepare for projected sea level rise and prepare our city and protect our homes. Those would include increased stormwater improvements, investments in our sewage system, sea walls, and other recommendations as set forth in the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan. Those investments should also prioritize local hiring so our tax dollars are going back into our economy.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

Tallahassee has shown it has no regard for home rule as set out in the Florida Constitution. Impact fees are an important source of revenue to fund the required infrastructure due to new growth. We need to require sustainable and resilient infrastructure in any new development. We need to continue collecting data to demonstrate the increased impact generated by new developments to ensure we can show the need for additional capital facilities and meet the requirements set by the legislature. We also need to proceed with our Integrated Water Resources Master Plan.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

We can consider community land trusts on city-owned vacant properties where nonprofits can acquire the land in a trust and develop the property. The homeowners enter into a long term lease. This arrangement separates the cost of land from the cost of the building making it much more affordable.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Workers need to be paid a living wage. I will work with local companies and stakeholders to raise wages and provide more stable employment for workers. I will support our living wage ordinance and ensure there is enforcement and that employers are compliant and following fair labor standards. I will support workforce training programs to prepare people without college degrees for jobs with promising career paths. We should also be strategic and identify the areas of growth where training efforts can be focused. St. Petersburg is targeting five major industry sectors.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

Although it is going to take time to address the issues of racial equity in our city, we need to work as quickly as we can so every part of our city can benefit from our growth. I think a Community Benefits Agreement when we redevelop the Tropicana site can address issues such as job training, local hiring, paying a living wage, affordable housing, and any other community needs to address racial equity. I do think that we should examine removing or repurposing I-175 to create a better connection to downtown and the Tropicana site.

Clifford Hobbs III

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Hospitality Professional

Professional Experience: Hospitality Professional @ Birch and Vine

Cook , Server Vinoy Renaissance

Sous Chef @ Level 11

Multitude of Hospitality roles throughout my career.

Education: Associates Degree Applied Science, Culinary Arts, Le Cordon Bleu.

Attended St. Petersburg College

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

Life has thrown me a few curveballs, but like the City of St. Petersburg I remain resilient. If we want a resilient City, we need to have a resilient spirit in leaders in leadership. As part of the Leadership St. Pete program, I have learned the importance of teamwork and sharing ideas through people of different backgrounds. I have the tact, interest, and skill when it comes to listening to those who might not be like me and acting in their best interest. I'm a fighter who is fighting for long lasting change that I may not see, yet my children's and their children will get to experience.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I do not agree that a part-time team is the best route for us, however, my job is to carry out the will of the people I serve in my district. Growing up in Iowa, I did not experience life with a pro-sports team, so I must say, it has been a learning experience watching how enthusiasm over a sports team in the City brings people together! The loss of that fellowship is not something I would want to see happen here. I am not for, however, a stadium setting empty the majority of the year while people in the poor communities of St. Petersburg go without housing, health care, and food security.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

Reviewing nature-based solutions and disaster prevention models from FEMA, we can explore as a City as to what options might be available. Nature-based solutions alone can help reduce future flood-related damage and losses and serve in a role to combat the ever looming threat of climate change. The City of Albany, New York decided one way to combat sewage overflow perils was through the usage of sensors and detectors. A benefit of this type of technology is that it will allow for data-tracking. We will be able to monitor what areas are most prone to flooding and how often.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

I am no stranger to adversity and working within the confines of strenuous situations. With a limitation on impact fees, we can look to contracting more sustainable contractors in the first place. The new law also will allow local governments to raise impact fees when it is deemed absolutely necessary. I will be sure to use sensible discretion for when this is the case. I am not afraid of doing the extra work if that is what is needed to ensure St. Petersburg continues to grow, remains sustainable, and continues working toward accessible transportation.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

The City's leadership has already made great strides with the new tenant bill of rights that was implemented. I will continue to work with stakeholders and community organizations on this subject and continue to ensure tenants' voices are heard, as well as homeowners. I will prioritize funding into our City-level housing needs and will continue to support non-governmental organizations that provide relief for the chronically homeless. I will continue to be a champion by promoting the existing programs and any new programs that may exist to ensure everyone knows what the City has to offer.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

One such solution I aim to prioritize is a guaranteed basic income for our residents who are between 55 and 61 y/o and those with disabilities that make it difficult to secure steady employment. Additionally, I will expect any business that is contracting with the City of St. Petersburg to pay, at minimum, \$15 an hour for all workers on their payroll. I will continue to advocate for a re-evaluation of the compensation package for all employees in the public sector, whether working directly with my office, or any other department in our City.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

I will ensure that Black people of all backgrounds are at the table in every area of St. Petersburg government. I will continue reaching out to the Black community and nominate qualified Black residents to every board available. I will consider the impact on the Black community in all ordinances that I may propose or accept, ensuring that the most marginalized of the Black community is able to thrive. I will work with my colleagues to create solutions that have far reaching benefits for the residents who live in all districts, expanding my reach across the entirety of St. Petersburg.

Tom Mullins

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Investment Banker

Professional Experience: Investment banker with Raymond James from 1986-88 and from 1990-present. From 2005-2019, I was head or co-head of the firm's Transport & Infrastructure practice group, where I personally led financing and acquisition transactions for clients in the environmental service, transport and infrastructure sectors.

Education: B.A. from Vanderbilt University

MBA from Dartmouth College

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I believe I am differentiated from the other District 4 candidates in several ways:

- Only candidate warning about strong recent hikes in property taxes and prioritizing containment of property taxes*
- First candidate to call for scrapping the existing Trop re-development concepts and doing a new RFP process to attract truly transformative proposals which bring a jobs engine*
- Only former union member*
- Only one personally associated with major local job creation events: Raymond James (8,000 jobs), Allegiant Air (+400 jobs)*
- Only candidate who has worked with global infrastructure funds*

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

No. It's a priority to keep the Rays in Tampa Bay area but baseball is not the highest and best use of the Trop site any more in light of the City's current priorities. Officials have really underestimated the value and re-development potential of the Trop site. I want to lead an alternative RFP process, modeled after a 2011 NYC process led by Mayor Bloomberg, to solicit proposals for truly transformative redevelopment concepts that come complete with their own jobs engine, such as a major university relocation/extension, Fortune 500 corporate relocation, or similar.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

I support the 2020 City code changes raising construction standards for development in these areas, which happen to be 40% of all dry land in St Pete! Climate change poses greater risks to St Pete than to most other U.S. cities, so St Pete's climate change solutions need to take very tangible civil engineering forms: hardening the city against storm risks and sea level rise with prudent fortifications such as seawall expansions, break-waters, new mangrove fields and similar investments – being careful not to waste taxpayer \$\$\$s by building too far out in front of sea level rise models.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

Impact fees should be used to the extent possible. But infrastructure needs will be higher than projections as existing area population forecasts ignore Covid-related changes in location preferences; accelerating migration to Florida from large misgoverned cities in the U.S. and increased migration from all corners of Latin America. The city council must have members on it that know how to finance this infrastructure efficiently (such as with global infrastructure funds) and not just blindly raise taxes or add debt to the city because they don't know how to analyze other financing solutions.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

The only real way to improve the affordability of housing is by growing housing supply. Taking money from one taxpayer and giving it to another as a housing subsidy does not count as "affordable housing". St Pete zoning needs to accommodate high-density housing alternatives to an even greater degree than today. Two ideas: Give homeowners freedom to rent garage apartments. Also, consider allowing "villages" of high density housing and retail / commercial development in parts of the city outside of downtown where this type of development is not presently allowed.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Proposition 2 puts Florida wages on a ramp to \$15/hour. However, the minimum wage is still \$0/hour for people who can't find work. That's why my top priorities are policies which optimize private job growth so that both employed and unemployed people have the widest possible job opportunities and leverage to ask for fair wages and working conditions. To drive that type of business climate, we need to achieve low taxes, sensible business regulations, Trop redevelopment that includes a jobs engine, and acceptance of further area population growth and (tasteful) real estate development.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

The U.S. private economy is the most successful and inclusive engine for lifting people from poverty that the world has ever seen. There are thousands of Black professionals in Tampa Bay alone which prove this point. We must sustain the health of that economy and thwart numerous "progressive" initiatives that make it harder for Black residents to climb higher. Examples include: "open border" immigration, denying Black kids charter schools, crushing franchise / independent contractor business models often used by Black entrepreneurs, and generally hostile tax / regulatory policies.

Douglas O'Dowd

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Financial Consultant

Professional Experience: Started Career at Deloitte

Spent the last 25 years in various executive roles leading Finance, HR, Contract and Operations team

Education: Bachelor of Science and Masters degree from the University of Florida

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I've lived in St. Pete since 1993. My two sons attended all southside schools so I have seen the benefits and issues related to the educational system here in St. Pete. I'm a Board Member of Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Assoc. and I've owned rental houses and a small wine shop in St. Pete for 10 years. I am a leader who takes into account all stakeholders when major decisions are made.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I would not support a part-time team here in St. Pete. We have grown and matured as a city and if the citizens of this city decide to invest in a long-term solution for Tropicana Field site including a new stadium, then we should have the same expectations from the Rays! I want the Rays to stay, and I think we CAN work a deal to have them here with a completely new, more inclusive partnership between the city and the Rays.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

We need to STOP accepting sewage overflow as a reality we have to live with. We MUST build and maintain premier water treatment facilities that can handle all the growth and issues for the next 100 years. We need to fix or replace the existing storm water pipes many of which are over 75 years old. This is about prioritizing our resources and making sure our infrastructure is near the top of every yearly budget with a plan and strategy to address the issues. Plant more mangroves and oyster beds.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

The citizens of St. Pete need to come first. We need to immediately build out our water treatment facilities and replace our storm water infrastructure. If we do, then our reliance on getting more impact fees in the future is lessened. We already have current plans to better our infrastructure, but we need to stop talking and get the projects done. The only option would be to limit future development until our infrastructure catches up.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

I am a big proponent of tiny houses. Many younger working families find this to be a solution but there are no opportunities currently in St. Pete and zoning often makes it difficult. These should be permanent structures and NOT on wheels. The city should allocate some of their acquired properties for tiny houses (average size is 400 square feet). These are popping up throughout the USA like in Las Vegas, Detroit and DC. and we can do it here.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Since we are going to a \$15/hour minimum wage, I support a COLA provision so that we do not leave workers behind again. Additionally, the city should invest in vocational training or attract an organization or company that can properly train in the vocations. PTEC is not currently doing an effective job. And we need to market the vocations as a great career path and a successful path for life.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

I support creating a 9th City Council District if it is done in the southside so that the voices of the south side have more say in the spending. We should put the Tropicana Field site into the South St. Pete CRA ensuring that the site will be developed for total inclusion for all citizens. Let's remove physical barriers such as I-175 and make 4th Street a two-way street from north to south.

St. Petersburg Council Member District 8

Jeffrey Danner

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Building Inspector

Professional Experience: Carpenter, Building Contractor , Project Manager, Building Inspector

Education: Willoughby South High School

St Pete College.

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I have been in City Hall continuously as an appointed or elected official. That experience is unmatched in not only this election but any candidate in recent history. I am a collaborator that gets things done. I build relationships with community leaders, staff and elected officials to solve problems and bring ideas to fruition.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

If the Rays propose a multi-function stadium that at the very least is used as much as it is now and hopefully much more often then we can discuss move forward from there.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

The lateral lines on all private properties connecting to main lines in city right of ways need to be updated and repaired to stop rain infiltration into the waste water lines. Also increased maintenance and replacement of storm water lines needs to be increased as much as possible.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

Permit applications must be connected to the cities ability to provide adequate infrastructure services to those structures and the people moving into and working in them. If impact fees will not cover the cost of needed expanded needs the project will have to be reduced in scale or costs covered in some other manner.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

A housing /land trust fund would be one long term method of addressing housing issues. If we created a fund that generated earnings each year it would be in our discretion how to distribute these funds.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

We must find ways to promote health care options for so many that depend on individual policies, which are typically very expensive. Simple things like parking programs for downtown hospitality workers can save hundreds of dollars each month to the employee.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

When the study is final we will have a blueprint of the specific city policies that promote structural racism. These can be addressed one at a time and find the appropriate solutions.

Richie Floyd

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Teacher

Professional Experience: 1.5 Years of Experience as a Science and Engineering Teacher, 6 Years of Experience as a Hardware and Systems Engineer in unmanned systems and aircraft navigation, 8 Years of Experience as a Service Industry and Restaurant Worker

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering - University of West Florida, and

Master's Degree in Digital Systems Engineering - University of York (UK)

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

As a public school teacher and organizer, I have seen first-hand the struggles that working families in our city face, and I've organized with our community to change things for the better. I believe that change occurs when everyday people stand together, so I have worked to unite the community on various issues, most recently as leader in the coalition that fought for and won the \$15 per hour minimum wage in our state.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I am open to creative solutions that allow the Rays to remain in St. Pete, but I do not believe public tax dollars should be spent subsidizing a business worth hundreds of millions of dollars. What's most important about the redevelopment of Tropicana Field is that the broken promises of jobs and opportunity be made right. I will fight to get guarantees on the number of living wage jobs, and affordable housing options at the site, and I will hold developers and the city accountable to these.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

I helped organize opposition to the proposal to increase development in low lying areas of our city. The effects of climate change and sea level rise are only just beginning, and it would be a massive mistake to place more of our city's infrastructure in harm's way. I believe we should invest our resources into strengthening our existing infrastructure, particularly the homes and businesses that our working families live in, and rely on.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

We know from our sewage spills that it is imperative that our infrastructure's capacity is taken into account when planning growth. Developers should pay the maximum impact fee allowable, and all new infrastructure spending needs to be implemented equitably by ensuring that the people at the top pay their fair share. I will work to see that all new development in the city is built for the benefit our existing residents, and not just for the profit of a few.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

Housing is a human right, and there is no single solution to our city's affordable housing crisis. It will take a variety of approaches to support those that need it, from working families to people experiencing homelessness. One of the most powerful things we can do is invest in community land trusts that allow people to own a home, and gain equity, but keeps the housing affordable permanently by removing it from the volatile market.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

The city should incentivize businesses to raise wages by prioritizing businesses that pay a living wage of over \$15 per hour when considering grant applications and contracts. I will push for ordinances that require higher labor standards, including a fair scheduling ordinance that requires employers to provide schedules weeks ahead of time so that working people can have more stability in their lives.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

Our city has spent massive sums of money on developments that people enjoy in their leisure time, but has no equivalent to point to when it comes to investment in the well being of the African-American community. It's time to

develop a comprehensive plan that provides education, jobs, housing, green space, and business grants to residents of South St. Pete, at a financial level comparable to the amount spent on the pier.

Dane Kuplicki

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Optometrist

Professional Experience: Associate Optometrist, VIP Eye Care & Optical Boutique

Owner, Kuplicki Eye Care LLC, Seminole, FL

Regional Sales Manager, Stewart Signs, Sarasota, FL

General Lines Insurance Agent, Moore Resources, St. Petersburg, FL

Education: Doctor of Optometry, Indiana University School of Optometry;

Pre-Med undergraduate studies, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg;

Florida Property & Casualty 2-20 Insurance License;

Bachelor's Degree in Finance, USF St. Petersburg

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I am a native of Pinellas County. This fuels my pride and passion for St. Petersburg and the beautiful mosaic of people that live, work, and play here. At my core, I am a servant leader who's made an impact in several local leadership positions. This is in part because of my energy and ambition, which I pour into whatever job or project I put my heart into. My integrity, communication skills, creativity, and knowledge of our city will help me excel in serving our residents on Council. It would be my honor to do so, and I'm eager to faithfully serve our city over these next four years.

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

Yes, as long as that stadium is multi-functional and we could book events on a year round basis. Such a stadium should inherently be an economic generator for this site. It should be built to draw national acts, and showcase our beautiful city. I would love to see the Rays stay here full-time; however, if part-time is the most feasible option, we should seek to find additional part-time tenants (ex: the Rowdies) to fill the schedule before signing off on any plans.

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

First, we need to select the most advanced plan within the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan. We must ensure advanced, equitable storm water management for generations to come. Second, we must curb further development in the CHHAs. Third, we need to invest in making our infrastructure more resilient, especially in the vast flood prone areas within the city. In all of this, the policies we enact must address neighborhood environmental disparities and achieve environmental justice.

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

We need to keep our budget fiscally responsible, and scrutinize our policies to ensure residents the best use of their money. On top of impact fees, we can fund infrastructure through taxes and utility charges that spread the burden equitably across all property owners and businesses. To protect those who can least afford it, we can provide breaks or exemptions to low-income residents on property taxes and utility bills.

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to

rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

We must build more units. Changing policies will encourage more housing that people of all income levels can afford. This entails allowing "upzoning", and the combination of parcels in conjunction with upzoning. We need to relax restrictions on ADU's and stipulate inclusionary zoning into new construction contracts. In addition, we should activate city-sanctioned shared-equity home ownership and allow for adapted architectural design standards.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

We must start by ensuring publicly-funded, subsidized projects, and government contracts are set up to provide living wages that include fair labor standards. Stipulating this through the CBA is a fantastic tool that we can use to bolster living wage jobs. This will organically spread to the surrounding business districts and promote the advancement of living wage jobs and fair labor standards.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

First, I would listen to what Black residents in St. Pete have been saying for decades. Second, more intentionality is required to fix the education and economic gap that exists in the context of race in St. Pete. Action is required - on Council I will prioritize the nutrition gap in South St. Pete and work to mitigate the disproportionate effect climate change has on Black residents in the city.

Jamie Mayo

Party Affiliation=N

Occupation: Entrepreneur

Professional Experience: 30+ yrs bookkeeper

17 yrs cleaning company

Education: Some college

Leadership St. Pete

Mastery University

What character traits, views and experiences do you possess that best qualify you for this seat on the St. Petersburg City Council? (600 characters)

I bring hard work and caring character to this service position. Fight for things needed, develop things yet unseen. Thinking with a fresh perspective, clear minded, ready to work. Able to say no when it is not popular, and yes when it is needed. I fight for the marginalized! Being a addiction recovery advocate, I fight for folks to be better and have amazing lives. I love the youth of our city and want them to realize their potential and have a hope for their future! I care....

Would you support a Tropicana Field redevelopment proposal that included a stadium for a part-time team? Why or why not? (600 characters)

I want to fight for our team! I am truly undecided about "part-time". I have said many times I will have the ability to set aside what I want, set aside my beliefs to make decisions. This will be one of those times. I will work hard at listening and weighing what is best for our city regardless of "what I want/hope". Any redevelopment needs to encompass a city coming together. A healing place that reflects the greatness of the city as a whole!

What are your plans for increasing resiliency in Coastal High Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues? (600 characters)

I have much to learn in this area. My life has been focused on relationship to this point. I will listen, I will learn! That is important. On the very little I do know, drainage is a huge issue and factors greatly into the issues mentioned in the question. I will listen, I will learn, I will respond in an educated manner that protects our coastal areas and our St. Petersburg citizens!

The Tampa Bay Times has reported that "the state Legislature put in controls on how often and how much local governments can increase impact fees." This may affect St. Petersburg's ability to ensure adequate infrastructure to accommodate new buildings and development, such as water, sewage, environmental protection, transportation, and more. How do you plan to balance new development and adequate infrastructure to ensure quality of life in St. Petersburg? (600 characters)

One of those times when someone will not be happy. I fell like infrastructure should be our 1st process of filtering. If we can't protect the infrastructure, we can't build. If we can't build we have no prayer of securing affordable housing. Comes down to appropriate balance, and addressing financial issues head on! Once again, bringing a clear head, personal feelings left at the door, sleeves rolled up, and do the hard work! As a single mother most of parenting time, I actually had to do a lot of this. Someone is not going to be happy, ok..... But let's do what is good for our city!

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly half of renter households and one-quarter of owner-occupied households in Pinellas County spend 30% or more of their income on housing. As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly, describe one creative solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in St. Petersburg. (600 characters)

Look to create privatized partners. And I would look to create a city location for citizens to go to in search of affordable housing, One place to learn and get connected with all programs.

Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these workers? (600 characters)

Post Covid has created many hard dynamics for employers and employees a like. This is a quickly changing dynamic that needs watching and attention. The State of Florida has already implemented minimum wage increases. I do not believe "City" needs to address or augment what is already being done. I may have the same answer for "fair labor standards". But would need to see what are the examples that have created this question.

Preliminary findings of a USF study on structural racism in St. Petersburg indicate a history of city policies that have resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city? (600 characters)

I am hearing a lot of this and it grieve's me. We, I, as a city LEADER should hold ourselves to HIGH standards that serves ALL! I will fight to keep this dynamic in check, I will fight to keep myself in check! I will call out this ugly issue when it presents itself.