



Voter Guide –Local Races Municipal Election – March 19, 2024

[Clearwater Council Seat 2](#)

[Clearwater Council Seat 3](#)

[Clearwater Mayor](#)

[Gulfport Councilmember Ward 1](#)

[Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner](#)

[Indian Shores Mayor](#)

[Kenneth City Mayor](#)

[Oldsmar Council Member Seat 1](#)

[Oldsmar Council Member Seat 3](#)

[Pinellas Park Council Seat 3](#)

[Pinellas Park Council Seat 4](#)

[Safety Harbor Commissioner Seat 1](#)

[Safety Harbor Commissioner Seat 2](#)

[Treasure Island Commissioner District 4](#)

Clearwater Council Seat 2

The City of Clearwater is governed by a Council/Manager form of government with the City Council serving as the governing body. The City Council is comprised of the Mayor and four Councilmembers, who each serve four-year terms. The City Council is the legislative and policy-making body of the City, responsible for approving the budget and determining the ad valorem tax rate on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the City. Councilmembers also evaluate the job performance of the City Manager and the City Attorney, attend City Council meetings, special workshops/meetings, and schedule and attend community meetings to address various topics and initiatives.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$45,000 per year

Mark Bunker



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: TV News

Education: BS Radio/TV/Film UW-Oshkosh

Email: markbunker@gmail.com

Campaign Website: markbunker2024.com

Facebook: facebook.com/MarkBunker2024/

Twitter: twitter.com/xenutv

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Too many decisions on the state level have been made for strictly political reasons which is regrettable. Locally we are concerned about improving conditions and not on what will win more votes. We have to fight to maintain home rule which continues to be whittled away from us by the state.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Rising water levels and temperatures are creating more devastating hurricanes along the coast. We have two water treatment plants that will be fully submerged by a CAT 5 storm. We've approved shutting down those two plants and shifting the load to a new treatment facility safely outside of flood zones. Having taken an eco-tour of the Tampa Bay Estuary recently, there are many steps we can take to restoring coral reefs and coastal ecosystems that will help protect us from storms.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The city has changed the code at my request to allow ADU's like tiny homes, garage apartments and granny flats to help counter the rising cost of housing. We have several workforce housing projects nearing completion. We have neglected our aging infrastructure for too long and this council has made this a priority which we must continue going forward.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

For 25 years I have been helping people abused or defrauded by Scientology which is a unique problem in the city of Clearwater. We need elected officials who are not afraid to stand up to the organization and understand how it operates. I appeared in several episodes of Scientology and the Aftermath and have the endorsement of Leah Remini as well as the Clearwater Police FOP and CW Firefighters.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

ADU's will help provide infill housing on existing lots. County properties will be vacated in a few years bringing new opportunities for construction or retrofitting apartments into a location like the downtown courthouse. Modular construction or the use of shipping container homes should be allowed. Blighted properties should be cleared to make way for new development. We should partner with major employers such as medical providers who have begun financing their own workforce housing.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

Our Greenprint 2.0 plan gives us a good roadmap for the next several decades. We are working toward more livable neighborhoods, repairing sidewalks and putting some in where none existed, building a multi-modal transit hub in our downtown, increasing our commitment to solar power and reclaiming greenspace. I'd like to see us transform unused buildings such as historic schools into housing and make our neighborhoods walkable and our streets safe for cyclists.

Ryan Cotton



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Captain/Paramedic with the Lealman Fire District

Email: Ryancotton4clearwater@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.ryancotton4clearwater.com/

Campaign Email: ryancotton4clearwater@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cotton4clearwater

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I believe that local government should be left intact. This allows those who live in the area to petition their elected officials from miles away not hundreds of miles away.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Infrastructure – One of my focuses since Day-1. As emergency mgmt. coordinator w/my fire dept, I work w/FEMA & FL Dept of Emergency Mgmt. Like many coastal communities, investment in things not seen has been lacking like sewer, water & gas systems. With a limited gov't perspective, gov't exists to protect its citizens & provide resilience. We can accomplish this making right investments w/tax dollars & resilience grants. Affordable housing is an issue. Working w/the Econ Dev & Housing Director to ensure people are taken care of is a priority.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I feel like I touched on that with the critical infrastructure response. Working with federal and state officials to become more resilient and holding the city manager accountable for developing our city while maintaining the beauty around us.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have a unique experience as I am the only one in my family that has worked for government outside military service. My grandfather & father are entrepreneur landowners who have given me experience as to how the private sector operates & how efficiencies can be made within government. I've served citizens of Pinellas for over 14 yrs as a firefighter/paramedic & love being there for my community.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

I see the above answer as appropriate here also. Clearwater is unique in that it does not have a strong mayor. I would look to the city manager and department heads to make good decisions for all Clearwater residents. While holding them accountable to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and be a good steward of our land.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

Clearwater is unique in that it does not have a strong mayor. I would look to the city manager and department heads to make good decisions for all Clearwater residents. While holding them accountable to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and be a good steward of our land.

Mike Mastruserio



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Business Executive

Education: 2 years of college

Email: Mikeforclearwater2@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.mikeforclearwater.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Mike-Mastruserio-for-Clearwater-City-Council/61551625602202/

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I oppose any type of government mandated restrictions. I believe it is important for local governments to retain their own authority- making decisions on their own local issues affecting their community.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I would make sure that any developer stays within the guidelines of the Greenprint 2.0. and works constantly with city planning and development.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you

propose to address these challenges?

I believe we need to create a business friendly environment to spur growth and add income streams for the city. We also need to invest in workforce housing. Many employees work in our area but cannot afford to live in the area.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I operate a small business in the Greenwood area. I have built my business here. Since moving here 9 years ago, I have served on 13+ organizations in leadership positions and worked with countless charities. I roll up my sleeves to get things done. I know the businesses in our area and I want to meet the residents. I am passionate about our area- I have the time to invest. I will listen.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

I would work with the state and federal governments for grants, to see if there is an opportunity there. I would also try and entice developers with different ways to partner and participate on land that the city already owns. I would also work with Tampa Bay Housing and Habitat for Humanity to increase their efforts in the area.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

We should look at changing zoning or codes to adapt to the needs. Our permitting process should be more efficient and easier to navigate. We need to look at sustainability and environmental protection. We need to make sure our parks are maintained. We need to look to technology for new innovative ways to stay current. We need to do a marketing campaign to let the citizens know that economic development keeps their quality of life the paradise that we live in.

Clearwater Council Seat 3

The City of Clearwater is governed by a Council/Manager form of government with the City Council serving as the governing body. The City Council is comprised of the Mayor and four Councilmembers, who each serve four-year terms. The City Council is the legislative and policy-making body of the City, responsible for approving the budget and determining the ad valorem tax rate on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of the City. Councilmembers also evaluate the job performance of the City Manager and the City Attorney, attend City Council meetings, special workshops/meetings, and schedule and attend community meetings to address various topics and initiatives.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$45,000 per year

Jared Leone

Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Freelance journalist, various publications (Washington Post, Associated Press, Tampa Bay Times, Creative Loafing, 83 Degrees) National Content Editor, Cox Media Group Local Editor, Clearwater Patch Staff Writer, St. Petersburg Times Graduate Research Assistant, USFSP

Education: Master of Arts in digital journalism and design, USF '16; Bachelor of Science in journalism, UF '04; Associate in Arts, SPC '02

Email: jaredforclearwater@gmail.com

Campaign Website: jaredforclearwater.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jared4clearwater

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Home Rule is extremely important, and I have worked with the city to pass legislation every time the Legislature gives an opening. Most recently, I worked with the Police Department to get cigarettes prohibited at city parks and beaches. Knowing when these opportunities are available and using them is one way to show Tallahassee leaders Home Rule is important and to stop preempting it.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Development and the environment don't have to compete. The entire city benefits when council members support smart development that balances economic needs with environmental ones. I would also boost programs to help homeowners/businesses retrofit their homes/businesses to make them more resilient to powerful storms, and power loss. Funding infrastructure improvements to address flooding issues is an example of this.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Addressing infrastructure needs. My first priority would be flooding issues, like improving stormwater capacity, maintaining swale and dredging waterways. Flooding and rising insurance costs impact every home/business owner. Affordable housing is crucial to the success of the city but 41% of homeowners and 55% of renters are cost-burdened by housing. City Council can consider a millage rollback to reduce property tax bills; work with partners and offer incentives to developers.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have shown an unwavering commitment to the community for many years through leading the city's Environmental Advisory Board, working with neighbors to form a neighborhood group and raising five guide dog puppies in training. I worked as a journalist for nearly 20 years covering local news and gaining deep insight into Clearwater's pressing issues.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

Affordable housing is crucial to the success of the city. According to the city's residential inventory and housing affordability assessment, 41% of homeowners and 55% of renters are cost-burdened by housing. One way the City Council can tackle housing affordability is by considering a millage rollback. Another way is to work with partners and offer developers incentives (Live, Local Act, Sadowski Housing Trust Fund) for affordable housing projects throughout the city.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

I was instrumental in getting the city to have a plan, GreenPrint, that addresses development, the environment and livability. I would continue to support the implementation of GreenPrint strategies as well as expand key components, especially those with strong returns on investment.

Michael Mannino



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Clearwater business owner for 12 yrs, also owner of a community 501c3

Education: Masters degree- Public Administration

Email: ElectMannino@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.electmannino.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RunningForClearwater?mibextid=ZbWKwL

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I stand strong to protect our rights as it pertains to home rule, which has been under attack from the state level for years.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Clearwater leadership must effectively balance economic development and our environmental resilience. Enhancing our resiliency and mitigation plans means ensuring we upgrade our critical infrastructure of stormwater management, seawall fortification, and update building codes. A more sustainable Clearwater is more attractive to development and increases our resident's quality of life, benefits the fiscal health of our city, and leads to the social well-being of our community.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Clearwater must get back to the basics and ensure we balance livability with destination. Accomplishing this means we must provide our citizens with efficient & effective city services, advocate for healthy & safe neighborhoods, remain fiscally responsible with a forward vision, and build a more business friendly environment that is collaborative and attractive.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am the only candidate for Clearwater City Council, seat #3 that has ANY business experience as I have owned and operated a business for 12 yrs, own a non-profit org. in our community, and am educated with a masters degree in public administration. Additionally, I have years of leadership experiences on multiple city and regional boards. All of which makes me the most prepared and qualified.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

Affordable & workforce housing is a challenge for our entire region as well as Clearwater. High interest rates and low inventory are a challenge. City officials must work with our county and state governments to ensure Sadowski Funds are used as appropriated. We must use Live Local Act to legislate increased density constraints, create funding, expand housing tax credits, expand availability of housing vouchers, monitor new or increased impact fees, govern to lower the costs of insurance.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

Clearwater leadership must effectively balance economic development and our environmental resilience. Enhancing our resiliency and mitigation plans means ensuring we upgrade our critical infrastructure of stormwater management, seawall fortification, and update building codes. A more sustainable Clearwater is more attractive to development and increases our resident's quality of life, produces better fiscal health of our city, and leads to the social well-being of our community.

Javante Scott



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: City of Clearwater Employee - Streets & Sidewalks, Police Records, and Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Education: BS - Public Policy & Administration (St. Petersburg College)

Email: jmscott@preparedfornext.org

Campaign Website: www.preparedfornext.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/preparedfornext

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I support local government retaining "home rule." Local officials are on the front lines with residents. Thus, local officials have an up-close view of how these policies impact our community.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Residents deserve a council who will hear and respond promptly on any development project. The city's Planning & Development Dept. should be more involved before granting a permit. I recommend that the city be more transparent about who the developers are, what they are developing, and how that will impact residents. By being more engaged during the process, the city can have greater insight and be able to analyze how the project impacts the city and environment.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Infrastructure: Engage in a thorough review to determine what roads need to be repaved, which sidewalks need improvement, which railroad tracks need to be leveled, which intersections need better drainage to prevent flooding, and address how trail travel in Clearwater can be enhanced.

Housing: Develop a strategy that places the city in a “proactive” position for acquiring property suitable for housing, determine the types of housing appropriate for the land, and maximize its use for residents.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

Of the candidates running for Seat 3, I am the ONLY one who brings the experience of being both a resident AND city employee to the council. More importantly, my city employee experience gives residents the confidence in knowing that as an elected council member from DAY ONE, I have an understanding of our city’s departments. I AM CLEARWATER’S CITY COUNCIL NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Clearwater?

First, the city must “proactively” seek opportunities to acquire property suitable for housing. Second, the city must collaborate with housing development agencies who understand our priorities, share our commitment to creating better housing opportunities, and are willing to assist in accomplishing our housing goals.

What key steps do you think are important to balance development, environmental resilience and livability in Clearwater? How would you influence this in a positive direction?

Environmental resilience and livability are intertwined. If our city offered more employees affordable housing, fewer vehicles would be necessary for traveling to work. Employees could use other forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, or environmentally friendly buses. Thus, creating less carbon emissions and positively impacting our climate.

Clearwater Mayor

The City of Clearwater operates under a Council-Manager form of government with the City Council serving as the governing body. The Council is comprised of 5 members, including the Mayor. The Mayor presides at all meetings of the council and is recognized as the official head of the city for legal purposes, also serving as the City liaison for various area-wide boards, and events. As a member of Council, the mayor evaluates the job performance of the City Manager and the City Attorney, participates in special workshops/meetings, schedules and attends community meetings to address various topics and initiatives.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$49,000/year

Kathleen Beckman



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Public High School English and Journalism Teacher

Education: Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Marketing, and a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership

Email: info@beckmanformayor.com

Campaign Website: beckmanformayor.com

Facebook: facebook.com/BeckmanForMayor/

Instagram: instagram.com/beckmanformayor/

The state government has recently preempted local governments’ policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

As Vice-President of Suncoast League of Cities, I champion, along with many other local elected officials, home rule for our cities. It is critical that our residents and municipal leaders have the ability to make decisions that are best for our unique communities and not be constrained by state legislators, who are less accountable to residents.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

We commissioned a resiliency study to chart a path to address current and future weather events. Our residents and our economy are already being impacted with large and small weather events. Actions taken to improve our resiliency will benefit both residents and our economy, by lowering costs and protecting investments.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Infrastructure upgrades and expanded housing options are pressing issues for our city and residents. We need to allocate needed staffing and budget for both short term and long-term solutions that address priorities like stormwater flooding in our neighborhoods and housing incentives with focused action over multiple years to bring lasting and meaningful solutions.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

My experience as a councilmember is extremely important to be successful as mayor. Having strong relationships with residents, neighborhood leaders, city staff, and regional leaders enables me to be successful immediately in the position of mayor. I am uniquely positioned to lead given my continuous and high level of engagement and collaboration with residents to address their concerns.

In the past several years, there have been revelations of issues within the City that have shown a lack of oversight and accountability by City management. How can Clearwater residents be assured procedures and protocols have been put in place to prevent future issues? (600 character limit)

I have been a champion for transparency of our city spending even before I was elected. I am proud that due to my persistence and the leadership of our new city manager, we now have public facing dashboards for many departments that show how we are performing. An important example is for Solid Waste, that shows our recycling performance. If this dashboard was in place several years ago, it would have prevented our recycling issues. Continuously informing the public of our performance and spending is critical.

What specific actions should the council take to attract more living wage jobs, support small business and generate sustainable economic development? (500 character limit)

Our city has taken some important actions to create infrastructure and incentives to attract small businesses and improve our neighborhoods at the same time. Great examples of this are: our new Coachman Park and amphitheater, our new East Gateway complete street design, and our new North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Agency. All of these will attract new business activity. Tourists and residents will enjoy and benefit from these economic development improvements.

Bruce Rector



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Bruce Rector has practiced law for 33 years. He has worked in professional and collegiate sports and is currently the General Counsel for a large Clearwater-based company that is consistently listed among the nation's top workplaces. An inspiring speaker, trainer and author, Rector is a former president of Junior Chamber International (JCI), a

Education: University of Kentucky, Bachelors Degree in Education and Juris Doctorate

Email: rector4fl@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.brucevector.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Rector4clearwater

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Local governing bodies are in the best position to make decisions for the communities they serve. I am an advocate for protecting home rule.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

We have a shrinking and very expensive housing inventory that makes it very difficult for long-time residents to remain in Clearwater and for the workers who provide us essential services to live. Property insurance and significant inflation in the past 3 years has made it incredibly hard for the elderly to remain in their homes and essential services workers to buy or rent a home. We must continue to look for creative ways to decrease the housing costs for our residents.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Keeping taxes low and making essential government services the highest priority. We must invest in our fire and police personnel to remain competitive in hiring and retaining the best first responders. Our streets, roads, sidewalks and stormwater systems all need system attention.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have a broad background and more than 30 years of experience in building community partnerships, leading teams, and bring people and organizations together to collaborate and achieve more than they ever could alone. as the 58th President of Junior Chamber International, I led a Board of Directors of 25 leaders from 18 countries.

In the past several years, there have been revelations of issues within the City that have shown a lack of oversight and accountability by City management. How can Clearwater residents be assured procedures and protocols have been put in place to prevent future issues? (600 character limit)

The City Manager should be ultimately responsible for the performance of the city staff as that position is directly in garage of hiring and firing all city employees except for the City Attorney. The City Council should, however, give the City Manager constant feedback and keep her apprised of citizen concerns. The city council, city manager, city attorney, and all city staff work for the citizens of Clearwater and should consider the citizens opinions and input on all aspects of government services.

What specific actions should the council take to attract more living wage jobs, support small business and generate sustainable economic development? (500 character limit)

Clearwater needs to actively seek economic development and promoting opportunities for investment in Clearwater. I am proud to have the endorsement of ClearPac, the greater Clearwater business community. I also have years of experience working with various organizations throughout the world on economic development and look forward to collaborating with other leaders and organizations to make great things happen in Clearwater.

Gulfport Councilmember Ward 1

The City of Gulfport has a Council-Manager form of government. A five person city council is elected citywide by the voters, each for a two-year term, except for the mayor who is elected to a three-year term. The city is divided into four wards, each of which is represented by one of the council members. The mayor is the fifth member of the Council and is elected at-large, not representing any ward. The City Council sets City policies, including adopting the budget on or before the beginning of each fiscal year, establishing local laws, and approving large expenditures of City funds. The five members of the City Council appoint a City Manager to run the day-to-day operations of the City. The City Manager is responsible for City finances and personnel management, as well as other administrative duties.

Term: 2 Years

Salary: \$23,192/year

Tom Bixler



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Construction

Education: Construction Management Degree , Ohio Teaching Certification

Email: twb52@yahoo.com

Campaign Website: www.tommiebixler.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551515934115

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their

community?

I am a strong supporter of home-rule & the reasons that are behind it being a part of Florida's Constitution. I think that it is important to keep ALL of Tallahassee's political agendas out of the decisions that our town makes. Gulfport's a unique and diverse city--and we have an excellent team right here in Gulfport to make sure that the needs, concerns, and visions of our citizens and businesses are met locally. We don't need people who don't know Gulfport--many of whom have never even visited Gulfport--to be making decisions for our city.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Gulfport, as a city, faces the same challenges as Pinellas to even a greater degree. We are a small city on the water with very little land to spare--and we are growing. To face these issues, I will use my extensive planning and development expertise to help Gulfport to grow responsibly within its existing conditions. In doing so, I will help ensure that our existing infrastructure is responsibly enhanced & is not taxed to the extent that it may burden our plants, wildlife, water, or air.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Gulfport's a diverse city, and we need to make sure that everyone is able to enjoy it, which is why I believe that sidewalk maintenance is so important: all people, including the disabled and the elderly, should be able to easily access all we have to offer. Also, it should be easier for everyone to navigate all city systems, like the building department, in a way that's clear, understandable--and that makes it possible to get things, like getting a permit, accomplishable in a timely way.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am a former U.S. Navy Seabee; H.S. construction teacher & coach; school board member & Scoutmaster. Currently, in Gulfport, I serve on the Zoning Board & CERT Team; & am the President of our Lion's club. I bring planning & construction skills to the table & also extensive experience with working on a team. I'll use my skills to bring people together to make our unique city even better.

What changes, if any, are needed in the current zoning and building codes to balance the need to attract new business investments against the need to promote resiliency and maintain the unique character of Gulfport? (500 character limit)

Right now, the biggest thing we need in terms of zoning and codes is for them to be clear, understandable, fair, and easy for citizens and businesses to work with. I firmly believe that with more people being able to navigate and to comprehend our zoning and code ordinances--we'll be able to move ahead in a way that is prosperous, sustainable, and adaptable. I my mind, getting everyone to know the rules (and why they are the rules) is the first step to having a winning team.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Gulfport?

Gulfport's limited in the amount of land it has and in the infrastructure that it has to support its people in an ecologically responsible way. Additionally, it can be difficult to enforce compliance (including ADA compliance) with projects that are built by individuals for the purpose of affordable workplace housing--not to mention how hard it is to make sure the rent is fair. Affordable housing for workers is an issue. I'll work with local organizations and businesses to address this problem.

April Thanos

Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Most of my career was in International Container Shipping, but I also did non-profit management and worked for an LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce.

Education: BA in Geography

Email: amthanos@hotmail.com

Campaign Website: aprilthanos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/electaprilthanos

Instagram: www.instagram.com/AprilThanos4CityCouncil

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

State preemption of local governments prevents local residents and businesses from making the best decisions for their own community. In their preemptions, the state often imposes rules which are expensive for cities without giving them the money to cover the cost. There are a lot of small towns in Florida and they all have different needs and the communities have different priorities - making them all comply with state rules isn't reasonable. Home Rule has been an important facet of Florida for many years and helped communities stay unique. Locals know what's best for their own communities.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Gulfport is largely built out with only a few lots left. To keep the character of Gulfport we need to make sure we keep development balanced with the village we now have in Gulfport. It is essential that we work with the county and state on best practices for maintaining our seawalls and natural coastlines. We also need to continue maintaining our infrastructure to make sure it can handle increasing rain, sea level rise and saltwater intrusion as well as keeping water quality high.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Climate change and affordable living are the two biggest challenges. I have started a tree initiative and want to get grants for more trees and a tree inventory to help mitigate flooding and heat as well as keeping the character of Gulfport intact. I have also initiated solar on buildings. Housing can be addressed by making it easier to build ADUs (accessory dwelling units) and perhaps by upzoning to allow more duplexes and triplexes. We also need to lobby Tallahassee about insurance costs.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

My career was in management in international shipping. I've lived in many places around the world, was on my neighborhood council in Seattle for 10 years and completed a 20 unit affordable housing project. During my time as a council member, I've learned from voters, council meetings, town halls, staff, Florida League of Cities, Suncoast League of Cities and Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition.

What changes, if any, are needed in the current zoning and building codes to balance the need to attract new business investments against the need to promote resiliency and maintain the unique character of Gulfport? (500 character limit)

Gulfport's business zoning is tailored to keep our character. Building codes reflect the need to be resilient to storms and flooding. We have old buildings that aren't up to current codes and won't be resilient. We need to make permitting easier to open, upgrade and remodel businesses. We need to tell businesses exactly what they need to do to comply with our codes, get permits issued quickly and inspections done in a timely manner. We should be encouraging them, not making it more difficult.

How will you expand access to and availability of affordable and workforce housing in Gulfport?

I organized speakers to come to council to discuss affordable housing best practices and how to expand workforce housing. I would make it easier to build ADUs (accessory dwelling unit or mother-in-law units), duplexes and triplexes. They would be allowed on all residential lots as long as they followed current setbacks and height restrictions. This would give us a little more work force housing and keep Gulfport's charm. I am working with the Catholic Church to build affordable senior housing.

Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner

The City of Indian Rocks Beach has a Commission-Manager form of government, consisting of a mayor-commissioner and four commissioners all elected by city wide vote. The city commission is responsible for establishing policy, adopting the city's budget and hiring the city manager, city attorney and city clerk as well as providing direction to the city manager. The city commission is responsible for appointing citizens to serve on various county and city boards and commissions, and members of the city commission also represent the city on local, regional and state boards.

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$7,200/year

Jude Bond



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Vice Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach

Education: Columbia College, BA in English

Email: bond.jude@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/JudeIRB/

How will you balance the interests of full-time residents and the interests of vacation-rental owners?

I encourage open dialogue and collaboration between residents and vacation rental owners to find equitable solutions that respect the needs and concerns of both groups. Implementing fair regulations and consistently enforcing them are essential to maintain balance between these interests.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I am an advocate of the principle of subsidiarity, which holds that decisions should be made at the most local level possible. Local governments are closest to the needs of their communities, and are best suited to address local issues effectively. Preempting their decision-making undermines democracy and hampers the ability to tailor policies to specific community needs. It is essential to uphold the authority of local governments to ensure democratic representation and effective governance.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

As both a conservation and small-business enthusiast, I prioritize sustainable development practices that preserve our natural resources, protect coastal ecosystems, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Engaging stakeholders to ensure a balanced approach that meets the needs of both residents and the environment is essential.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Two priority challenges facing Indian Rocks Beach are coastal erosion and infrastructure resilience. To address these, I propose implementing targeted beach nourishment and dune restoration projects to combat erosion, as well as investing in infrastructure upgrades to withstand sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Fostering partnerships with environmental agencies and securing funding grants can help support these efforts.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As current Vice Mayor/City Commissioner and former Planning & Zoning Board member, I am a seasoned community advocate with a strong track record of effective leadership. I first moved to Indian Rocks Beach in 2003, and have raised a family and run numerous businesses here, bringing a dynamic blend of professional expertise and personal dedication to the city commissioner position.

How will you address the current issue of beach erosion and the risk it poses to homes and businesses in Indian Rocks Beach?

I prioritize collaborative efforts with coastal engineers and environmental experts to implement strategic beach nourishment projects and shoreline stabilization measures. Securing funding through grants and partnerships is crucial to address beach erosion effectively and protect homes and businesses in Indian Rocks Beach.

Suzanne Gibson



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Professional Experience: Accounting roles up to VP of Accounting
Education: MBA
Email: suzannegibsonmba@yahoo.com

How will you balance the interests of full-time residents and the interests of vacation-rental owners?

Vacation rentals should be in the business areas of our city. All the regulation we have put in place should be fully enforced. The needs of permanent full-time residents should be protected.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Those serving the City of Indian Rocks Beach are in the best position to ensure that the needs of this community are met. I don't support the State preempting policies or decision making for our local area. We are not like Miami Beach and a one size fits all will not work for our city.

We are very fortunate that we continue to have people step forward to serve. The Form 6 is very intrusive, and a number of people have resigned from local commissions. We need to protect our rights for self-governing of our city; we know the needs of IRB.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

We need to ensure that we build in accordance with FEMA guidelines. All additions to existing buildings and homes must be properly permitted and meet the guidelines in place. All new construction needs to be done wisely and with the forethought that the environmental impact is considered.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

I believe that Short Term rentals are our biggest challenge. We have had many long-term residents leave this area because of the effective of Short-Term rentals. These STR's are causing a drain on our resources and add to complaints regarding noise, trash, and parking.

Parking is another challenge we face that is partially due to STR's. We need to consider dedicated parking for bikes/golf carts and other smaller vehicles.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have a combination of educational and professional experience that makes me a good fit for this position. I also have been a resident of IRB for the past 2.5 years and understand the concerns of the residents. I believe I can help make decisions to protect the small town charm of this area.

How will you address the current issue of beach erosion and the risk it poses to homes and businesses in Indian Rocks Beach?

The City and County worked well together to provide an emergency solution to the erosion risk. However, we need to work with the Army Corp of Engineers towards a permanent solution that will require a compromise to the easement issue that homeowners on the beach are concerned with.

Janet Wilson



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Professional Experience: Southwestern City Schools, Grove City, Ohio 1976 - 2016; Teacher and Administrator
Education: BS - The Ohio State University; MA - Otterbein University; Principal and Asst. Superintendent Licensure - Ashland University
Email: wilsonbrew@aol.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/janet.wilson.for.irb.city.commissioner

How will you balance the interests of full-time residents and the interests of vacation-rental owners?

Admittedly this is the issue I struggle with the most. As a full-time resident and someone who has the historical perspective of remembering IRB in the early 2000s it is something I have to consciously work to do. Obviously, compromise is key to this issue and I believe that the ordinances recently instituted are a workable compromise given current parameters. Unfortunately, compromise becomes hard when there are three parties involved and that is the dilemma, we face due to state intrusion.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I adamantly oppose ALL efforts to supplant local governmental control. Our constituents have elected us to make informed decisions representing their views and needs. A state legislator sitting 262 miles away in Tallahassee, is not equipped to make decisions based on the unique needs of our city. Having addressed legislative committees in Ohio I saw how influential lobbyists are. I believe special interest lobbyists are directing the legislators to depower local governments. As citizens we need to make it clear we will NOT vote for anyone supporting the erosion of local governmental control.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

We must look at the impact on shrinking natural resources, projected climate change data, and how any proposal impacts the quality of life for residents. We need to look at instituting building codes that are not only hurricane resilient but also protect the environment. We must educate citizens on ways to reduce carbon emissions, prevent contaminants from entering aquatic ecosystems, and protect natural vegetation such as mangroves.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Retention of Residents and Preserving Paradise. STR regulation and Beach erosion impact these. Preserving Paradise includes things that drew residents here; clean, safe beaches, locally owned businesses, walkability, and community events. We must enforce reasonable STR ordinances so residents feel safe. We must seek ways to finance beach maintenance through government programs or funds reallocation. We must support the small businesses and community events through partnerships and grants.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As a school administrator, I developed skills in group presentation, grant writing, program development, community partnerships, and addressing legislative bodies. As a citizen-led committee co-chair, I presented to community organizations and city government, wrote editorials, and appeared in media. As a special need parent, I served on state advisory boards charged with program development.

How will you address the current issue of beach erosion and the risk it poses to homes and businesses in Indian Rocks Beach?

I see beach erosion management as a two-step process. The first step because of storm damage and lack of renourishment is to coordinate with other beach communities and the county to fund a traditional renourishment and rebuilding of dunes. To protect the rebuilt dunes, I would like to see us explore the use of sand fencing to allow time for the regrowth of the sea oats and stabilization of the sand. The second step has to be a long-term plan that doesn't rely on costly renourishment alone.

Indian Shores Mayor

The Mayor presides at meetings of the Town Council and is considered a member of the Town Council. The Mayor votes on all matters brought before the Town Council. The mayor shall be recognized as head of the Town government for all ceremonial purposes, by the governor for purposes of military law, for service of process, execution of deeds and other documents, as the Town's registered agent, and as the Town official designated to represent the Town in all agreements with other governmental entities. With the approval of a majority of the Town Council, he shall name committees of the Council and the chairman of each such committee, appoint the chairman and committee members of ad hoc committees and shall have a vote, along with all members of council, to appoint members of official Town boards.

Term: 3 years

Salary: \$10,800/year

Diantha Schear



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Retired after 24 years with Lockheed Martin Corporation as a Project Manager

Education: College Courses

Email: rf7dmst@gmail.com2

How will you balance the interests of full-time residents and the interests of vacation-rental owners?

We haven't been faced with the short term rental issue as have some of our neighbors because of the nature of our community. Indian Shores is mostly comprised of condominiums that have documents which regulate specific rental restrictions.

How will you address the current issue of beach erosion and the risk it poses to homes and businesses in Indian Shores?

Pinellas recently completed a dune restoration project. The dunes were created to protect homes and businesses and our infrastructure in general, however we need to address ways to stop or at least slow erosion and make the beach more resilient.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Home rule is important for municipalities to enact those policies and ordinances that allow our towns to flourish. Legislators must recognize that all policies do not fit all towns/cities/locations of our diverse state.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Development of the little vacant land we have in Indian Shores is guided by our land development codes and flood plain management. Our ordinances require new structures be elevated to or above the base flood elevation plus four feet.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

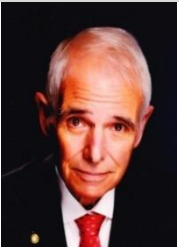
Replacement of 3 council members and election of new mayor and have a successful transition between staff and members of council.

Beach renourishment and develop means of resiliency of the beach.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have been on Town Council for 9 years and Vice Mayor for 5 years and have successfully resolved challenging situations in the mayor's absence. I attend all Board and Committee meetings as appropriate. I've presided over Indian Shores traditional activities. I am active in Indian Shores civic and social activities.

Michael Petruccelli



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Broker Associate for 30+ years, Insurance 30+ yrs

Education: Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY / LSU, Baton Rouge, LA

Email: sunsandscript@yahoo.com

Campaign Website: www.petruccelli4mayor.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555492768912

How will you balance the interests of full-time residents and the interests of vacation-rental owners?

Engagement with full-time residents and vacation-rental owners through community forums, town hall meetings, and surveys can provide valuable insights into their needs and concerns. Allowing for open dialogue and collaboration, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for maintaining the quality of life in Indian Shores.

Establishing mechanisms for monitoring compliance with regulations is essential to ensure that vacation-rental owners adhere to the established guidelines.

How will you address the current issue of beach erosion and the risk it poses to homes and businesses in Indian Shores?

Beach Nourishment: Which can be done periodically to replenish the lost material.

Coastal Dune Restoration: This can be achieved by planting native vegetation, which not only stabilizes the dunes but also provides additional benefits like reducing noise and providing habitat for wildlife.

Long-term Monitoring and Planning: This may involve updating zoning and building codes to better protect vulnerable areas and ensuring new development is resilient to erosion risks.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

The Impact of State Preemption; When state governments preempt local decision-making power, it can lead to homogenized policies that do not effectively address the distinct circumstances of individual communities.

Balancing State and Local Authority; It is essential to strike a balance that respects the autonomy of local governments.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

A comprehensive approach involving collaboration between local government, developers, and environmental organizations is crucial.

Land Use Planning: Implementing smart growth principles.

Protection of Natural Areas: Designating and protecting environmentally sensitive areas and our Manatees & wildlife.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Implemented strategies to ensure long-term success to balance development and environmental resilience.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Infrastructure Maintenance: The aging infrastructure in Indian Shores poses a challenge that requires immediate attention to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

Economic Development: Promoting economic growth and attracting new businesses is crucial for the prosperity of our town. Collaborating with local business, associations and chambers of commerce to develop a strategic economic development plan that aligns with the unique strengths and opportunities of our municipality.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

With a proven track record of success in similar roles. My 9+ years as a Town Councilman, and the FLC committees I have served on have helped equip me with the necessary expertise to succeed in this role. My genuine passion for Indian Shores, the town I represent and live in, drives me to excel in this position. I am dedicated to making a meaningful impact and successful future for Indian Shores.

Kenneth City Mayor

Kenneth City operates under a council-manager form of government. The town council consists of five members: four council members and a mayor, all elected at large. The town council is responsible for appointing the town manager, who is the chief executive officer of the town. The town manager provides administrative direction and ensures the town operates in a fiscally responsible manner. The council is also responsible for adoption of the town budget, the issuance of bonds, and the establishment of committees and ordinances necessary for the proper conduct of town business. The mayor is the presiding officer of the town council and is recognized as head of the town government for all ceremonial purposes and for purposes of exercising executive powers (such as during natural disasters or other public emergencies).

Term: 3 years
Salary: \$6,000/year

Robert J. Howell

Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Email: robfranhow@aol.com

No Response

Megan Zemaitis



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Professional Experience: 15+ years of business management experience. Served as Councilmember for the past 4 years, 1 of those as Vice Mayor.
Education: Eckerd College & Dixie M. Hollins High School
Email: Zemaitis_M@hotmail.com
Campaign Website: www.donorbox.org/megan-zemaitis-for-kenneth-city-mayor
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mzforkc/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/MZforKC/

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

While I believe in Home Rule, I do not believe this question applies to Kenneth City.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I care about the environment and would love to see Kenneth City become a green town however I do not think this question applies to our land locked Kenneth City.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The top two challenges facing our community is our high staff turnover rate and the fact that our residents do not feel listened to. If I am elected Mayor I would respond to resident concerns at meetings and I will be accessible to the residents. I also maintain my Facebook page in an effort to keep residents informed about what's going on in our community. I will try and change the culture within our town's departments to create a more pleasant work environment.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 characters)

I have years of business management and customer service experience. In my opinion this makes me the perfect candidate because I have learned to excel in the art of negotiation and compromise for my customers' satisfaction and success of my company. I think my age is an advantage because it provides me with a different perspective.

Kenneth City recently received a significant grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. What would be your two top priority projects for this funding to improve Kenneth City's resilience?

Here in Kenneth City we have 7 lakes, with some of this money it would be important to make sure they are being properly maintained. We are also using this money to fix our drainage system which will help reduce street flooding for our residents.

If elected, what actions, programs or changes to existing policy will you propose to improve quality of life for the residents of Kenneth City? (500 character limit)

In an effort to turn our town green, I'd like to see solar lightning installed in James Ernst Park and up 46th Ave. This would allow us to have nighttime events, such as: live music, art walks, movie in the park, morning & evening markets, and more. I would also like to improve on our current town events but also bring back some town favorites like our Halloween Haunted House, Easter Egg Hunts, and our 4th of July Parade. Our roads need to be repaired and our codes need to be enforced.

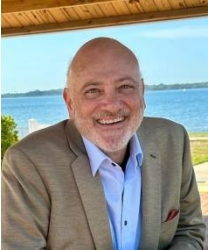
Oldsmar Council Member Seat 1

The City of Oldsmar has a council-manager form of government. The city council is composed of five members (the mayor and four council members). The city council is the governing body of the city with powers to pass ordinances, adopt resolutions, approve the budget, appropriate funds, and appoint the city manager. The city council is responsible for the proper conduct of all municipal operations. The city manager is responsible for the administration of all city affairs and is accountable to the city council.

Term: 3 years

Salary: \$8,400/year

Vincent Albanese



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Chief Technology Officer

Education: State University of New York: Business Administration

Email: vinceforoldsmar@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.votevinceforoldsmar.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VinceforOldsmar/

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

The trend of state preemption over local policy-making raises concerns about autonomy in critical areas like education, environmental protection, and housing. While acknowledging the genuine need for a balance between various government levels, it's essential that local voices are not sidelined. Decisions impacting our community should involve thoughtful public debates facilitated by Council members representing their constituents. This ensures policies reflect local needs and perspectives, maintaining a balanced approach to governance.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

My goal is to blend development with environmental safeguards. Acknowledging Oldsmar's strategic significance and vulnerability to flooding, I plan to introduce a comprehensive governance model. I will formulate a flood mitigation plan with direct input from residents and stakeholders, focusing on sustainable growth. Our aim is to achieve harmony between economic expansion and preserving natural resources, ensuring responsible thriving in our unique position at the Top of the Bay.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Our city needs help with disjointed development and reactive governance. My proposals include recruiting in-house economic and land development experts to strategize tax base growth and detailed planning. Additionally, implementing structured decision-making protocols for the City Council will ensure proactive and thoughtful responses to community challenges, promoting efficient and cohesive development.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As a lifelong Pinellas County resident with a tech and business development background, I blend professional skill with community commitment. My experience, including roles like CTO and active charity board participation, equips me to support leadership objectives while representing resident voices, making me a strong candidate.

How will you balance growth and development with the desire of long-time residents to maintain Oldsmar's unique character? (500 character limit)

Balancing Oldsmar's growth with its unique character, I'll advocate for Council accountability and citizen workgroups with clear goals. Encouraging community participation through open forums and utilizing local expertise over consultants will ensure growth reflects our collective vision. Transparency in decision-making will safeguard Oldsmar's heritage while promoting sustainable development.

Oldsmar has looked to improve its downtown to be both a destination and a walkable community. What is your assessment on how these plans are progressing and how will you help move these plans forward?

Oldsmar aims for a vibrant, walkable downtown, facing challenges like internal disputes. Positioned for transformation, we'll shift from strip malls to an engaging center, using city lands and reimagining all public and private spaces market for a charming, low-density downtown. My focus: a unified development plan, tapping into Oldsmar's potential to surpass obstacles and foster a dynamic urban core.

Steve Graber



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Member of the Florida Bar - I am currently Underwriting Counsel for a large Title Insurance Company

Education: Bachelors Degree - Florida State University - Law Degree - University of Dayton School of Law

Email: steve4oldsmar@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.steve4oldsmar.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/steve.graber.96

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Local government has a direct impact on the residents. While the state may have a say in preempting decisions made by local councils, it is our responsibility to work with the decision makers at the state level to ensure that local governments have a voice in policy making decisions.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Development and resilience go hand in hand, especially after we went through Hurricanes Ian and Idalia. I do not believe there needs to be balance with the 2 demands; rather, development in coastal communities demands attention to resiliency.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The main priority is infrastructure. We are currently taking action to address the need to enhance our water reclamation facility; Douglas Road; and the portion of our community called Country Club.

The next, and equally important priority is sustainability and resiliency. Oldsmar is situated on the water and we have increased our attention on creating a more sustainable and resilient community after we had near misses with Hurricanes Ian and Idalia.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I was raised in a family dedicated to public service. My father served on council in my hometown for 12 years and my uncle served as a state assemblyman. I have the professional experience both in law and in government to continue to meet and exceed the expectations of the residents of Oldsmar.

How will you balance growth and development with the desire of long-time residents to maintain Oldsmar's unique character? (500 character limit)

Growth and development are inevitable. Oldsmar will always retain its unique character because that is what Oldsmar is, unique. Growth and development are not the issue; the issue is making decisions on growth and development that the community will rally around and which move us into the future while maintaining the characteristics of Oldsmar that have drawn people to live, work, play and stay here.

Oldsmar has looked to improve its downtown to be both a destination and a walkable community. What is your assessment on how these plans are progressing and how will you help move these plans forward?

The plans are in motion and moving forward. The library project is progressing toward putting shovels in the ground and we are actively working to see which developers have interest in the land next to city hall. I have always been a proponent of moving these projects forward. Oldsmar will see a walkable downtown; it's a matter of choosing the correct project that suits the needs of everyone in the community.

Oldsmar Council Member Seat 3

The City of Oldsmar has a council-manager form of government. The city council is composed of five members (the mayor and four council members). The city council is the governing body of the city with powers to pass ordinances, adopt resolutions, approve the budget, appropriate funds, and appoint the city manager. The city council is responsible for the proper conduct of all municipal operations. The city manager is responsible for the administration of all city affairs and is accountable to the city council.

Term : 3 years

Salary: \$8,400/year

Andrew Knapp



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: 11 years at MicroLumen, Manufacturer of Cardiovascular Medical Device Tubing

Education: Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of South Florida

Email: andrew.david.knapp@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.andrewknapp4oldsmar.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/andrewknappseat3

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

My stance is that we must do whatever we can as elected officials to retain Home Rule powers. We must work to continue convincing our state legislature about the importance of being able to have our local voices make local choices. Oftentimes, when Tallahassee preempts control of an aspect of our lives to their governing body, one size fits all applications of rules can help some communities and harm others. We need to advocate to keep the flexibility of laws that should be crafted for the uniqueness of each municipality. This trend should ultimately be reversed from the current path it is on.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Our city must improve ways to absorb the impacts from storms and climate change. Development will continue but resilience must be an important factor in the planning of future projects. I will balance these competing factors by ensuring that we continue to place a priority on resilience considerations as part of our ordinances and our comprehensive planning efforts. I will champion our Climate Resiliency Plan and sustainability efforts & object to projects that do not align with these efforts.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

1st priority is the pursuit of projects related to Resiliency. The city is upgrading critical elements like the Control Building at the Water Reclamation Facility. A project for future Resiliency should be to have an Emergency Operations Center. I will be advocating for this essential project in future budgeting efforts. 2nd priority is improving infrastructure for safety. The Complete Streets project on St Pete Drive will enhance roadway safety for pedestrians & many types of micromobility.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have been serving on City Council since March of 2020. The knowledge I have gained during my service enables me to make informed decisions on all matters that impact our city. I continue to invest time in training opportunities that will enhance my ability to serve our city such as courses provided by the Florida League of Cities. I proposed a Public

Engagement Policy that was adopted in 2023.

How will you balance growth and development with the desire of long-time residents to maintain Oldsmar's unique character? (500 character limit)

With little vacant land left in the city, the only opportunities for development are redevelopment. We must limit the amount of intense development to preserve our unique character. We enjoy breathing room that our neighboring cities envy. I will ensure any intense development stays near our major transit corridors and doesn't creep into our neighborhoods and waterfront. We must dispose of larger city owned tracts for projects with strong character, which will help to increase our tax revenue.

Oldsmar has looked to improve its downtown to be both a destination and a walkable community. What is your assessment on how these plans are progressing and how will you help move these plans forward?

These plans are progressing slow but are progressing. I will help move this forward by continuing to engage our city staff to develop a plan that results in success while retaining our city's charm. The current effort is to sell the entire downtown parcel, but I am open to sectioning it off. This strategy increases complexity for the city, and the risk the city would take in the attempt to be successful. Other downtowns develop organically via private investment, not via municipal investment.

Valerie Tatarzewski



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: 15 years as a paralegal in both defense and plaintiff firms

Education: Bachelor's Degrees in Social Work & Psychology

Email: valforoldsmar@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.valforoldsmar.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.pgp?id=61553705100574

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Every community and city have unique needs based on its residents. It is extremely important for Oldsmar to maintain its authority and decision-making power on issues that affect our residents in their daily life. Keeping these powers on a local level removes barriers to residents who want and need to have their concerns addressed quickly.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

As Oldsmar moves forward into the future, I would make it a priority to help preserve our city for the next generations by carefully weighing the financial benefits of increased development and the possible negative impacts this may have on our ecosystem. Oldsmar is known for its beautiful parks and waterfront property. We must dutifully protect these precious areas of our city by increasing our climate resiliency and promoting sustainable practices during development.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The top two challenges in Oldsmar are land use development and climate resiliency. If residents do not want high-density apartments in our downtown area, then I stand beside them. I will increase communication with our residents and work hard to maintain our small-town charm. Oldsmar must act quickly to address our climate resiliency. I will work with the city to move forward on plans to mitigate the impacts of hurricanes and flooding to protect our homes, infrastructure, and beautiful parks.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

The role of a council member is a service position in our community. Volunteering my time comes naturally to me. I have been a Guardian Ad Litem for 10 years advocating for children in our foster care system, a volunteer coach at Oldsmar Cardio Drumming, and an active member of the Women's Club of Oldsmar. Every resident in our city deserves to be heard and I am ready to listen.

How will you balance growth and development with the desire of long-time residents to maintain Oldsmar's unique character? (500 character limit)

The residents of Oldsmar want a developed downtown that preserves the small-town charm that we have all become accustomed to. We have access to the knowledge and power to keep our downtown quaint and guide larger projects to alternate areas of our city that can accommodate the growth. We currently have an affordable housing crisis in Pinellas County. I would love for Oldsmar to be part of the solution and grow in a responsible and carefully planned way.

Oldsmar has looked to improve its downtown to be both a destination and a walkable community. What is your assessment on how these plans are progressing and how will you help move these plans forward?

Oldsmar's plans for our downtown have failed to launch for many years. As a new council member, I will join with a fresh perspective, innovative ideas, and the flexibility to adapt when we run into obstacles. A key piece of our downtown project is carefully considering public input for development of land bought with taxpayer money. This land was carefully chosen by those who have served our city, and we must use it wisely.

Pinellas Park Council Seat 3

Pinellas Park operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Council is made up of the Mayor and four (4) Council members, each elected city-wide for a four-year term. The City Council is responsible for budget approval and policy decisions that facilitate municipal services including emergency management, code enforcement, zoning and planning, and city parks and public recreation facilities. These decisions give direction to the City Manager, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the city.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$20,946/year

Ricky Butler



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Communications & Public Education Manager, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (2021-Present); Community Programs Manager, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (2014-2021); Public Information Specialist (2013-2014); Campaign Consultant (2010-2013); Office Manager (2008-2010)

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy & Administration from St. Petersburg College; Graduate of Florida State University's Certified Public Manager Program

Email: RickyButlerforCouncil@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.rickybutlerforcouncil.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rickybutlerforcouncil

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rickybutlerforcouncil

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

There are certainly policy areas that are appropriate for preemption because standardization benefits citizens, but the trend of state government stripping power from local government concerns me. Taking power from local government is ultimately taking power – and access – away from the people. There are numerous policy areas today that are no longer within the authority of local government. An issue you may have been able to take a short drive to city hall to address city council on three years ago will require a much longer drive to Tallahassee if you want something to change.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

You must focus on ensuring we're making the best decisions based on data projections and science, commit to preserving as much green space as possible, and continue environmentally friendly policies. There are 24 municipalities in Pinellas County and we all have to work together and approach the issue as a region. Development will always be ongoing and efforts to proactively support environmental resilience has to keep up.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Two significant challenges are managing our growth responsibly and keeping our city affordable. We're all living with the consequences of growth and development that are impacting our infrastructure. I want to give this issue the attention it deserves and find ways to better balance new development with the harsh impacts it can have on residents. Our city is an affordable alternative to St. Pete. I'd like to keep it that way by increasing efficiencies to reduce the bottom line to the taxpayer.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

My experience in the community, professional background, and the fresh perspective I could bring. I have deep roots in the community and have been involved for over 20 years. I have received both the Pinellas Park Youth Citizen and Citizen of the Year Award. Professionally, I work in public relations and government affairs and believe I could use my skillset to better engage residents.

How will you balance increased development and the strain it puts on infrastructure against the need to promote business investments for the city's economic health, especially in light of the new City Center District development plan?

Pinellas Park has always been known for being very business friendly. They have successfully promoted and invested in the local economy to attract new businesses and development. I would balance it by shifting the focus to getting infrastructure caught up to service what we already have before we look forward. Evaluating the infrastructure is complex and comprehensive plans like the City Center District are well thought out and include infrastructure improvements. Extensive planning is key.

How do you think Pinellas Park can take advantage of its participation in the Advantage Pinellas Housing Action Plan or other programs to benefit city residents and maintain the city's affordability?

Three areas I would focus on: ensure our codes allow for diverse types of housing, bolster programs that empower homeowners with home improvement grants, etc., and continue to seek partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the Pinellas County Housing Authority. I'd like to see existing residents take advantage of some of these programs, particularly the city's home improvement grant program because it's not just about potential new residents.

Mike Haworth



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Email: Votemikehaworth@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Mike-Haworth/61553652125927/

No Response

Pinellas Park Council Seat 4

Pinellas Park operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Council is made up of the Mayor and four (4) Council members, each elected city-wide for a four-year term. The City Council is responsible for budget approval and policy decisions that facilitate municipal services including emergency management, code enforcement, zoning and planning, and city parks and public recreation facilities. These decisions give direction to the City Manager, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the city.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$20,946/year

Tim Caddell



The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

Preemption of local government power has been an ongoing problem. City Councils and Commissions are the governments closest to residents, see them every day, and are best equipped to serve local constituents. Local governments must work together with organizations like the FL League of Cities to defend cities' legislative authority and protect local rights and ordinances while respecting those powers that rightfully belong to the state. We must realize that some preemption measures are born out of improper rules enacted by local governments and govern responsibly to use our power correctly.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

It is essential that our city, county and state must work together to protect our shared environment. Assuring that we follow all state regulations and working with our neighboring cities to educate citizens and developers, we can protect and restore our environmental resources; I will act as a strong advocate for programs that improve and protect natural resources.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

1. Balancing the rights and interests of all stakeholders in planned private and public development and redevelopment within the city. Transparency and open communication through all phases of City Center project and private redevelopment of property within the city.
2. Attracting and maintaining a high quality, professional workforce through proactive recruitment, training and benefits.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

Police officer and detective for St. Petersburg Police Dept; 16 years as CEO of Girls Inc. of Pinellas, providing research based educational and developmental programs for school-aged girls. Spearheaded \$1M capital campaign to enlarge its Pinellas Park facility. Gained knowledge of city through 15 years in Community activities, public information, and government relations.

How will you balance increased development and the strain it puts on infrastructure against the need to promote business investments for the city's economic health, especially in light of the new City Center District development plan?

Promoting a careful, deliberate development plan that works with the business community will allow for improved infrastructure with a shared vision and investment. Developers will pay for their share of improvements, while allowing for planned growth in the surrounding area. By working together, replacement of outdated infrastructure with a plan which includes future growth of the area can allow for repair and upgrade of existing infrastructure while work is being done.

How do you think Pinellas Park can take advantage of its participation in the Advantage Pinellas Housing Action Plan or other programs to benefit city residents and maintain the city's affordability?

By working with developers and employers to locate in areas where transportation is available so resident/employees can use systems other than personal vehicles will help renters' dollars go further. Make sure that zoning policies allow a variety of housing options and work with developers to leverage local, state and federal funds for development. Pinellas Park is uniquely located in the center of Pinellas County close to many job opportunities. Collaboration will be a key component.

Joanne Dauphin



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Small Business Owner, Planning and Zoning Board Member, Parks and Recreation Board

Member, former Executive Board Member for the Pinellas Park Chamber, former Vice President of National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors

Education: AA Degree from SPC; Series 65, Series 6, 2-15, 220 Licenses

Email: joannedauphinforcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/people/Joanne-Dauphin-for-Pinellas-Park-City-Council-Seat-4/61553582872021/

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

This is a significant and complex issue. Granting local governments the authority to decide on local matters plays a crucial role in decentralizing decision-making processes. It serves as a vital check and balance mechanism within the government structure, preventing the concentration of power in the hands of a select few. It also enables the preservation of diversity and fosters responsive policymaking, given our proximity to residents and our ability to swiftly address pressing needs. Ultimately, this approach ensures that decisions are made with the community's best interests at heart.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I am dedicated to striking a balance between development and environmental sustainability, recognizing the importance of fostering a thriving community while preserving our natural resources. I will advocate for smart growth that prioritizes sustainable development practices and look for ways to incentive business owners and developers to incorporate these practices into their operations.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The main hurdles our city faces currently revolve around affordable housing and fostering responsible economic growth. Addressing the affordable housing crisis presents a significant challenge. While I may not have all the answers, exploring alternatives such as workforce housing options and voucher-based programs could help. Collaborating with the county on initiatives like The Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact is key. Regarding growth, we must adopt a more long-term perspective.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As an insurance agent, I have extensive experience in financial education and risk management. Having navigated the complexities of the business world, I understand the importance of effective leadership, fiscal responsibility, and strategic decision-making. I am dedicated to leveraging my experiences to address the diverse needs of our community.

How will you balance increased development and the strain it puts on infrastructure against the need to promote business investments for the city's economic health, especially in light of the new City Center District development plan?

The upcoming youth park & city center projects represent significant milestones in our city's growth trajectory, facilitating smart development. While we currently have plans in place to address aging infrastructure, it's crucial to consider the long-term implications of our city's growth and ensure that budget allocations adequately account for both growth and maintenance requirements.

How do you think Pinellas Park can take advantage of its participation in the Advantage Pinellas Housing Action Plan or other programs to benefit city residents and maintain the city's affordability?

It's evident that addressing housing affordability extends beyond the boundaries of Pinellas Park alone. Collaborating with neighboring cities and counties facing similar challenges is crucial to finding effective solutions collectively. The success of the Advantage Pinellas Housing Action Plan relies on active participation from all municipalities involved. This synchronized approach ensures cohesive efforts towards resolving the housing affordability issue.

Safety Harbor Commissioner Seat 1

The City of Safety Harbor has a commission-manager form of government. The city commission is composed of the mayor and four city commissioners, who are elected at large. The commission is responsible for setting policy, approving the budget, determining the tax rate, and providing legislative direction. The city manager is responsible for administering the city's day-to-day operations based on the commission's recommendations.

Term: 3 years

Salary: \$6,300/year

Nancy J. Besore



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Retired Teacher, Hillsborough County School Board, City Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor

Education: A.A., liberal arts, College of DuPage, B.A., history, M.A., gerontology, Ph.D., curriculum and instruction, University of South Florida, J.D., Stetson University College of Law

Email: nbesore@cityofsafetyharbor.com

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I will balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience by continuing my efforts to work with city staff to follow our Building Development Code, representative of countless City Commission policy decisions and efforts in preserving and protecting our treasured Pinellas County natural resources. I will continue to support Florida's constitutional Home Rule protections, essential in municipalities' efforts in environmental resilience, such as fertilizer bans.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

The top two priority challenges facing Safety Harbor, in my estimation, are maintaining our vibrant, unique, city vibe, so attractive to locals and visitors alike, and inclusiveness, ensuring that all share in our abundant resources. Specific actions will include continued support of parks, recreation, local eateries and business establishments, and continued, active, support of our Diversity Advisory Board's efforts to communicate opportunities to all and motivate citizen participation.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I have spent my adult life in public service, both as a public school teacher, and as a city commissioner. I have developed skills in empathy, responsiveness to constituents' concerns, and compassion. I listen to people. I engage productively with my Commission colleagues. I have a proven record of supporting issues critical to residents. I rapidly respond when constituents ask for assistance.

How will you balance growth and development with maintaining Safety Harbor's character? (500 character limit)

I will balance growth and development with maintaining Safety Harbor's character by continuing to focus on steady, balanced, incremental growth, not growth at a stark, ill-considered, pace. I will continue to support enhancement of our environment through investment in Parks and Recreation. I will continue to support inclusion of traditionally less-served members of our community through my efforts with the Diversity Advisory Board. Essential to our character is sharing our abundance.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I am a vocal and staunch supporter of Florida's Home Rule protections. I maintain people are best served by local governments positioned to readily respond to citizen input. Home Rule allows those governments to aggressively represent residents' rights. Home Rule allows local officials the opportunity to closely monitor unintended consequences of policy decisions, consequences such as those raised by local school district's planning officials related to Florida's Live Local law.

Scott Long



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Founder of two companies (one a media publisher and the other a creative agency), preceded by 20 years of experience as a newspaper editor, reporter and designer.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Political Journalism

Email: votescottlong1@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.votescottlong.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/votescottlong

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

We must first acknowledge that we live in one of the most popular places in America and growth and development is here to stay. However, by using development agreements, we can work with developers to shape development to best meet the needs of our community, especially environmentally. We have made a Ready for 100 environmental pledge to our residents, but have been too slow to move on it.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Parking and the future of Safety Harbor. We have thousands of different opinions on how to address parking needs in our vibrant city, but we lack the hard data necessary to make proper decisions, even though that data is easy to get. Our five current Commissioners have served a combined 53 years. While that institutional knowledge is valuable, it is too easy to become complacent if we don't have newer Commissioners who are eager to ask questions and look for new strategies for our city.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

As the founder of two companies, I've honed strong skills in financial management, negotiation, communication and creative problem solving. My vast civic involvement has helped me meet thousands of residents and learn the issues that matter most to them and has let me show to them just how committed I am to making Safety Harbor an even more special place.

How will you balance growth and development with maintaining Safety Harbor's character? (500 character limit)

Safety Harbor is largely through its development phase. The next phase will be redevelopment of our older commercial properties. This has the benefit of modern buildings that better serve the types of businesses our residents need and are vastly more environmentally friendly, especially in terms of stormwater mitigation, than older buildings. By using development agreements, we can further shape redevelopment to make sure it serves the residents of Safety Harbor in the best possible way.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

This overreach from Tallahassee has been going on for far too long and has had devastating effects on our city. The elected officials who serve our residents the best are the ones who are closest to them - our City Commission. When our hands are tied by elected officials who rarely visit Safety Harbor, it rightfully leaves our residents frustrated and angry. When I was a Commissioner, I publicly scolded our then-state representative for this overreach, and I'm not afraid to do it again.

Safety Harbor Commissioner Seat 2

The City of Safety Harbor has a commission-manager form of government. The city commission is composed of the mayor and four city commissioners, who are elected at large. The commission is responsible for setting policy, approving the budget, determining the tax rate, and providing legislative direction. The city manager is responsible for administering the city's day-to-day operations based on the commission's recommendations.

Term: 3 years

Salary: \$6,300/year

Jacob Burnett



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Professional Experience: Director of Operations, American Expediting
Education: Bachelor's of Science, Angelo State University
Email: jacobburnett440@msn.com
Campaign Website: www.jacobburnett.site/index.html
Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553034062983

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

I propose incentivizing sustainable development practices such as green building certification and stormwater management systems, alongside robust environmental impact assessments to ensure responsible development without compromising our natural resources.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

1. Maintaining Character and Charm: Prioritize preserving our unique character, protecting trees and green spaces while managing growth demands through strategic zoning and development policies.
2. Affordable Housing Shortage: Address the lack of affordable housing by exploring changes to zoning codes to facilitate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and incentivize affordable housing development.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

My extensive community involvement, including multiple terms on Citizen Advisory Boards, coupled with 15 years of corporate management, uniquely qualify me for City Commissioner. I bring a wealth of experience to ensure informed decision-making for Safety Harbor's future.

How will you balance growth and development with maintaining Safety Harbor's character? (500 character limit)

I pledge to uphold Safety Harbor's charm by promoting thoughtful development strategies aligned with our community's values. Through comprehensive land use planning, public engagement, and preservation efforts, we can achieve sustainable growth while safeguarding our distinctive character.

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

I staunchly oppose state preemption of local governance, advocating for the autonomy of municipalities in shaping policies that directly impact their communities. Local control is essential for tailoring solutions to Safety Harbor's unique needs, ensuring responsive and effective governance.

Hayley Ann Rae



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race
Professional Experience: 12 years risk management and executive decision making
Education: BA from Virginia Commonwealth University
Email: hayleyfortheharbor@gmail.com
Campaign Website: www.hayleyfortheharbor.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/HayleyRaeForTheHarbor/

No Response

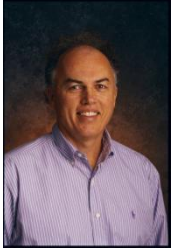
Treasure Island Commissioner Dist. 4

The City of Treasure Island operates under a commission-manager form of government. The city commission consists of five members: the mayor and four commissioners. Each commissioner must be a qualified elector of the district in which they serve, and are elected by the voters in their respective districts. The city commission is responsible for adoption of the annual budget, appropriation of funds, and the passage of ordinances and resolutions necessary for the responsible administration of the city. In addition, the commission has the authority to inquire into the conduct of any department of the city and to investigate municipal affairs. The city commission is responsible for appointing the city manager, who is the chief administrative officer of the city.

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$5,400

Arden D. Dickey



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: Vice president, Miami Herald (1992-1999); vice president-Circulation Knight Ridder Newspapers (2000-2006); founder/owner of Dickey & Associates, specializing in helping companies improve customer service and reduce/eliminate inefficiencies (1996-2012); senior vp circulation, The Minneapolis Star Tribune (2013-2020).

Education: B.B.A. from Florida Atlantic University, 1985; MBA from the University of Miami, 1987

Email: ardendickey@aol.com

Campaign Website: ardendickey.wixsite.com/mysite

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

The erosion of 'home rule' is a significant threat to any city regarding its autonomy and the ability to control its own destiny and future. A city best knows its own history, logistics, needs, infrastructure, and culture. These vital aspects of a city should not be superseded by the State. I am against this trend, especially with respect to zoning

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Re-development itself must be resilient. The City must lead the way in resilient planning with its own infrastructure and capital improvements. Land Development Regulations need to change to keep pace with planning for rising sea levels. Vulnerable structures must be improved or rebuilt. Policies that promote harmony between the old and the new must be facilitated and encouraged. Hurricane evacuation plans, safety, and security must be primary.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

My priority is to maintain current city codes for height and density. While one might think this issue was resolved many years ago, it seems to come up again and again in one form or another. This needs to be watched closely. The Terrain Modification Program (aka "Elevate TI") is a new comprehensive plan to address rising sea levels - a priority for the City. The plan must be thoroughly explained to the public and all concerns must be addressed before any action on this plan is taken.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I can use my budgeting and financial management experience to help ensure taxpayers' dollars are being spent wisely. For 31 years, I have been a volunteer ombudsman director with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves. The work here is similar to representing constituents with their issues with government. Most importantly, I would bring a fresh set of eyes to the City Commission.

What is your assessment of the city's current development plans and how they balance business opportunity, livability and traffic concerns? (500 character limit)

To my knowledge, the City has done a good job of planning and balancing redevelopment interests and resident quality of life to the extent they have control over those things. Greater forces like money and outside interests impact our City intrinsically, and we can't do much about those things. We can control redevelopment and ensure

that residents' interests are considered above developer interests. We do need to more strongly enforce critical traffic issues.

What do you think are the most feasible long-term solutions to issues of flooding and stormwater drainage facing Treasure Island residents?

The recently-introduced "Terrain Modification Plan" and the corresponding Land Development Regulations and code revisions are a beginning. While these are in process, short-term improvements in storm drainage must be implemented, especially in low lying areas that are consistently experiencing flooding.

Richard David Harris



Party Affiliation=Non-Partisan Race

Professional Experience: 38 years - Registered Professional Engineer State of Florida

Education: Bachelor of Science - Civil Engineering

Email: beachcat37@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/harrisforti

Facebook: www.facebook.com/beachcat1

The state government has recently preempted local governments' policy decision making power on school curriculums, environmental protection, housing, and other policy areas. What is your stance on this trend and the importance of local governments retaining authority to decide local measures affecting their community?

The State of Florida is too far removed to effectively make decisions for local issues. The local municipalities must make the decisions that affect their residents.

Pinellas County is surrounded on three sides by water and has many barrier islands. How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?

Treasure Island is a built out city. Careful redevelopment of the Central Business District and the Resort District needs to be implemented. The residential areas should be restricted to a single dwelling unit removed for each dwelling unit built.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges?

Beach erosion and storm surge flooding. I would make sure that the beach is renourished on a regular basis. I would help the residents of Treasure Island in protecting their homes. I would also try to prevent backflow into the storm sewer system which floods our streets currently.

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am a Registered Professional Civil Engineer with 38 years of experience in the engineering field. I have the qualifications to be the best commissioner that Treasure Island could have. With my engineering background, I can help solve the challenges that Treasure Island currently has.

What is your assessment of the city's current development plans and how they balance business opportunity, livability and traffic concerns? (500 character limit)

The City of Treasure Island has 5 distinct residential areas. They will evolve on their own as existing homes are replaced with new ones. The Central Business District and the Resort District need to be carefully redesigned and rebuilt to ensure an aesthetically pleasing and functional facilities are provided for both the residents of Treasure Island and visitors to Treasure Island.

What do you think are the most feasible long-term solutions to issues of flooding and stormwater drainage facing Treasure Island residents?

A multi-faceted approach must be taken. A combination of raising existing homes to make them stilt homes, filling of lots with imported material, raising streets, maintaining storm sewer systems and as a last resort installing storm sewer pump stations must be utilized.