

## Voter Guide – Local Races General Election – November 8, 2022

[Clay County](#)

[Duval County and Beaches](#)

[Nassau County](#)

[St. Johns County](#)

### Clay County Commissioner District 2

The Board of County Commissioners serves as the legislative and policy-setting body for county government; enacts countywide laws and authorizes programs and all expenditures of county funds. Clay County Commissioner salary \$79,248.

#### **Alexandra Compere**

Party: REP

Biographical Info: -no response-

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

#### **Leroy Edwards**

Party: DEM

Biographical Info: -no response-

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

## Jacksonville City Council District 7

The City Council is the legislative body of the City of Jacksonville's consolidated government. There are 19 Council Members, elected to four-year terms, who serve as part-time legislators. These elected officials serve a dual role as both City Council Members and County Commissioners. Salary \$52,276.

### Charles M. Barr



**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.barrforjax.com](http://www.barrforjax.com)

**Facebook** [Facebook.com/barrforjax](https://www.facebook.com/barrforjax)

**Campaign Twitter Handle:** @barrforjax

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 819 Fields Rd Jacksonville FL 32218

**Campaign Phone:** (904)351-8037

**Campaign Website:** [www.barrforjax.com](http://www.barrforjax.com)

#### **What motivated you to run for office?**

I have watched my district go downhill for 45 years. I've seen businesses closing, neighborhoods go downhill, roads and infrastructure in bad shape, closings of activities for children and crime rate rise. I'm Tired of the same thing happening term after term; I'm tired of the status quo and I won't change for my district. Our Representatives have done nothing for district they are only concerned for themselves

#### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Street safety: Work with with JSO to have adequate funding to make our streets safe. I also want to see a police unit who's sole purpose is to go door door knocking meeting the community and building a relationship which will help our community as a whole. Put speed bumps where necessary along with traffic lights in strategic areas.

Kids: Though we have many parks in our district , a lot of them are not safe. We have Parks where the equipment are broken and no one seems to care for the kids to prevent them from getting hurt. I want this stuff fixed. Bring back community centers for young people to give them something constructive to do to keep them off the streets and out of the gangs

Fix potholes and must address flooding

#### **What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have lived in this district most of my life and know what is needed. I don't own a business nor am I a politician. I am an electrician and have been a process control programmer for over 30 years. I am a member of several civic organizations where I have been a leadership role for about 15 years. I am a common sense person who takes serious concerns for citizens because they are the same concerns that I have.

#### **What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

I think there needs to be oversight not to over charge for rentals especially in our urban areas. The people are struggling and we need to help. And we do not look out for the citizens of this district we will not be dealing with a formal housing needs we will be dealing with excessive homelessness

#### **How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Important

#### **Explain your answer.**

I believe in development but we must leave greenscape areas for the environment and fit the community to enjoy nature

### Reggie Gaffney, Jr.

**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

## **Jacksonville Sheriff**

Florida sheriffs serve four-year terms and as chief law-enforcement officers for their county. The Sheriff has a duty to enforce the Florida Constitution, Florida state laws, and to provide for the security, safety and well-being of its citizens. Partisan race.

### **Lakesha Burton**



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.burtonforsheriff.com](http://www.burtonforsheriff.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/BurtonforSheriff](https://www.facebook.com/BurtonforSheriff)

**Campaign Twitter Handle:** [www.twitter.com/for\\_burton](https://www.twitter.com/for_burton)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 4411 Sunbeam Road Unit #23130 Jacksonville FL 32241

**Campaign Phone:** 9045211606

**Campaign Website:** [www.burtonforsheriff.com](http://www.burtonforsheriff.com)

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for the office of Sheriff and how do you propose to address them?**

The #1 concern to citizens all over our city and it should be. Every single day violence touches us all, we see it, we hear it and we feel it. And, it has been like this for far too long. As the Zone Commander of the Arlington/Beaches area, I led a record breaking 16% reduction. This is comprised on 34% drop in gunfire incidents, 33% reduction in burglaries to businesses and 21% less home invasion robberies. These results happened because of the dedicated officers I led, the businesses we partnered with and the residents we walked with. As Sheriff, I will enforce the law. We need to arrest those who break the law. However, I'll also make changes to focus more on prevention and intervention so we can prevent more crimes from happening.

**With the Sheriff's budget at around \$500 million, what experience do you have with administering budgets, and how are you equipped to handle such a large budget?**

- no response -

**With over sixty JSO officers charged with misconduct or crimes in the past 7 years., how will you work to restore the integrity of the police department?**

- no response -

**Some community members are concerned with a lack of transparency, accountability and public engagement in the Sheriff's office. What would you do to address these concerns?**

I have shared countless discussions with people all over our city and what I find is at the very core of concerns regarding transparency and accountability is that there is a fundamental distrust for law enforcement.

As Sheriff, I will bring several efforts into my approach to building strong relationships based in trust, effective communication, and transparency. The people will hear from me on any critical incident. I will be visible, accessible, and accountable to all members of the community as I feel a true leader should be.

**Violent crime in Jacksonville is on the rise and our citizens do not feel safe.**

Support

**Explain your answer.**

As stated above, last year, we saw a breakthrough in the violence as my officers and I delivered a historic 16% reduction in crime in the Arlington-Beaches Area. Just imagine how we can change our city, our quality of life and our future when we do that all across Duval County...It can be done.

The JSO has changed so much in just the last 5 years: 70% over 1,000 of our police officers have 7 years or less on the streets. They are younger, more innovative and working with the latest technology. And need a new kind of leader. A leader that focuses on the culture of the department from the inside out, focuses on the community we serve, and focuses on reducing crime in ALL parts of the city. I know WHAT needs to be done. I know HOW to do it.

## **TK Waters**

**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for the office of Sheriff and how do you propose to address them?**

Violent Crime and an agency consistently operating without the proper amount of manpower. The International Association of Chiefs of Police studied the JSO and determined that the agency should be operating with 2.5 police officers per thousand citizens. Currently JSO operates with approximately 1.98 officers per thousand citizens. We must increase the manpower to properly serve this city. By getting manpower numbers up and realigning our patrol zones we will provide better, more efficient service and have more officers in neighborhoods to combat violent crime. We will also use our technology to focus on known violent offenders, gangs, drug offenders, and convicted felons prohibited from possessing firearms.

**With the Sheriff's budget at around \$500 million, what experience do you have with administering budgets, and how are you equipped to handle such a large budget?**

My final assignment at the JSO prior to retirement was the Chief of Investigations. As the Chief of Investigations, I handled a budget of over \$52,000,000. I was responsible for ensuring that overtime budgets were kept under control. I oversaw the investigations travel and training budget.

A budget of over \$500 million would require my oversight as Sheriff while the budget section CPA's would handle the day to day responsibilities.

**With over sixty JSO officers charged with misconduct or crimes in the past 7 years., how will you work to restore the integrity of the police department?**

I will conduct an extensive review of all hiring practices and focus on hiring the best and brightest.

**Some community members are concerned with a lack of transparency, accountability and public engagement in the Sheriff's office.**

**What would you do to address these concerns?**

It is my intention to continue to work with our local news organizations. I will provide each outlet with their own liaison officer to assist them with their requests. More importantly, I plan to create a larger public information office not for the sole purpose of setting up news conferences but to be forward facing. A much more educational unit to go out and speak to community groups all over this city about many subjects inside the JSO. I will also develop a direct messaging system for our community. I will be a very visible and accessible Sheriff for this community. I would like to continue Sheriff's community walks to hear directly from the community.

**Violent crime in Jacksonville is on the rise and our citizens do not feel safe.**

Support

**Explain your answer.**

In 2020, the city of Jacksonville recorded approximately 180 homicides. In 2021 we were one of only a few major cities in the United States that saw a massive decrease with 130 homicides. No murder is acceptable but those numbers indicate that Jacksonville is going in the right direction. So far, in 2022 we are seeing a slight increase in homicides. Because of this slight increase, we must continue to focus our efforts on decreasing violent crime.

I also agree that some citizens do not feel safe, but because of the size of the city of Jacksonville those opinions vary from location to location. We must work so that every citizen feels safe.

## Duval County Soil & Water Conservation District Group 3

Florida Soil and Water Conservation Districts are organized locally for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the wise use, management and general conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Board members are elected to four-year terms to manage each district. Board members receive no salary.

### **Eugene Ford III**

Party: NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

Biographical Info:

What motivated you to run for office?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?

-no response-

What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?

-no response-

How important is the protection of our water and soil resources from contamination?

-no response-

### **Demetris Harrison**



Party: NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 9024 Kipper Drive Jacksonville FL 32211

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I am running for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, I believe it is my civic duty and responsibility to give back to the beautiful city of Jacksonville that I adore so much. Furthermore, my family resides in Jacksonville, and I want to do my part to ensure that they have environmental sustainability. If elected, I will work indefatigable to address the Soil and Water Conservation issues.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I am a dynamic leader with experience in Research & Metric Analysis. I bring invaluable experience steering strategies and implementation. Reputation as a self-directed individual skilled at developing strong relationships with clients of varying backgrounds.

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

My first priority is to create an unprecedented level of awareness regarding the conservation of Soil and Water. "If we want to move the needle and bring awareness to the community, we must first change the conversation." I will do this by changing the "context" surrounding the Soil and Water Conservation concern(s). I will create a comprehensive plan that will highlight the issues pertaining to the "Natural Resources in Duval County." In addition, this plan will measure the level of awareness and community involvement leading to a better environment for the citizens of Jacksonville.

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

My first priority is to create an unprecedented level of awareness regarding the conservation of Soil and Water. "If we want to move the needle and bring awareness to the community, we must first change the conversation." I will do this by changing the "context" surrounding the Soil and Water Conservation concern(s). I will create a comprehensive plan that will highlight the issues pertaining to the

"Natural Resources in Duval County." In addition, this plan will measure the level of awareness and community involvement leading to a better environment for the citizens of Jacksonville.

**How important is the protection of our water and soil resources from contamination?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Natural Resources are very important and part of our every day life. If we continue to use natural resources at our current rate, it will have a negative impact on future generations.

## **Duval County Soil & Water Conservation District Group 5**

Florida Soil and Water Conservation Districts are organized locally for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the wise use, management and general conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Board members are elected to four-year terms to manage each district. Board members receive no salary.

### **Ray (RJ) Deacon, Jr.**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.Deacon4Duval.com](http://www.Deacon4Duval.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 5904 Windsor Forest Dr Jacksonville FL 32210

**Campaign Phone:** 8595393372

**Campaign Website:** [www.Deacon4Duval.com](http://www.Deacon4Duval.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have always wanted to make a difference. It was always a dream and goal to run for political office. I decided that life is too short not to follow my dreams. So wanting to make a difference, here I am.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I grew up on a farm learning Environmental conservation. It has always been a project and passion of mine. So why not educate others

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

To create a website, and email list, be as transparent as possible allowing people to know the contact me.

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

- no response -

**How important is the protection of our water and soil resources from contamination?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

There are so many things that affect us in our environment. People don't realize the smallest detail can cause a huge reaction later on in our environment. I want to make sure that people know what cause-and-effect it is in the environment

### **Bryson Kade Morgan**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 12765 Chets Creek Drive N Jacksonville FL 32224

**Campaign Phone:** 9048857441

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I was motivated to run for office because it is time that the residents of Jacksonville know what is going on within their own city. Between the new high rise projects, and the little education that is being brought from these harmful projects it is time someone stepped up to the plate to ensure citizens are aware of the environmental factors at hand with each and every decision.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

As someone who grew up in Northwest Georgia, I was raised on a farm and grew up learning about environmental stability and growth. Moving to Jacksonville 8 years ago I have grown tired of how the city is handling the largest city in the Continental United States when we have vast resources in the environment.

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

I plan to work with public schools and organizations to reach out to citizens and keep them updated on how new city projects are affecting the environment and giving them a "grade." This grading system will involve how the city is using its resources to ensure the environment here in Jacksonville will be sustained and not forgotten or erased.

**What is your plan to engage and communicate with organizations and the public after you are elected?**

Between leading events with my other elected officials to creating my own center for environmental causes it is time we ensure Jacksonville's beautiful landscape is preserved and NOT erased.

**How important is the protection of our water and soil resources from contamination?**

Very unimportant

**Explain your answer.**

With Jacksonville being at the mouth of the St. John river, which allows Jacksonville to have vast waterways as well as the beaches we need to preserve. With contamination being directly related to Red Tides, as well as these contaminants flowing out into the Atlantic Ocean we have to ensure every project we do not only benefits the people of Jacksonville but also the Environment of Jacksonville.

## Atlantic Beach Commissioner Seat 4

Atlantic Beach operates under a non-partisan Commissioner-Manager form of government. The City has a five-member Commission whose members are elected by the residents of Atlantic Beach under a staggered term system that ensures a degree of experience on the Commission at all times. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

### Candace Kelly



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 142 Sylvan Dr. Atlantic Beach FL32233

**Campaign Phone:** 904-859-4387

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I was inspired to do something by the Women's March in DC in 2017. I started at the local level by attending City Commission meetings. Both parents were elected officials, they set the example.

Nearly everything that starts your day is affected by local government: water, sewer, roads, school buses, electricity, sidewalks, dog parks, playgrounds, cell service! We live, work, and play here. I want to make this the best place to do them.

I chose to stand for re-election to take the next steps to fulfill the City Vision, created entirely with public input.

I have deep background knowledge of issues associated with environmental protection, LEEDS certification, resiliency measures, marijuana dispensaries, electric scooters, etc.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

1. The City is responsible for protecting our citizens from the effects of extreme weather patterns. We have a resiliency plan and grant funding. The challenge is to fund and implement all phases.
2. The need to recruit and retain qualified employees.
3. Residents are keenly interested in protecting the environment and tree caNon-Partisan Officey. The challenge is to balance property rights of individuals, the will of the greater community, and limitations set by the state.
4. Together with input from the public, we created quality of life plans with the Parks Master plan, Recreation offerings for children, Connectivity Plan, Mayport Rd improvements, flood control measures, Complete Streets, now we must fund and implement them.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

As Commissioner, I prefer collaborative decision making, equitable expenditure of resources, and implementing Best Practices. I have firsthand knowledge of the issues we solved in the past and what we face in the future.

I attended 3 Elected Official training courses, and other on-line classes. Served on the Board Member Review, and as liaison with the Pension, Code Enforcement, Environmental Stewardship, and on projects for Cultural Arts Committees.

I have lived the life of a public servant, firstly in the Navy, and then as faculty at Fletcher HS, and through church leadership positions. I earned both a B.A. (Public Administration) and M. Ed from UNF while on active duty. I am a member of Rotary and DAR, both service organizations.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

This is a problem that affects our employees and business owners. The City doesn't own any land which could be turned into housing, and no money to offer incentives. One of the few things we might do is change some land use codes and density requirements to a usage more attractive to low cost housing builders. We are quite concerned about this need. Some of our best workers commute from the Northside!

We support Habitat for Humanity projects when possible. We have also given city employees a 12% across the board raise in face of rising inflation. Although not within city limits, several new apartments complexes along Mayport Rd offer more affordable housing than anything in Atlantic Beach.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

The city is at risk of deep destruction from extreme weather events, as well as from the unstoppable creep of sea level rise. We have prepared by conducting a resiliency survey to identify spots most at risk, and creating Capital Improvement and Stormwater Management Plans, setting priorities. To fund the plan, we applied for millions in grants, receiving +1.5 million to date.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee vigorously pursues tree caNon-Partisan Officey protection, as trees are the first line of defense against flooding. We planted hundreds of trees on City property.

The City updated land use codes to increase water retention and reduce the impervious surface on residential lots. We earned a LEEDs silver rating, the data informs decisions.

**Jennifer Lagner**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 278 SEMINOLE ROAD ATLANTIC BEACH FL 32233

**Campaign Phone:** 9046106202

**What motivated you to run for office?**

As a 22+ year resident of Atlantic Beach, a diverse community with a rich history, I have seen the changes that often come with time and growth. This is an opportunity for me to serve to help preserve some areas but make changes that would have a positive impact on



all residents and businesses. I know I have a lot to learn but increased transparency, fiscal responsibility and accountability, planning and better governance are key areas for our city to work better.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Parking, stormwater infrastructure, sustainability and resiliency. All big areas but important for overall community health.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

Although I have no prior political experience, I have been an effective leader on various boards and have worked with the city in various capacities. When I served as the president of a 100 unit condominium complex for nine years, I oversaw multiple capital projects, brought it back to solvency and help unite residents and owners towards consensus on matters of significance. After two years on the COAB Parking and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Resource Committee, I transitioned to the COAB Community Development Board. My professional experience includes 25 years in human resources, facilities management, project management and communications. I have always been a proponent of being part of the solution and being engaged in one's community.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

This is a very difficult issue that many communities are facing today. No one should be priced out of a market that is to be diverse and a residential haven. Education on available service, continuing to restrict short term rentals, continuing to partner with local groups such as Habitat for Humanity are just a few.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Decision making that impacts communities is not to be taken lightly. Climate change has a direct impact on communities, who are often the most vulnerable. We have to have this front of mind and incorporating climate resilience into decision making will help protect the community, ensure proper spending of dollars.

## Atlantic Beach Commissioner Seat 5

Atlantic Beach operates under a non-partisan Commissioner-Manager form of government. The City has a five-member Commission whose members are elected by the residents of Atlantic Beach under a staggered term system that ensures a degree of experience on the Commission at all times. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

### Kevin Nottingham

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

What motivated you to run for office?

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

-no response-

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

## Jessica Uilani Ring



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [ringju84.wixsite.com/jessicaringab](http://ringju84.wixsite.com/jessicaringab)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/JessicaRingAB/](https://www.facebook.com/JessicaRingAB/)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1002 Begonia Street Atlantic Beach FL 32233

**Campaign Phone:** 904-449-6682

**Campaign Website:** [ringju84.wixsite.com/jessicaringab](http://ringju84.wixsite.com/jessicaringab)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

Let me begin by saying that I have the heart of a public servant. I have worked in public education for 15 years (as a teacher and teacher lead) and my husband is a Captain in JFRD. I grew up in Atlantic Beach, as did my parents. I am vested in the Atlantic Beach community, truly love where I live, and am choosing to raise my family here. I have always had a driving passion that my public servitude would one day venture beyond the classroom and into local government. Today, I am eager and truly thrilled to introduce myself and my candidacy to our city for Commissioner, Seat 5.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

As Commissioner, I hope to meet the needs of the people through the perspective of an educator, mother, and longtime local. Raising my family, alongside my firefighter husband, and thinking about the Atlantic Beach we will leave behind to our children is a key priority. As chair of the Health and Wellbeing Council, I have spent much of this year listening to and working on many of the major concerns of the people: walkability, senior, youth and family programs, and vulnerable populations (homelessness, housing crisis, and food scarcity). Other issues I have witnessed firsthand in my district are issues with outdated/negligent drainage, caNon-Partisan Officey and preservation, and providing more family activities at the community center west of Mayport.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have spent my entire professional career working as a public educator and feel this has prepared me for further servitude as the City Commissioner. In 2010, I graduated from University of North Florida with a master's degree in Public Administration and Government Leadership. Currently, I am chair of the Atlantic Beach Mayor's Council on Health and Well-Being. This advisory board will conclude at the end of this year and allows the council members to address an array of topics and resources to bring to the commission in November.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

I have learned a lot about what resources are available to us through Duval County to combat homelessness. During the April Health and Well-Being council meeting, we had Sulzbacher center and Mission House come and share with the council their programs and how their organization tackles homelessness through healthcare, providing shelter, meals, and job counseling. Regarding the beaches in particular: AB does not have a homeless facility or a means for taking them to the mission house or other homeless centers. Additionally, the discussion of how rent increases may lead to more homelessness in the area arose during the council meeting; the suggestion of a possible ordinance for a rental increase cap be brought to the commission.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

As a child, I have fond memories of riding my bike under the caNon-Partisan Officey of live oaks, exploring the undeveloped nature trails west of Mayport Road, and fished in these marshes. Today, I am raising my own children and love that some of these attributes still exist for them to enjoy. It is my life goal to retire here in Atlantic Beach and I am thinking not just about my lifetime, but what I leave behind for my children and grandchildren to enjoy. Water resiliency is at the top of my list for issues that need to be addressed. Tackling drainage will be costly. But when both the City Manager and supervisor of Public Utilities mention the outdated infrastructure in our coastal town, citizens need to see its importance. The water is coming.

## Atlantic Beach Mayor

Atlantic Beach operates under a non-partisan Commissioner-Manager form of government. The Mayor/Commissioner serves a two-year term and votes with the other Commissioners on all matters brought before the City Commission. The Mayor's position is largely ceremonial and the Mayor has no regular administrative duties and does not supervise departments. That is the City Manager's job. The Mayor's position is considered part-time, with an annual salary of \$10,228.

### Curtis Randal Ford



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [VoteCurtisFord.com](http://VoteCurtisFord.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 536 Beach Avenue Atlantic Beach FL32233

**Campaign Phone:** 904-333-4565

**Campaign Website:** [VoteCurtisFord.com](http://VoteCurtisFord.com)

#### **What motivated you to run for office?**

As a volunteer and then CEO of Beaches Habitat for Humanity I have seen how lives can be changed by those who serve others. I want to continue that service by working for those in the community that I have called home for over 37 years.

#### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

We must preserve, protect and enhance those things that we know make Atlantic Beach a special place. I will be laser focused on keeping our streets safe and more walkable and will consider my time as mayor successful if people remember those two things. I will work every day to protect our quality of life so that those that call our city home can continue to enjoy it.

#### **What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

My first career was as a mortgage lender and in that role I learned what drove people to make their home buying decisions. A strong sense of community, safe, walkable streets and a great quality of life are all things that people seek. I have been involved in leadership positions for many years in worlds of both the business and non profits. As a 25 year member of the Oceanside Rotary Club, I have had the opportunity to learn from leaders in both the non profit and business sectors about what it takes to build strong communities and businesses. I will take those lessons to the office of Mayor.

#### **What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

"As a long time volunteer and then CEO of Beaches Habitat for Humanity, I am keenly aware of the challenges relating to affordable housing. I will take the lessons learned in those roles and use them as Mayor."

#### **How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Important

#### **Explain your answer.**

Mayor Glasser has been a leader in the role of what a small town can do in this arena. Her most recent budget included items that will support those initiatives and I do not see that changing.

### Sean Keane

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

What motivated you to run for office?

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

-no response-

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

-no response-

## **Brittany Norris**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [choosenorris.com](http://choosenorris.com)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/choosenorris](https://facebook.com/choosenorris)

**Campaign Phone:** 9128563067

**Campaign Website:** [choosenorris.com](http://choosenorris.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I first ran in 2017. My encouragement to others had always been "get informed, get involved" and my first run was a reflection of taking my own advice. My run now is motivated by a drive to continue the momentum of work and projects in play in the city, from regular construction of new sidewalks to larger infrastructure updates to prepare us for rising sea levels.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Atlantic Beach is going to face some tough chapters between the larger storms we're seeing (both hurricanes and daily thunderstorms). We need a leader who can unify our neighborhoods in nonpartisan action to prepare for harsher weather. Through continued investment in capital improvement projects to advocating for our city at the county and state levels, I'll keep us moving forward to be a resilient place to live.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

As a communications professional, I'm highly qualified in connecting folks and getting information out to our neighborhoods. Democracy is built upon participation and that's close to my heart in informing folks and getting them involved. Over the last five years as an Atlantic Beach City Commissioner, I have actively sought opportunities for training and growth. I have completed all four courses of the Florida League of Cities Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (1 and 2) and Leadership Academy (1 and 2) along with becoming a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville, Class of 2022.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

Local government should be the connecting point for public/private partnerships in addressing the housing crisis and also lay the groundwork for more affordable housing such as working with developers to incentives the creation of workforce housing or updating regulations on accessory dwelling units.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Considering the changing future of our climate and our position as Atlantic Beach on a barrier island, even the smallest decisions can mean success or failure for our neighborhoods and businesses. Zoning updates, holding up building regulations, identifying where to harden or where to retreat, maintaining a strategic impervious/pervious surface ratio, placement of new sidewalks, raising roads, etc...the water doesn't pick or choose, and neither can we with decisions for our city.

## Neptune Beach Councilor Seat 4

The Non-Partisan Council is responsible for enacting ordinances and resolutions which govern the City. They appoint a City Manager who serves as the chief administrative officer and is charged with the enforcement of all ordinances and resolutions passed by the City Council. The term of office begins on the first Tuesday in December and is a four-year term.

### Christine Burke



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.christine4neptunebeach.com](http://www.christine4neptunebeach.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/christine4neptunebeach](http://www.facebook.com/christine4neptunebeach)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 113 Walnut St Neptune Beach FL 32266

**Campaign Phone:** 4702175623

**Campaign Website:** [www.christine4neptunebeach.com](http://www.christine4neptunebeach.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I've been a Neptune Beach property owner for 18 years and a full-time resident for the past 13 years. I own two properties in Neptune Beach and I am invested in our future. After attending council meetings, understanding the unbudgeted spending, the state of our infrastructure, and hearing the resident's concerns, I decided to run for City Council Seat 4. I am prepared to help solve some of the challenges we face as a city by bringing my business skills and critical thinking to the Neptune Beach City Council.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Prioritization of Spend and Funding Infrastructure are two significant challenges. We must prioritize spending, reduce unnecessary spending, and focus on our infrastructure to ensure quality water, stop sewage backups, and reduce flooding. If spending does not tie back to fixing a critical issue in our small town, I'd recommend removing it from the budget. Instead of looking at a 1-year budget cycle, I will help the city plan for a 5, 10, and 20-year horizon. This will dictate our focus areas and adequately prepare us for the future. We need to find other funding avenues aside from taxing our residents, including obtaining grant money from the State and Federal Governments.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I am a resident who wants to make a positive difference and I have the skills, aptitude, and demeanor to benefit Neptune Beach as a City Council member. I am consistent in my approach to both personal and business matters. I am proactive when faced with challenges, large and small, studying and seeking suggestions to achieve optimum results. I'm a Sales Executive and Consultant in the Technology industry managing multi-million dollar budgets. As VP on the Board of a Non-Profit organization, I manage the business aspect of the operation, working with grant writers and managing expenses on a limited budget. I possess the critical skills necessary to prioritize spending, raise funds, and build relationships at all levels. I am a strong leader.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

We are a small town of 2.5 square miles. Affordable Housing is a topic that requires collaboration with residents, government, and experts to resolve. This is an issue that requires more research and further discussion before considering plausible mitigations. However, at a high level, I would look at a multi-pronged approach to solving the problem. Programs that provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers and grants to help with home ownership and rent are available.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Living in a coastal town, we must be able to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events. Today our infrastructure is old and failing. We must establish a resilient infrastructure and take steps to mitigate climate-related risks. We must also take into consideration new development in our small town, and only build what we can support in the character of Neptune Beach.

## **Josh Messinger**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

What motivated you to run for office?

- no response -

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

- no response -

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

- no response -

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

- no response -

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

- no response -

Explain your answer.

- no response -

## Nassau County School Board District 1

School board members in Florida are elected by the voters of the county and serve four-year terms. The school board controls school property, establishes, organizes, and operates the schools of the district, including: establishing schools, adopting enrollment plans, maintaining the school year schedule and other more specific duties as outlined in Florida statutes. Nassau County School Board members have a salary of \$ 34,546.

### **Jamie Deonas**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

-no response-

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please Explain your answer.**

-no response-

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

-no response-

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

### **Shannon G. Hogue**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078129548608](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078129548608)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 426 South 6th St Fernandina Beach FL 32034

**Campaign Phone:** 904-310-0087

**Candidate Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yorTb0Q9N78>

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have been in education for over 20 years. I have written school wide curriculum, trained teachers in effective teaching strategies, and worked as a teacher. I own a local summer camp business. I am also a parent of three daughters who all attended NC schools. I have a Bachelor's degree in K-8 education. I earned my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership also. Working with students, teachers and families over the years, I have advocated for what is best for our students. That is why I am running for the District 1 seat. I am not a politician. I am the voice of our children.

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

We have amazing staff in our school district. However, teacher retention is a problem facing our school district. We must use data gathered from the exit interviews to develop a plan of action to retain teachers. It is critical to be proactive and not reactive.

We are an A rated school district. People see what a wonderful place this is and they want to raise their family here. Because of this, we are growing quickly. This growth must be matched by school system so that schools are not overcrowded before progress begins.

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please Explain your answer.**

They absolutely should be governed by the same standards. They are receiving tax payer dollars and are teaching our children. If the state feels that the standards in place are what is best for the students who attend public schools, then they should be acceptable for those who attend charter schools.

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

The first step is to determine why we have lost so many staff members. We need to look at the exit interview questions and data collected this year. Once we determine what the problem is, then develop a plan of action.

We need to pay our staff more. I'm an advocate for a Citizen's Budget Advisory Council. This would allow for transparency and could lead to recommendations on ways to allocate more money for salaries.

We could also partner with local businesses to create incentive packages.

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

Above average

**Explain your answer.**

In grades K-5, students receive Reading instruction twice a day. Teachers and POWERprofessionals use strategies to build student engagement.

In the upper grades, we offer a variety of programs: culinary, HVAC, aerospace, aquaponics, and more.

Is there room for improvement? Absolutely. Our administrators and teachers are constantly looking for ways to offer more opportunities and strengthen instruction. Why? Because they love our students and want to do what is best for them.

## Nassau County School Board District 3

School board members in Florida are elected by the voters of the county and serve four-year terms. The school board controls school property, establishes, organizes, and operates the schools of the district, including: establishing schools, adopting enrollment plans, maintaining the school year schedule and other more specific duties as outlined in Florida statutes. Nassau County School Board members have a salary of \$ 34,546.

### Curtis Gaus

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

-no response-

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please Explain your answer.**

-no response-

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

-no response-

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

### Albert J. Wagner





**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 85984 Avant Road Yulee FL 32097

**Campaign Phone:** 9048919972

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have been in education for 18 years. I have climbed the ladder from teacher to instructional coach to assistant principal to elementary principal. I have worked in Nassau County School District and I understand the needs of our district. As a school board member I will work to be the voice for every stakeholder whether you live on Amelia Island or Hilliard or anywhere in between. I will always stand for truth, accountability, and transparency.

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

Strengths - the district is A rated and ranked number 2 in the state.

However, that is through the hard work and dedication of every staff member. As a former employee in NCSD I have seen first hand how the district makes the work of the staff incredibly hard.

Strength - The staff in NCSD are professionals that bend over backwards to help their students achieve at the highest level.

However, this is getting harder and harder each year because of the high turnover rate in the district which is currently sitting at over 30% for this year.

Strength - College/Career Readiness - Students are doing very well and we have a high amount of students entering college upon graduation. However, we need to do better in our vocational programs.

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please Explain your answer.**

Charter schools are not relevant in Nassau County.

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

I would make sure our instructional staff are provided with a high quality vetted curriculum.

Establish a committee of stakeholders with experience in school budgeting to review the budget and make recommendations to the board. Compare our district level staffing with that of a similar district to see if the district is too top heavy. I would also involve school employees in the hiring of school principals so they will be vested into the hiring of their school leader.

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

Above average

**Explain your answer.**

Nassau County is an excellent place to live. We are doing very well, but we can't just rest. We need to have a vision on how we are going to continue to improve.

## **Fernandina Beach City Commissioner Seat 4**

The Fernandina Beach City Commission consists of five citizens who are elected at large, including the Mayor who presides at all meetings of the Commission. Non partisan; 4-year term, \$12,000 salary

**James John Antun**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1416 park ave Suite 102 Fernandina Beach FL 32034

**Campaign Phone:** 5165475309

What motivated you to run for office?

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

-no response-

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

-no response-

## **Michael A. Lednovich**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.vote4lednovich.com](http://www.vote4lednovich.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/MikeLednovichMayor](https://www.facebook.com/MikeLednovichMayor)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1586 Canopy Dr Fernandina Beach FL 32034

**Campaign Phone:** 9045020650

**Campaign Website:** [www.vote4lednovich.com](http://www.vote4lednovich.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

Preserving our "Quality of Life"

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

- Increased density from residential developers
- Protection of trees, wetlands, wildlife and the environment
- Land conservation
- Aging infrastructure
- Out of control tourism
- Faulty economic model that cannot support City services
- Potential expansion of the Port of Fernandina into the Historic Downtown
- Protection against flooding
- Increased vehicle traffic

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

- 4 years served as Mayor/City Commission
- CEO of \$40 million construction company that built schools, fire stations and courthouses
- President of a Make-A-Wish chapter
- Adjunct college Leadership instructor
- Award winning journalist

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

- Partner with developers in Nassau County to build units using builder incentives

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Fernandina Beach is on Amelia Island which is vulnerable to severe flooding during storms and hurricanes.

## **Chelsey Lemire**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

## **Christopher J. Nickoloff**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [chris4commish.info](http://chris4commish.info)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/chris4commish2022](https://facebook.com/chris4commish2022)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 553 Spanish Way W Fernandina Beach FL 32034

**Campaign Phone:** 904-468-9564

**Campaign Website:** [chris4commish.info](http://chris4commish.info)

**Candidate Video:** [Facebook.com/chris4commish2022](https://facebook.com/chris4commish2022)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I want to be your city commissioner because I believe I can add a lot of value to the difficult decisions the city commission currently faces or face in the immediate future. I was a career public servant (fire department) but I am not a career politician. I do not have aspirations of advancing my political career. I merely desire to help out our diverse community and make a difference. After over 32 years serving my community saving lives and property, my next chapter in life will be serving the citizens of FB. I will be engaged, applying the Leadership skills I have acquired to the FB City Commission. It is my goal to build back trust between the Commission and the citizens we serve. Help me do that for you. Thanks!

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Three Pressing Issues: Growth Management, Find New sources of Revenue, and Leadership/Trust. FB is facing explosive growth and we must find a way to balance property rights of the owner and preserving the quality of life for our citizens. We must be proactive in our approach. Part of this balance includes preserving our tree canopy. All this can be done with limited variances, control density and setbacks. New sources of revenue must be found to take the burden of maintaining our infrastructure off property tax owners. This will take tough choices which I am prepared to make. Last, there is a lack of trust now. Using my skills of leadership and collaboration, I hope to build back that trust by listening to what the citizens say.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

For 25 years of my 32 year career as a firefighter, I was a command officer which taught me decision making skills. We aren't talking about where to put something on a wall. These were serious decisions that could have life/death consequences. I would lead by example, leading men and women into dangerous situations. Some of these were split second decisions, but others allowed some time for planning. And I would listen. Listen to all different scenarios and take that into account when I would make a decision on how to approach a serious problem. Now, the decisions I face are a bit different. But, just as important nonetheless. Just as I did as a command officer, I will listen to you. I also served on several Boards.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

This is an interesting but important question. I have met with the Nassau Chamber of Commerce already and this was discussed. As Commissioner I would partner closely with them to find solutions. One way for example, is if a multi-family development is proposed, require a certain amount of housing to be affordable. Also, work with our two biggest employers and see if they can develop a program to help their employees offset housing costs. And last, we can't forget transportation. If employees can save money on transportation getting to work, this may help free up money for housing or other essentials. Again, work with CoC and the County on solution. Maybe consult JTA? Whatever the answer, it will take a partnership in some form or another.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

In the land of Hurricanes and rough seas, Climate Resilience is on the top of the list of important issues. First, we need to build a seawall to protect our business district from flooding. We are part way there, but it is being done in segments. I suggest resurrecting the bond issue, and let the voters decide. Include an amount to complete the project all at once (offset by any expected future grant money we may receive). It failed last time due to a lack of leadership in my opinion. Attempting a project like this with ad valorem tax is futile.

## **Fernandina Beach City Commissioner Seat 5**

The Fernandina Beach City Commission consists of five citizens who are elected at large, including the Mayor who presides at all meetings of the Commission. Non partisan; 4-year term, \$12,000 salary

### **Darron C. Ayscue**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

### **Staci Deane McMonagle**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

-no response-

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

-no response-

## **Genece Minshew**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

### **Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.minshewforyou.com](http://www.minshewforyou.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/Minshewforcitycommission/](https://www.facebook.com/Minshewforcitycommission/)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 2428 Los Robles Dr. Fernandina Beach FL 32034

**Campaign Phone:** 904-491-0185

**Campaign Website:** [www.minshewforyou.com](http://www.minshewforyou.com)

### **What motivated you to run for office?**

I missed being elected to a city commission seat in 2020 by a narrow 40 vote margin. I felt that I needed to give myself and my supporters another chance to get a strong experienced leader elected to city commission.

I am running to help make Fernandina Beach City Government better. I know it can be better and will be better in the future. So, what does better mean?

better NON-PARTISAN OFFICE term and short term,

better decision making - based on facts not whims or egos,

better accountability of the city staff to the city commission,

and better budget management.

### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

There are many pressing issues, but I believe that at the core of these issues, it is a lack of long term planning and implementation, budget management and focus that will allow us to better plan to address these issues. Issues include lack of physical infrastructure maintenance and support, increased demand on city services by both residents and non-resident visitors, prudent use of tax dollars and lack of accountability and openness with the city staff.

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

I worked in the telecommunications industry for over 40 years. I got to witness and work through the biggest justice department anti-trust breakup in history, the breakup of ATT in 1984. It afforded me the opportunity to have a varied career, everything from regulatory, customer operations, strategic planning, system planning and implementation. It was a great career. Then, I worked as an industry consultant, using my business background and experience to make other businesses better. But the biggest take away from all that experience, is that I gained two things, Leadership and Experience.

It is that leadership and experience that I bring to the table to deal with complex yet critical issues within the city.

### **What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

This is a difficult issue in our city and in our county. The cost of land and construction makes it near impossible to consider affordable housing options within the city limits, but that does not give the city commission a pass in working to meet affordable housing needs. We can continue to work with the county task force on affordable housing and look within the city at possible city property that could be used for affordable housing options.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Fernandina Beach sits on a barrier island. Resiliency, flood control, rising tides are all part of our life right now. We already have flooding downtown during king tides and Nor'easters. We must continue our work on the sea wall protection downtown, erosion control of our beaches and the management and maintenance of our tree canopy. All of these issues are currently being worked on at the commission level.

## **Fernandina Beach Mayor**

The Fernandina Beach City Commission consists of five citizens who are elected at large, including the Mayor who presides at all meetings of the Commission. Non partisan; 4-year term, \$12,000 salary

Candidates:

### **Bradley Bean**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [bradleybean.com](http://bradleybean.com)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/BradleyMasonBean](https://facebook.com/BradleyMasonBean)

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**Campaign Phone:** 9044155181

**Campaign Website:** [bradleybean.com](http://bradleybean.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I currently serve the Fernandina Beach community as a Commissioner, and I know I can offer my community more. That is why I am running for Mayor. I am running because the city needs to do everything it can to support our hardworking families and to protect what makes Fernandina Beach great.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

We need to keep our budget in check, while supporting small business and hardworking families. In order to make ends meet, we must-like citizens in their own households- find innovative ways to find savings in the budget and not raise taxes on families who are already struggling. I believe it is important to tighten our belt as a city during this time instead of asking our citizens to shoulder an increased burden. We can find ways to balance our budget without raising taxes while protecting the quality of life and beauty of our island.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

As a sitting City Commissioner, I have represented the people of Fernandina Beach for the last two years. I'm a lifelong member of the community and work locally as an engineer. Giving back to my hometown is and has been my number one priority. I have just recently finished my term as President of the Fernandina Beach Rotary Club and continue to support numerous charities throughout the community.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

We need to keep taxes low. The people most vulnerable to a property tax increase in our community are those without homestead exemptions, people who rent. When we raise property taxes at the local level, it is disproportionately felt by renters in our community.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Important

**Explain your answer.**

One of the goals as Mayor of Fernandina is to complete the seawall that will protect downtown from hurricanes and king tides. We have completed phase one of the project, and must now look to the north section of the riverfront. This phase will involve partnering will

property owners, and utilizing public lands to their full value. In addition, we just passed and implemented a heritage tree program to protect our oldest and most historic trees throughout the city.

## **David Sturges**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

What motivated you to run for office?

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?

-no response-

How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

## St. Johns County Commissioner District 4

The Board of County Commissioners serves as the legislative and policy-setting body for county government; enacts countywide laws and authorizes programs and all expenditures of county funds. St. Johns County Commissioners have a four-year term and a salary of \$82,244

### Krista Keating-Joseph



**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 1097Ponte Vedra BeachFL32004

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079486436952](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079486436952)

**Campaign Website:** ElectKrista.com

**Campaign Phone:** 352-212-2188

**Website:** BigHeartedCharlie.com

#### **What motivated you to run for office?**

I want to take back our county for the people who live here now. Our quality of life is being compromised by overdevelopment. The number one complaint I hear is unbridled growth. We need to slow down growth so schools, and infrastructure can catch up. We should not have 16,000 children in portable classrooms or busing kids out of their neighborhood. The clear cutting is erasing a reason we love living here. I oppose the 15% tax increase on our hard working families during this inflationary time. Its time the developers covered their costs of infrastructure and other impacts. And finally put our First Responders FIRST. I am appalled how little we pay them and want to see that improve. The people should come first in St. Johns County.

#### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Listening to my constituents. On day one I am going to propose putting the general comments first at the Board of County Commissioner meetings. Commissioner Blocker is the one who put them last. Commissioners represent the people and they should speak first, not the developers. Increase the notification area to "the neighborhood" not just 300 ft. Stop the Clear Cutting and provide a buffer to existing neighborhoods. Keep construction zones AT CODE. Stick to the comprehensive plan. We need a better plan for the unbridled growth. Make sure the developers pay for their impact and infrastructure on and in our community. I will say NO to unbridled growth. We need a plan going forward. I am a US Navy SEAL mom to 2 boys and I can say NO.

#### **What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I served on the Citrus County Hospital Board where I took a tax burden of millions on the residents off the tax roll and leased the hospital to HCA for \$141,000,000. Also setting up a trust of 20 million dollars for indigent care and nursing scholarships that is still working today. I lowered taxes and it will never have its taxing authority again. I have been a small business owner with a marketing/healthcare/ real estate company. I'm an award winning author. I have a college degree in communications. Finally, I raised 5 children two of whom are Navy SEALs, 1 Marine, another married to a SEAL, and one more child currently in High School that is a swimmer. My husband is an Olympian and we always give 150%.

#### **What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

There are existing programs in Florida to assist people as well as veterans and first responders. I do believe affordable housing should be prioritized for our teachers, our law enforcement officers and the first responders. WE need to assess St. Johns County's actual affordable housing needs. It is being addressed with some construction currently, but we need to learn how much is truly required.

#### **How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

#### **Explain your answer.**

Since Climate resilience is defined as the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate, that would include hurricanes. Therefore I consider climate resilience to be very important to decision-making here in Florida.



## **Michael C. Lanza**

**Party:** Write-In

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

-no response-

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

## **St. Johns School Board Member District 1**

School board members in Florida are elected by the voters of the county and serve four-year terms. The school board controls school property, establishes, organizes, and operates the schools of the district, including: establishing schools, adopting enrollment plans, maintaining the school year schedule and other more specific duties as outlined in Florida statutes. St. Johns County School Board members have a salary of \$ 40,539.

## **Racheal Marie Hand**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [VoteHandForSchoolBoard.com](http://VoteHandForSchoolBoard.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/rachealhandsjcschoolboard](https://www.facebook.com/rachealhandsjcschoolboard)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 62 Lambert Rd Saint Johns FL 32259

**Campaign Phone:** 3478600057

**Campaign Website:** [VoteHandForSchoolBoard.com](http://VoteHandForSchoolBoard.com)

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

My qualification is I'm a concerned, invested, "Hands On Mom". I actively fought to preserve religious exemptions for school children. My goal is to protect and represent parents, teachers, and students in our community. I am strong and am willing stand up for our students. I will be transparent and vocal in regards to what is needed in our school district.

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

We have an amazing community. A beautiful, diverse community. Our children are smart and we do have the #1 school district in regards to tests.

However, our weakness comes from our strength. We are the most sought out school district, but we are not prepared for the influx of families. It is no fault of them. But due to overcrowding issues, it has opened the door to many other problems. It has contributed to teacher shortages, deterioration of student behavior, and limited resources.

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please explain your answer.**

If charter schools were governed by the same standards as public schools, then there would be no point of having them be separated. The point is to provide different options and environments for families, while still ensuring our children are getting the very best in education.

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

I would advocate for the increase of teacher pay making sure the funding our Governor provided is used solely for our teachers. We need to evaluate all of our resources we have set up for teachers, and make sure they are being supported at full capacity. The issue of student behavior is another thing that needs to be addressed. I think it's imperative that we hold students fully accountable for their behavior and inconvenience parents to ensure this is being addressed at home. Again, teachers, support staff and bus drivers are not here to baby sit or raise our children and we need to ensure that we provide a strict, structured environment to allow for a non toxic workplace for all.

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

Average

**Explain your answer.**

With the issues we are hearing from parents and teachers, we can only claim average. We have work to do, and that is ok. But admitting we have some issues and addressing them will allow us to make room for beyond greatness. We should always strive to be better in regards to our children.

## **Beverly Slough**



**Party: NON-PARTISAN OFFICE**

**Biographical Info:**

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

It has been my honor to serve the students and parents of St. Johns County as the District 1 School Board member for the last 20 years. In that time, I have had extensive training in governance and all aspects of K-12 education. I have been an active member of the Florida School Boards Association, serving in every office, including president, and currently serve as the Federal Relations Chair. In that role, I extend my advocacy for Florida's children to the federal level. I serve as the Legislative Liaison for our school board and work closely with our state legislative delegation and our federal representatives to provide information as needed and to advocate for our children.

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

Our district has worked hard to provide a stellar education for our children. We have been ranked number 1 in the state for 14 years. Hiring the very best teachers is a hallmark of the district. Close working relationships with parents is another reason for our success. Our career academies offer students choice and allow them to explore careers that match their passions. Currently we offer 26 different options, all of which provide opportunity to earn college credit.

A weakness is the exponential growth in St. Johns County, causing our student population to grow by 8% last year alone. This results in the necessity to build new schools and to draw new attendance zones to balance the population in all our existing schools.

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please explain your answer.**

I believe that charter schools should be held to the same accountability standards as traditional public schools. However, they need the flexibility to deliver instruction and programming in unique ways. The whole charter school concept was built on the premise that they be allowed freedom from regulation so that they might provide innovation. This freedom does not, however, exempt them from accountability. In a perfect world, charters would develop unique programs that could then be replicated in traditional public schools.

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

Our district has developed recruitment fairs to facilitate hiring the best teachers and support staff. We hold these early in order to get the best and brightest. Applicants from across the country participate. In order to retain them, we have mentoring programs to help them acclimate to St. Johns County. One of my goals for the next term is to enhance these programs. In addition, our School Board works to provide the highest compensation for all our teachers/staff. Higher hourly rates are provided to teachers and paraprofessionals who work in high needs areas. We provide hiring bonuses for bus drivers. We try to maintain high morale by small things like letting teachers work from home on planning days.

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

Above average

**Explain your answer.**

Although the pandemic has provided great challenge to the learning environment, as we emerge to return to normality, our teachers have returned to excellent interaction and instruction in our classrooms. The issue that makes me rate us as above average is the change in student behavior since Covid. It has been a challenge to reestablish classroom control and discipline. Our teachers and other staff are working hard to help students set internal boundaries and self-discipline. To that end, we have increased the number of behavior specialists and mental health professionals we employ.

## **St. Johns School Board Member District 3**

School board members in Florida are elected by the voters of the county and serve four-year terms. The school board controls school property, establishes, organizes, and operates the schools of the district, including: establishing schools, adopting enrollment plans, maintaining the school year schedule and other more specific duties as outlined in Florida statutes. St. Johns County School Board members have a salary of \$ 40,539.

### **Lauren Townsend Abell**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.abellforschoolboard.com](http://www.abellforschoolboard.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075973085304](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075973085304)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 346 GRACIELA CIR ST AUGUSTINE FL 32086

**Campaign Phone:** 9045130074

**Campaign Website:** [www.abellforschoolboard.com](http://www.abellforschoolboard.com)

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

My Master's Degree is in Education and I am certified by the Florida Department of Education in Educational Leadership, Exceptional Student Education and School Counseling. I have worked in public education for over 20 years in various roles ranging from middle school counselor, school social worker, middle and high school assistant principal, coordinator of evaluations, director for professional development and virtual school administrator. I have extensive experience in community service in St. Augustine having been a member (and past president) of the Junior Service League for 20 years, a founding member and current president of the All American Air Charitable Foundation and a volunteer for multiple non-profit organizations.

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

The strengths in our district are easy to identify and list. We have extensive parental support, committed teachers and staff as well as students who come to school ready to learn. Our students perform well academically, our graduation rates are high, our schools are well-maintained and school safety and security is a priority. Challenges I see are the ongoing teacher shortage which requires creative teacher recruitment and retention strategies as well as the exponential growth our county continues to face. Planning and building schools to meet the needs, while maintaining and upgrading our older schools are a continued challenge.

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please explain your answer.**

I absolutely believe that charter schools should be governed by the same standards as public schools because our students deserve a high-quality public education no matter where they attend. Charter schools receive funding just as public schools do, so charter schools must have accountability for how those funds are used to educate our students.

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

I have been attending all board meetings and workshops since I decided to run for school board last fall, and I have been impressed with the creative strategies that have been implemented to recruit for these critical roles. I would like to see those efforts continue and expand (school bus driver ride-alongs, signing bonuses, increased pay, virtual interview fairs, in-person job fairs, partnerships with

colleges of education, teaching academy recruitment, digital advertising, etc.) Our students deserve to have well-compensated, supported, certified teachers and staff working with them every day.

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

Above average

**Explain your answer.**

Our schools are clean and safe, we have the necessary curriculum resources and technology available, and we have dedicated teachers and staff in our schools and at the district level. To be excellent, our schools should not be over-crowded, we should have an adequate number of certified substitute teachers available and low teacher and staff turnover. The St. Johns County school district has so much to be proud of and I will work hard as a board member to continue the quest for excellence in serving our students.

## **Jennifer Collins**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?**

-no response-

**Should charter schools be governed by the same standards as public schools? Please explain your answer.**

-no response-

**How would you continue to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, support staff and bus drivers?**

-no response-

**How would you rate the current learning environment in our school district?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

## **St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 1**

4 year term; Operates the public Northeast Florida Regional airport.

## **Michelle M. Cash-Chapman**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?

-no response-

## **Suzanne W. Green**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 105 B Solana RoadPonte Vedra BeachFL32082

**Campaign Phone:** 9042808770

### **What motivated you to run for office?**

In 2000 Gov Jeb Bush appointed me to the St. Aug Airport. Once on the Board, I became entrenched with focusing on making the Airport a self sufficient entity catering to the individual and the community as a whole. We were able to remove the Airport from the tax roles in 2010 and have developed more hangars and corporate income for the Airport to make this idea become a reality. I would like to see that effort continue and be in tune with the growth issues we have in St. Johns County.

### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

The most pressing issue is maintaining our self sufficiency status, grow with the demands for general and commercial aviation. Also, plans to develop (or not) the land that the Airport has acquired over the years, and work with our commercial tenants and opportunities.

### **What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have been on the Board from 2000-2008 and again from 2012 to present. I have been chairman for more than 1/2 that time frame. I am entrenched in the experience with the tenants and populous, the Commissioners and our community to work on the best development for the Airport. I have been involved with the Master Plan development, our engineering firm and those in Tallahassee for passing bills, grants and matching funds for the Airport. I am a practicing attorney and have had my family and business in St. Johns county since 1987.

### **How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very unimportant

### **Explain your answer.**

The Airport effects several environmental factors such as air, water, housing developments, fuel and land development. All these matters need to be addressed in the Master Plan to plan for the future and current development.

### **The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

Actually, the Airport does NOT receive a significant amount of county tax revenues. As stated earlier, we worked very hard during my first tenure on the Board to place the millage rate on your tax bill to .000. Therefore, since 2010, the Airport has been off the ad valorem tax rolls and except for government grants, matching funds etc...is completely self sufficient. It is important to keep that momentum.

## **Russ Scott**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [facebook.com/electrusscott](https://www.facebook.com/electrusscott)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 4668 W Seneca DrSt JohnsFL32259

**Campaign Phone:** 904-469-1252

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have a desire to serve St Johns County. I am a results-oriented person. When I see something that can be improved, I approach it with 110% of my ability to make it better. I am a strong believer in term limits. Three of the five board seats are up for election; I chose the seat that needs a new perspective and fresh ideas. The incumbent was first elected in 2002 and has served 14 of the last 20 years.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

The airport could be more profitable. The demand for airport hangars exceeds the supply. Increasing the number of airport hangars would provide extra tax revenue to the County as it struggles to address infrastructure expenses.

I want to create new events for the public to increase tourism and revenue for the County. I would also like to increase visibility of airport and services provided to St Johns residents. For example, few people realize you can rent a car there. Our airport is not getting the recognition and exposure it deserves.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have been a working member of several boards. I served our country and am an Air Force veteran. I can look at airport issues as an outsider with a critical eye and no vested interest. I am retired and had a 30-year successful career at a large bank. It is not necessary to be a licensed pilot to be on the Airport Board, which at its core is a business entity that serves the entire county. Board members select and manage the personnel operating the airport operations.

My public service includes being a SJC 2nd Alarmer (fire fighter support) and working for the people of the county who need food as a team leader at Epic-Cure.org which is a food provider and recycler.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

The impact on the environment is of utmost importance to me when looking at airport operations. The airport is contiguous to wetlands which need to be protected as an important natural resource. The airport Master Plan includes 10 pages of environmental issues that we must consider as the airport evolves. I am committed to making progress on environmental issues. The future of aviation is changing to be more environmentally friendly. For example, a May 2022 story on "Minutes" profiles Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing machines (eVtols). These are quiet, battery-operated 6 wing aircraft. The FAA commissioner says approval of eVtols could come as early as 2024. We need to prepare for the future.

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

From my review, it does not appear that the Airport Authority receives a "significant amount in county tax revenues". The Airport Authority seems to be self-supporting through its rents and fees, as well as through Federal and state grants. The Authority could levy taxes but does not do so and all candidates vow not to use the taxing authority. The 2020 Master Plan has several suggested improvements as SJC continues to grow. The Plan needs implementation of several ideas. I want to make our airport a profit center to provide tax revenue in addition to just covering the airport expenses.

## Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 2

4 year term; Provide mosquito control services, community education and research in St. John's County.

**Martha G. Gleason**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.marthaggleason.com](http://www.marthaggleason.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/Gleason4MosquitoControl](https://www.facebook.com/Gleason4MosquitoControl)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 6552 BURNHAM CIR Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082  
**Campaign Phone:** 904-990-7945  
**Campaign Website:** www.marthagleason.com

**What motivated you to run for office?**

St. Johns County citizens deserve a mosquito control board who deploys a prudent allocation of resources. And by this allocation, you expect the highest quality and safest methods of pest control available.

As a businesswoman, I understand fiscal responsibility. As a healthcare market analyst and researcher, I understand science and the importance of mosquito control and monitoring. I am here to serve the community that I have resided in for almost 30 years by ensuring that AMCD Board acts in the best interest of St. Johns County taxpayers

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Exploring new funding models to enable AMCD to meet the needs mosquito control and monitoring as the county continues to grow.

Fiscally Responsibility: AMCD's Board of Commissioners must be fiscally responsible and committed to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars by ensuring that tax-payer dollars are strictly deployed for mosquito control and monitoring.

Transparency: Citizens must receive proper notice about proposed annual budgets, mileage increases, and large capital spending budgets. Projects such as the "Mosquito Museum" should have never been approved without sufficient citizen discussion and debate.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have 30+ years of healthcare research and strategy experience within the health industry and understand the importance of controlling mosquitos to preven spread of illness.

I'm a business owner of a research and diligence firm serving the needs of clients that are buying/selling companies and I help the business model of each opportunity to help clients more effectively manage an acquisition or prepare company for sale. This will help me bring a new lense to the business model of the AMCD.

I have served on several business Boards and understand the oversight and decision-making responsibilites that Board members have to ensure that the organization stays true to its mission.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very unimportant

**Explain your answer.**

While mosquito control activities are very important to public health, reliance on mosquito-control insecticides have been linked with declines of native pollinators which are vitally important to agriculture, as well as our food system. Therefore, mosquito control must exercise an integrated approach that emphesizes the management and control of immature stages before the mosquitoes emerge as adults. This reduces the need for widespread pesticide application and lessens the potential negative impact on native wildlife and the enviroment.

St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?

As St. Johns county grows and development increases, housing will continue to inch closer to natural areas where mosquitoes breed. Effective communication between AMCD, County and developers to mitigate the potential for additional breeding ground to be created. Additionally with increase growth AMCD may require additional resources to focus solely on the management and surveillance of the mosquito population to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

**Gary Howell**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/Elect-Gary-Howell-for-Mosquito-Control-Seat-2-112813654825619](https://www.facebook.com/Elect-Gary-Howell-for-Mosquito-Control-Seat-2-112813654825619)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 170 Harvest Ln St. Augustine FL 32084

**Campaign Phone:** 904-669-3571



**What motivated you to run for office?**

I was invited to a meeting where there was approximately 200 people . Upon hearing one of the candidates giving incorrect information about Mosquito Control, and stated that Mosquito Control needed to go back to the way things used to be. Prior to this meeting, I had been approached by friends and neighbors about running for this position. After hearing this candidate, I said to my friends that Mosquito Control needs to continue to move forward not regress. That's when I made the decision to put my knowledge and experience to work.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Releasing sterilized mosquitos in infested areas

The Educational Facility, I plan on partnering with the School System that will focus on field trips for our students so they will receive first hand knowledge about Mosquito Control Programs and how they work. We plant the seeds which will produce students interested in becoming scientist, pilots, technicians and administrative personnel. Our children are our future employees and taxpayers.

Bring to service 3 areas not being serviced now. I intend to accomplish this through annexing those dead end areas.

Working to remove Mosquito Control off the tax rolls.

We can accomplish this by bringing in other revenue services.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

Having served on this board before, during that time I served as Chairman for 4 years. I went to classes, seminars, and listened to the people of the county to bring AMCD to where it is today. I feel I am the most experienced candidate in this race. Having been apart of moving from the old facility on the island, to building the new modern centralized mosquito control and returning the island property to St. Johns County saving millions of dollars for the taxpayer. There are new ideas that I have listed above that need to be explored. I will be a driving force to get these jobs done using my training and experience. The taxpayers deserve the best.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very unimportant

**Explain your answer.**

I believe that we need to always safe guard our environment by ensuring AMCD always uses the correct measures, chemicals and trained employees to administer them. To always look for ways to reduce chemical use such as implementing the sterile mosquito program and looking to enlarge the drone program to treat hot spots which will reduce the wide spread of chemicals and also reduce cost. We as good stewards of the earth should be seeking to make things better. Once again I want to reiterate that I have prior training and knowledge in this area of concern. I will Investigate, Educate, and Respond.

**St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?**

St. Johns County is forever changing, we must place people on the commission board that has the training and knowledge of what's going on in our county. Mosquito Control will have to plan on hiring the proper amount of trained employees to keep up with the demand of service. Commissioners and administration will need to work together with outside agencies to accomplish the goal of serving the taxpayer. We will need the necessary equipment and programs in place to meet the demand. AMCD needs to be Bigger, Better, Stronger, and Greater than it's ever been before.

**William Kelman**

Party: NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

Biographical Info:

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I am a retired Investment Banker, experienced working with large institutional budgets. I am honest, compassionate and a highly competent leader. I look forward giving back to my community.



Where there is a Will, there is a way.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Most pressing is fighting to get the most for your tax dollars, to eradicate dangerous mosquitoes, while simultaneously keeping the environment safe. Where there is a Will, there is a way.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I graduated with an MBA from NYU. I have had long, successful experience working with large institutional budgets in my career as an Investment Banker and look forward helping AMCD grow, compete and serve our community.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

The environment is tantamount to our existence as a specie and in particular is what gives our great state of Florida and the great county of Saint Johns its charm. Keeping the environment safe is the top priority.

**St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?**

It will offer opportunity for the agency to become even more important to the community.

**Ed Slavin**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.edslavin.com](http://www.edslavin.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/edwardadelbertslavin](https://www.facebook.com/edwardadelbertslavin)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 3084 St. Augustine FL 32085

**Campaign Phone:** 904-377-4998

**What motivated you to run for office?**

It's our money. I've been a watchdog on mosquito control since 2006. Mosquitoes could bring us the next global pandemic. We are prepared with data, research, education, and environmentally-friendly, non-toxic natural pesticides. As an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper, my dad was infected with malaria in Sicily. Dad recovered in Army hospitals, but we saw dad suffer lifetime effects. LWV's Ms. Robin Nadeau asked me to help her investigate Anastasia Mosquito Control of St. Johns County, buying a \$1.8 million no-bid, luxury Bell Jet Long Ranger helicopter incapable of killing a single skeeter, not unlike buying a Porsche to use with a snowplow. We persuaded AMCD to cancel illegal no-bid helicopter contract, saving \$1.8 million in 2007.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Advancing research and education while protecting scientific integrity and employee whistleblower rights; safeguarding the independence of AMCD, an independent scientific and technical organization; protecting public health, the environment and public funds. Let's assure that "whistleblower" ethical employees are heard and heeded whenever they raise concerns. Let's resist any further effort by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to take over independent AMCD, as was attempted under former SJC County Administrator Michael Wanchick and County Commission Chairmen. I oppose allowing arbitration clauses in AMCD contracts, Yes, I've been a watchdog of mosquito control environmental protection and spending since December 2006.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

Helped persuade our independent mosquito district to cancel unwise, no-bid luxury \$1.8 million helicopter contract. Won declassification of our frail planet's largest-ever mercury pollution event (Oak Ridge, Tenn. Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Plant), triggering nationwide cleanups; recommended for Pulitzer Prize by DA. Clerked for USDOL Chief Administrative Law Judge Nahum Litt and Judge

Charles Rippey. Staffer for Senators Ted Kennedy, Gary Hart & Jim Sasser. B.S.F.S., Georgetown U.; J.D., Memphis State U. Your watchdog, termed an "environmental hero" by FOLIO WEEKLY (after reporting City's illegal dumping of landfill in lake and illegal sewage effluent pollution of our saltwater marsh). Shall we ask questions, demand answers & expect democracy?

#### **How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very important

#### **Explain your answer.**

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" informs good science and use of non-toxic natural pesticides as much as possible. Amid global climate change, the next pandemic could be a mosquito-borne disease. Let's protect AMCD independence, education and applied research to protect public health and our environment. I support AMCD's leadership on natural pesticides. I once reported FEMA and AMCD to federal environmental law officials when bald eagles were exposed to organophosphate pesticides. Support AMCD working with other mosquito control districts and officials to share scientific knowledge to protect all of us "non-target species": mosquito control workers, residents, tourists, pets, horses, livestock, bees and other pollinators, flora and fauna.

#### **St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?**

Overdevelopment increases the expense of mosquito control and increases exposure of families to mosquitoes from wetlands. St. Johns County Commissioners, developers and their big money clout decide way too many unwise development decisions. This requires our nimble small mosquito control special taxing district to innovate, with sensitive adaptation of mosquito control techniques to protect entire new neighborhoods, which seem to spring up overnight, adjoining wetlands. Public education, applied research, sound science-based policies and non-toxic mosquito control methods, are all essential to protecting public health from mosquito-borne diseases. AMCD exists to prevent any outbreaks of deadly mosquito-borne diseases. We must do it right!

## **Anastasia Mosquito Control District Seat 4**

4 year term; Provide mosquito control services, community education and research in St. John's County.

### **Trish Becker**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.Trishthecommish.com](http://www.Trishthecommish.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/TrishTheCommish](http://www.facebook.com/TrishTheCommish)

**Campaign Twitter Handle:** @TrishTheCommish

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 120 Stokes Landing Road St. Augustine FL 32095

**Campaign Phone:** 3522873586

**Campaign Website:** [www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/405337/trish-becker](http://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/405337/trish-becker)

**Candidate Video:** <https://youtu.be/2s9xX8RDniA>

#### **What motivated you to run for office?**

I was a community advocate who marched routinely for change. The lack of change is what inspired me to run for office. I believe every single office should be filled with people with different points of view and backgrounds. In my particular office, Special District County Commissioner at the Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD), my son and my technician's passion for the job inspired me to choose that exact office. I believe in science, reasoning, conservative spending, treating employees well, and finding new treatment methods. I believe that we can take on the world's deadliest predator, the female mosquito, without killing ourselves with dangerous chemicals. The work done at AMCD is world renowned, and I plan to keep it that way.

#### **What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

The most pressing issue as an AMCD Commissioner is informing residents and our representatives on why Mosquito Control is essential. We use taxpayers' money and must do so in their best interests. In Tallahassee, there's legislation being written to remove Special Districts, and we cannot let that happen. As the Florida Mosquito Control Association Commissioners Caucus Secretary, it is my job to advocate for mosquito-related resources in the State, Nationally, and Internationally. I will continue to reach across all isles and work

with everyone I can to continue the research and development we do at AMCD; our work helps mosquito control globally. I will continue to lobby in D.C. and prove that bipartisanship can work for all of our safety.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

Four years ago, I was just a Mom against chemicals whose son was allergic to mosquito bites. Now, I'm an informed and passionate Commissioner who kept my promise to educate myself, employees and residents. I graduated from SJR in Business Administration in May and start Flagler College soon. I completed the Global Challenge of Vector Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I attend, lecture, and complete the annual DODD Commissioners Courses. I've made hundreds of school and event visits to educate and have training in fiscal responsibility, management, and science. Most importantly, as a first-generation Greek American, I can translate- making financial, political, and scientific data understandable for all.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

As an award-winning government agency, we must follow stringent laws, labels, and guidelines. We must provide inventory usage on every ounce of chemical we use. We follow the Clean Air and Water Act and consider ourselves Environmentalists. We strive to make the least impact on the environment. We use innovative biologic tools to treat and prevent dangerous mosquitoes from infecting humans, horses, and pets. Last year, AMCD received over 1 million dollars in grant funding to research more environmentally friendly treatments. Our larvicide is organic matter from soil. We grow Gambusia fish to give to residents for free; they eat mosquito larvae. We educate residents to empty standing water so they don't grow mosquitoes. We love this planet.

St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?

It directly impacts Mosquito Control. In SJC, there are 42 species of mosquitoes; but only 5 of them are considered dangerous to humans, horses, or pets. We are not in the business of killing every mosquito. We are only interested in mosquitoes that can harm us, mostly in urban and swampland. If developers cut down naturally forested areas, the animals living there will flee. When that happens, what will the mosquitoes there eat? I am afraid it will be us, then we will have to worry about them transmitting new viruses. We must be diligent in not disturbing the natural food chain to stay on top. The forest animals must remain there, or we will see many problems, especially in our Operations; having to treat more will raise taxes.

**Chris George**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.vote4chrisgeorge.com](http://www.vote4chrisgeorge.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/ChrisGeorge32081](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisGeorge32081)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Eagle Rock DrPonte VedraFL32081

**Campaign Phone:** 9044953045

**Campaign Website:** [www.vote4chrisgeorge.com](http://www.vote4chrisgeorge.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have decided to run for the Mosquito Control Board in the November election because it is a group that has a direct impact on my family. I am a born and raised Floridian and have dealt with the dreaded mosquito all of my life. I have always wanted to be a part of my community, and saw this opportunity as a perfect example of where I can bring my past experiences in business and finance to help the people in our county. My purpose is to sustain clarity in the finances, while protecting the residence of St. Johns County. I will help push forward research and technology to combat the cause, while also being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of this county.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

One cannot complain unless they are prepared to offer a solution and do something about it. I plan to do just that, and to build up the great county we all call home. Spending seems to be at an all time high. Unnecessary expenditures need to be resolved and accounted for in the future. Ways to monetize what we currently have, instead of relying on tax collection will be a top priority.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have spent the better part of my working career in finance and business management. Fiscal responsibility is a top concern when dealing with other peoples money. Wasteful spending is what I plan on changing. Using my back ground, we will determine better ways to spend money while also making our current facilities pay for themselves. My conservative money management will help reel in some of the more pressing expenditures.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Working within the EPA guidelines while also maintaining the safety of our residents is top concern and priority above all. Should take precedence over all decisions made within this organization.

**St. Johns County is growing rapidly. How does this impact the management of mosquito control?**

With the massive influx of people, more control will need to occur. Areas previously woodland will now be home to new residents that will need the protection this office offers. Bringing these new communities into the fold of our regular control will be a top priority so they receive the protection they are paying for.

## **St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission Group 1**

4 year term; Authority for information on activities, projects and news pertaining to the St. Augustine waterway. no salary.

### **Sandy Flowers**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

-no response-

### **Linda Thomson**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [Www.vote4lindathomson.com](http://www.vote4lindathomson.com)

**Facebook** [Facebook.com/vote4lindathomson](https://www.facebook.com/vote4lindathomson)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 415 N Ocean Grande Dr.PH6Ponte Vedra BeachFL32082

**Campaign Phone:** 904-669-2169

**Campaign Website:** [WWW.vote4lindathomson.com](http://WWW.vote4lindathomson.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I watched our beach erosion and renourishment with sand year after year. Last year the sand was quickly washed out by the first storm of the season and we were left with a 15 foot drop from the top of the sand to the water. Beach access was impossible. We have just repeated the renourishment process again at an expense of \$62 million in federal money. Those funds come out of residents' pockets through taxes. I understand the definition of insanity - to keep doing the same thing and expect different results. SO, rather than just complain, I decided it was my responsibility to run for Port, Waterway and Beach District - Seat 1 - and make a difference. I believe we should consult experts and government agencies to explore options.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Erosion & Dredging - Consult experts, state and federal agencies, to explore long term solutions.

Insufficient boat ramps and beach accessibility - work with local agencies to purchase and develop public beach/ICW access and parking.

Educating residents and visitors to preserve and protect water assets - respect wake zones, stop pollution, respect oyster beds.

Protection of wildlife and safety on the water - work with the CG Auxillary, FL Fish and Wildlife, SA Police, FL Inland Navigational District to enforce wake zones, water safety regulations, etc.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I was the principal of Nease High School in St. John's County and Fairfax High School in Fairfax, VA. I have a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Supervision and enjoyed a 41 year career in public schools. I understand the importance of listening to constituents.

As a Coast Guard family, we lived on the coast of NY, TX, FL, CA, and VA. I have seen how those states protect their coast. We can learn from the success of others. I am active in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary and have completed FEMA training.

I'm active in the community by serving in the Rotary, the Republican Executive Committee of SJC, the Guardian ad Litem program, the Anastasia Baptist Church Quilt Ministry and my home-owners-association.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

Very unimportant

**Explain your answer.**

Environmental concerns are critical to the preservation and protection of our wildlife, beaches and waterways. We must respect the recreational and commercial benefits of our waterways while we enjoy the benefits of the natural resources.

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

It is difficult to provide adequate access and parking at our beaches and waterways. With a population that has more than doubled, our beaches, roads, water access and parking have not done so. In addition, our tourism industry has increased exponentially as well. We are challenged (1) to educate our residents and visitors about the responsible and safe use of our waterways and beaches and (2) to provide adequate access to our recreational and commercial assets.

## **St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission Group 3**

4 year term; Authority for information on activities, projects and news pertaining to the St. Augustine waterway

**Michelle Bennett**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [VoteMichelleBennett.com](http://VoteMichelleBennett.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/StAugustinePort](http://www.facebook.com/StAugustinePort)

**Campaign Phone:** (904)339-5560

**Campaign Website:** [VoteMichelleBennett.com](http://VoteMichelleBennett.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I moved to St Augustine, along with my husband, over 11 years ago because of the amazing waterways and the history of the old port. As an avid boater (both powerboat and sailboat), I understand the delicate balance of both access and preservation. I've been heavily involved with many organizations that use the bay front, intracoastal waterway and area shores, and will represent this community as new projects are considered by the board.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Our boat ramps and beach parking are too crowded. Expanding access to the beaches and waterways for the local community while protecting the natural resource is my top priority.

I'm incredibly passionate about our waterways and absolutely committed to bringing accountability the commission. Vote Michelle Bennett for group 3 of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I bring over 25 years of experience as a Human Resource Consultant for various large and small technology corporations and understand the need to leverage both business expertise while balancing company personnel and system performance.

Additionally, I'm committed to community service and throughout the years I've given my time from everything from Search and Rescue to Sea Turtle Beach Patrol. I'm an active member/volunteer of several local boating organizations, including a Founder of the St Augustine Cruisers Net (local and visiting boaters), Advisory Board Member of the St Augustine Sailing Sisters, Cruising Station Host for the Seven Seas Cruising Association, and Committee Member with the St Augustine Yacht Club.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

Important

**Explain your answer.**

Clean waterways are critical to the enjoyment of the community who fish, swim and paddle here. We must care for this resource for it to thrive!

For example, dredging is a necessity of any inlet and port area along the Atlantic. But dredging with newer technology will do the job more effectively with less damage to the environment. We need people on this board who will consider all aspects and make the right choice.

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

With more people calling St Augustine home, we're seeing much more crowding at the boat ramps and beach access points. There are viable options to add access points in areas that will alleviate this problem and reduce congestion in high traffic areas.

**Harold David Bishop Jr**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

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**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/votebishop](http://www.facebook.com/votebishop)

**Campaign Twitter Handle:** [truthsocial.com/@davebishop](https://twitter.com/truthsocial.com/@davebishop)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1093 A1A Beach Blvd#401St AugustineFL32080

**Campaign Phone:** 904-479-8240

**Campaign Website:** [www.vote4bishop.com](http://www.vote4bishop.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I hope to use my business and leadership experience in St John's county to bring back common sense decisions to the council that will benefit the residents of our county.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Beach & Waterway Safety, Beach Maintenance

Beach Erosion, Boat Ramp Issues,

Intercoastal Traffic & Taxi,

Dredging Issues

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

Management and Engineering of over 100 multi-million dollar projects spanning 38 years involving, water, food, drugs, and industrial manufacturing.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

Important

**Explain your answer.**

All decisions related to the beach, waterway, and port have an environmental impact as well as a financial impact. A balance has to be maintained.

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

Challenges due to unprecedented growth in St Johns County:

- Increased trash cleanup and dune damage along beaches.
- Increased boat traffic affects shoreline plant growth.
- Increased boat traffic endangering manatees and wildlife.
- Increased boat ramp usage which is in a state of failure.
- Beach erosion while minimizing loss of use.
- Awareness and protection of turtle nesting and hatching on the beach.

## **Matt Brown**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 19 Hope St Saint AugustineFL32084



**Campaign Phone:** 6462477837

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I ran for office to serve my community, and to be an advocate for smarter, more responsible stewardship of local waterways.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

In no particular order, the three biggest issues facing the District are:

- decades of uncontrolled growth placing enormous strain on our inadequate infrastructure
- deteriorating economic conditions producing an uptick in derelict vessels, threatening safety, navigability, and the environment
- the ever-present threat of catastrophic storm damage to our waterways

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have four years of experience serving on this Commission and dealing with the issues and players in this arena. I've also used my time here to pursue relationships with related organizations like the Matanzas Riverkeeper and the Guana Tolomato Research Reserve in an effort to advance the District's interests and to create opportunities for collaboration. In my two years as Chair of the District, I've also been responsible for additional day-to-day operations and served as liaison to several other agencies and governmental bodies. In my professional life, I have extensive experience working on issues related to infrastructure and intergovernmental relations, all of which informs my work with the Port District.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Having grown up here, and having watched our community suffer from decades of unchecked and irresponsible growth, it is extremely important to me that government work to conserve and enhance our natural resources. In my time as a commissioner I've been active in inviting members of the scientific and environmental communities to engage with the District and to collaborate on scientific and environmental remediation projects, and I hope to continue and build on that work in another term in office.

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

Runaway growth has put enormous strain on our inadequate waterway infrastructure, particularly waterway access. The District has set aside funds to help address this through construction of new boat ramps, and has worked with the County to expand existing ramps to help ease the capacity problems we're facing.

More generally, unchecked growth has created significant environmental issues, like dangerously poor water quality, as well as degradation of dunes, salt marsh, and other coastal environs that are critical to protecting us from storm surge. Here too, the District has been able to work to address these issues, funding beach walkovers, water quality studies, and other projects to mitigate the damage done by the growth in our area.

## **City of St. Augustine Commissioner Seat 4**

4 year term; City Commission has the responsibility to ensure the City fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers.

### **Cynthia Garris**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

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**Campaign Phone:** 904-377-8555



**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have worked for the City of St Augustine for 12 years and 11 months. I just retired in September 17, 2021. I had an opportunity to be the Facilities Management Coordinator for over a decade it gave me 1st hand knowledge as to what it requires to oversee the city properties and put in work orders to have repairs done with the Facilities Operations employees. I was inspired by a friend that we need diversity on the commission. I have a Masters Degree in Organizational Management. I ran for this same position 20 years ago. I know the staff I know the current commissioners which is a plus. The west side of the City needs representation it feels like the forgotten city when I speak to the residents. The new direction to focus in more areas.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

To address the concerns of the locals businesses and residents. To listen and seek the best solution to their concerns. To address the homeless and work with groups that can make solutions. The affordable housing it has already been approved to get more in our community. Preserving the environment for example the great group fish island alliance. More employees needed for the Facilities Operations Department to be able to address more repairs to our beautiful properties. There are so many pressing issues to climate change we have to come up with solutions. Flooding issues downtown which the City has been awarded some grants to address some of those areas. The King Street project to provide parking and transportation concerns.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have worked for the Clerk of Courts Office for over 10 years the City almost 13 years. I have a bachelor degree in Business and Marketing a Master's Degree in Organizational Management. I have knowledge of how each department functions. I will bring diversity and knowledge with a different perspective to focus on improving the quality of life for our city residents. I can identify with the low income residents that are struggling to maintain their homes and concerns. I can identify with the business owners that seek input from the Commission keep their business striving my marketing degree knowledge will help me help them. My compassion to help the veterans, the homeless the residents all that make our city unique.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

To have meetings with the local affordable housing apartments owners to seek knowledge of what steps need to be taken and who qualify for their properties. Knowledge is essential the commission recently approved affordable housing for the City and the County Commission approved additional homes be built. We need more housing but we need to make sure we don't overwhelm areas. We need surveys to address and provide answers to make sure we don't solve one problem and create another one.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Important

**Explain your answer.**

To ensure a great future for future generations to come we need to concentrate on the results of climate change. The summers are getting hotter and longer we have to make sure climate change manageable so we can have better parks in St Augustine better.

**Bruce Maguire**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO BOX 2202 Saint Augustine FL 32084

**Campaign Phone:** 904-669-3059

**What motivated you to run for office?**

Our Commission and Administration need to focus on what is best for the residents and businesses, not tourists. Tourism will grow if the City takes care of its own.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

1. Increase City transparency and openness, such as putting Commission & citizen board's meetings back on government television.
2. Construct adequate parking and reduce traffic congestion, rather than just talk about it. Improving/maintaining the quality of life for our residents and businesses are my primary focus.
3. Focus our tax dollars, programs and projects for the residents and businesses, rather than the tourists. Our efforts need to improve the livability of the city, not to saturate the city with excessive tourist problems or legacy projects. As the nation's oldest city and a small community, we need to maintain our historical character and charm.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I spent 21 years in the US Air Force as an officer and fighter pilot. I was Chairman of the County Commission and of the St Augustine Airport Authority. I know how to listen and lead and make valid decisions rather than propose more studies.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

St Augustine has limited financial resources and is too small a community to effectively and efficiently add affordable housing to its already over-priced housing market. The City needs to work cooperatively with the County and private organizations to provide adequate affordable housing. In addition, the City can help the community to devise alternative private actions, which could provide financial support for the lower income families, thereby preventing homelessness.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Sea level rise, if it happens as forecast, will eventually destroy the downtown core of St Augustine as well as on the island, both residential areas and business districts.

## City of St. Augustine Commissioner Seat 5

4 year term; City Commission has the responsibility to ensure the City fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers.

### Melinda G. Rakoncay



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [VoteMelinda.com](http://VoteMelinda.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/Melinda4CC](http://www.facebook.com/Melinda4CC)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 86 Magnolia Avenue St. Augustine FL 32084

**Campaign Website:** [VoteMelinda.com](http://VoteMelinda.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I love St. Augustine and want to preserve what is so unique and wonderful about this city. With two incumbents retiring from the City Commission, I felt it was important to elect someone with extensive experience in working with city staff and attending city meetings. I know how long meetings can last, how thick the packets are, and how familiar one must be with all sides of an issue. Because I know what a commitment of time and energy being a good City Commissioner requires, I did not take the decision to run lightly. I see being City Commissioner as a calling for public service.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

**Livability:** We must protect the livability of our neighborhoods, which are a critical part of the quality of life and future of St. Augustine. I will work with all stakeholders to balance the needs of residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors. Our city needs all of these.

**Traffic Congestion & Parking:** The city has a long-range parking and mobility plan, which I will continue to push forward and engage the public on. **Flooding & Resiliency:** which I address in the last question.

**Preservation:** We must never forget that St. Augustine is the Nation's Oldest City with over 450 years of layered history. We have an obligation to preserve that authentic history for future generations. Preservation will be important part of my decision making.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

As a resident of one of St. Augustine's historic neighborhoods since 1980, I have been involved for over 40 years in protecting and preserving what makes St. Augustine unique. Those who have worked with me know how thorough I am in my research, my understanding of the city's Municipal Code, and my participation in city meetings. When I speak on an issue, it is not just from feelings, but from an understanding of our code and how it relates to the issue at hand. Years of involvement with PZB, HARB, & City Commission meetings give me an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing our city. As President of the Neighborhood Council for the past six years, I have worked with city staff on the concerns of residents.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

This is an important issue that has no easy answers. Because there is little affordable land left inside the city limits, St. Augustine is going to have to work with St. Johns County to find suitable property that can accommodate the density required for affordable housing.

Ideally the location should be where a regular shuttle or bus system can also provide transportation into the city for those who work in the service industry.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

As the Nation's Oldest City, it is of vital importance that we protect its historic resources, businesses, and neighborhoods from flooding. I will make sure that the city moves forward with the Army Corps of Engineers' three-year Back Bay Feasibility Study and that Jessica Beach, our Chief Resilience Officer, has the budget and support to carry forth the City's long-range Resiliency Plan. This should help greatly with our flooding problems. I will be sure that residents and businesses are informed and engaged in this issue of critical importance to St. Augustine's future.

**Jim Springfield**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Website:** [www.votejimspringfield.com](http://www.votejimspringfield.com)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/search/top?q=vote%20jim%20springfield](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=vote%20jim%20springfield)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 6 Althea St. St. Augustine FL 32084

**Campaign Phone:** 904-669-3225

**Campaign Website:** [www.votejimspringfield.com](http://www.votejimspringfield.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have always felt there is something special about St. Augustine. It has been in my life as long as I can remember. I served the city as a City Commission appointed Trustee of the St. Augustine Firefighter's fund for ten years. I have seen the care and concern city employees have for their work. I have also heard the frustrations of residents. Many feel the city is not truly concerned with their needs. It is critical that the residents be heard and represented.

Ben Franklin, at 70 years old, said "Being in the last act I cast about for something fit to end with, I am desirous for concluding with a bright point." He was my age when he said this and began to help write our constitution. I have a desire to serve for the common good.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

I am concerned for the safety of the residents, the environment and the balance in which the Commission focuses its actions.

The Police and Fire staffing formulas need to be based on the amount of residents and visitors who potentially will be within the city limits. The new hotels being built will add additional burden to the Police and Fire departments and they need to be properly staffed.

Flooding affects my property as it does many in the city. We need to stay focused on the potential harm we are doing each day with new homes and changes to properties. We must also work on increasing the green spaces within the city.

Lastly, creating a balance of attention between the residents needs and the need of businesses and visitors.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have over two decades of governmental administrative work as a School Administrator and Assistant Superintendent of Schools in St. Johns County. I have extensive experience with government funding, audits, legislation, employee relations, collective bargaining agreement and much more. I have written proposed legislation, and lobbied in Tallahassee.

As Chief Negotiator for the School district I was able to create win-win situation with labor and management. Collective Bargaining gave me experience in listening to individual concerns and the needs of the entire district and being able to create a win-win.

I understand the role a board in the successful governing.

I have served this city as an appointed trustee of a retirement fund.

**What should the local government do to meet the affordable housing needs of residents?**

Provide any available appropriate land which may be used for housing.  
Work diligently with county officials to insure proper attention in given to this problem.  
Work with businesses to seek incentives which might help offer increase pay for the lowest paid worker.  
Encourage small square footage housing options to keep costs down.  
Lobby our State Government for additional dollars for this cause.  
Work with developers to offer a percentage of new construction priced for the lowest paid workers in the city.

**How important is the role of climate resilience when making decisions for the community?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Planning for resiliency now and well into the future is critical as weather continues to become more damaging.  
Any actions taken now will have a ripple effect on the future. One small addition of a raised lot, filling of wetlands, or other ill advised construction can multiply the affects to others.  
Educating the residents on how they can help mitigate weather related damage is a step in the right direction.  
Providing funds for residency projects will be funding well spent.  
Due diligence in repairs to infrastructure and creation of new alternative for water mitigation will be on going challenges which must be met.

**St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission Group 5**

4 year term; Authority for information on activities, projects and news pertaining to the St. Augustine waterway

**Marco Edward Klovnish**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

-no response-

St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?

-no response-

**Melanie Sunshine Neale**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?

-no response-

What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

-no response-

How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?

-no response-

Explain your answer.

-no response-

St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?

-no response-

## **Tom Rivers**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/tomjrivers](https://www.facebook.com/tomjrivers)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 303 Porpoise Point Dr St Augustine FL 32084

**Campaign Phone:** 904-347-6986

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I have served for 3 terms and would like to continue as the number of boaters and beach goers has increased tremendously in the last 12 years. More boat ramps are needed and safe beach walkovers as well. We must continue to monitor the reopened Summer Haven river and prevent further breaches that could fill the riverbed and make it non-navigable again.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

Helping all law enforcement agencies locally within the port district to maintain a high level of equipment and personnel to assure safety for the general public.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

My experience has been 12 years on the job facing a multitude of issues that have come before the port commission.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Environmental concerns are the main concern when we consider the method used in channel dredging, boat ramps or beach walkovers.

**St. Johns County is experiencing unprecedented growth. What challenges does that growth present to our waterways and beaches?**

The main concern I have is that our district needs to be expanded to encompass all of St Johns County. As cost for services rises the tax base needs to be expanded to meet the demands of natural changes. Such as remediation after hurricanes or tropical storms.

## **St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 2**

4 year term; Operates the public Northeast Florida Regional airport.

## **Dennis M. Clarke**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

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**Campaign Mailing Address:** 151 Scotland Yard Blvd Saint Johns FL 32259

**Campaign Phone:** 9047162327

**Campaign Website:** [www.votedennisclarke.com](http://www.votedennisclarke.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I've had an extensive career in accounting and fiscal management. As a private pilot, and tenant of the airport, with my two Piper Cherokee co-owners, I began to attend the monthly meetings of the Airport Authority. As I observed the proceedings and reviewed the information provided to the Board, I concluded that our airport was not living up to its potential, is less than transparent in its actions, and has a low profile outside of the local aviation community.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

I have serious concerns that our Airport Board lacks a member with the financial acumen to hold management accountable for what I consider serious administrative shortcomings. In short, my goal is to insure transparency and accountability to the citizens of our county in all aspects of operational and financial matters.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's in business administration plus executive and managerial experience in the banking, construction, insurance, and utility industries, among others. I am also a private pilot and am familiar with FAA regulations and airport operations.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Environmental concerns are in everyone's interest and must be baked into every business decision. Good environmental policy is good business.

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

The Saint Johns County Airport Authority receives zero (\$0.00) tax revenue from the county at this time and I plan to keep it that way. The airport is self-sustaining with revenue coming primarily from Northrup-Grumman, the fixed base operator, Atlantic Aviation, and hangar rentals and fuel sales from private and corporate aircraft owners.

## **Beth Tate**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/VoteBethTate/](http://www.facebook.com/VoteBethTate/)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 441 E Kesley Ln Saint Johns FL 32259

**Campaign Phone:** 9043428499

**What motivated you to run for office?**

I was motivated to run for the Airport Authority Board by the ability to use my business experience to improve the operation of the airport to enable economic benefit to county residents.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

The airport is an under-utilized economic asset in the county. There is not currently a good relationship between the airport, the county, and the residents in the county. There is a Master Plan for the airport with no plan on how to implement what is proposed. There needs to be a strong business plan to back up the Master Plan. There needs to be better utilization of idle property owned by the airport. This could be used to help draw aviation related businesses into the county. There needs to be closer alignment with local schools to bring young people into the field of aviation. They are our future!

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

My desire is to utilize my strong business skills and experience to give back to the county and help move St. Johns County Forward. My business background and experience on both corporate and non-profit Boards combined with my long affiliation with General Aviation as a hobby, gives me a unique perspective for the Board. I have the necessary experience to oversee large budgets and large strategic implementation programs on Day 1. I believe St. Johns County is at an inflection point in growth and the airport can be an important part of our path forward.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

The airport is positioned on the Intracoastal Waterway and operations of the airport can have far reaching consequences. Close proximity of the airport to the Guana Tolomato Reserve requires the airport to be vigilant and not impact the environment.

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

The airport is not currently on the Ad Valorem tax rolls and is currently self funding. However, the airport should be part of helping the county to attract more companies with high paying jobs to the county and thus helping to shift the tax base to have less reliance on residential property taxes.

**David W. Venters**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 116 Canopy Oak Ln Ponte Vedra FL 32081

**Campaign Phone:** 904-631-9410

**What motivated you to run for office?**

Help the airport to develop in a responsible manner for the benefit of all citizens. I also believe the airport is an important economic asset for the county and needs to plan for the future.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

1. Keep the airport financially self-sufficient and free from local taxes.
2. The development of the airport authority property west of U.S. 1.

By enhancing and improving airport operations and responsible growth and property development, I believe we can continue to be self-sufficient and financially independent from the county.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I am a retired air traffic controller with both civilian and active duty military experience. I also was an aircrew member in the U.S. Air Force Reserves with over 1300 flight hours. I have worked at multiple aviation facilities and was on the staff of the Air Traffic Manager as an Aviation Plans and Programs specialist. After retirement, I was an adjunct professor of aviation at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ).

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very unimportant

**Explain your answer.**

I am very concerned with the potential environmental issues in the development of the airport authority property west of U.S. 1. I strongly believe we should set aside green space in addition to being sensitive to the needs of the citizens to develop the land for economic benefits.

The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?

Currently, the airport is financially self-sufficient and free from local taxes. In order to maintain that status, I would propose responsible development that will generate more leasing opportunities like aircraft hangers. Most of our current revenue at the airport is generated by long-term leases.

## St. Johns County Airport Authority Group 3

4 year term; Operates the public Northeast Florida Regional airport.

### John C. (Jack) Gorman

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

-no response-

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

-no response-

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

-no response-

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

-no response-

**Explain your answer.**

-no response-

The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?

-no response-

### Jennifer Liotta



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** 904-539-7404

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 2220 County Rd 210 wSTE 108 PMB 132 Jacksonville FL 32259

**Campaign Website:** jenniferliotta.com

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/jenniferairport

**What motivated you to run for office?**

As a business owner at the St Augustine Airport, and resident of the community, I have seen how the airport is operated, and how it could be improved. Specifically, I believe the airport can do more to attract businesses that will bring quality jobs to the community, create and support public use and access projects such as a public park, and be more transparent and accountable to the voters of St Johns county.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

The St. Augustine Airport is a major public asset. It needs a strategic business plan to set direction and measure progress, solid governance, and a focus on benefiting the community.

As a business executive and attorney, I understand what is needed to make the airport attractive to employers who will create quality jobs. As a voter, I believe in accountability and transparency, and am committed to improving Airport governance. As a parent, spouse, and aspiring pilot, I am invested in improving the airport for aviation users and the community.



**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I have fifteen plus years of legal, business, and corporate governance experience. My legal experience includes high-stakes business litigation, start-up and large company corporate law. I have years of experience advising, and serving on, boards of directors. This experience, along with my knowledge of current airport operations, will make me an effective board member.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Important

**Explain your answer.**

All major airport projects must meet environmental standards, so the airport must select qualified engineering firms to plan and perform airport projects.

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

The St Johns County Airport Authority is self-sustaining and does not receive county tax revenue. The airport authority must be vigilant in allocating its resources to remain off the tax rolls, and also select projects that will bring maximum benefit to the community. This will require mindful long-term planning and selection of projects and partnerships that have the right cost-benefit features.

**Susan G. Phillips**



**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

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**Campaign Website:** [www.voteforsusanphillips.com](http://www.voteforsusanphillips.com)

**Website:** [www.VoteforSusanPhillips.com](http://www.VoteforSusanPhillips.com)

**What motivated you to run for office?**

Having grown up in a military family, I developed a passion for both aviation and community service that has followed me from my upbringing in Atlanta, then to Asheville, NC, Myrtle Beach, SC, and ultimately to St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Over the past five years, I've watched the exponential growth in St. Johns County and its impact on our local economy, infrastructure, and residents. The local community is voicing concerns about managing growth. We must also strategically plan for the future of our local airport and leverage it for smart growth and maximum economic impact, both short-term and long-term. Our airport is, and should be, a significant economic engine for St. Johns County.

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

We need a fiscally responsible airport strategic plan that benefits residents and not special interests. We must also avoid any taxation on SJC residents. Balancing the needs of general and commercial aviation is a tightrope that the NEFR Airport Authority Board must manage in a very diligent and thoughtful manner.

I will use my decades of experience to position our airport to best serve residents, local pilots, and new/prospective small businesses. I am passionate & committed to providing an active, listening, and thoughtful voice that will focus on implementation of a short-term and long-term strategic plan to meet the needs of our residents for general aviation, small business development, and commercial air service opportunities.

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

I bring a wealth of 30+ years of aviation experience and a different and much-needed perspective. I've been on the airline (Delta Air Lines) and destination marketing side (Visit Myrtle Beach, and SJC Visitors & Convention Bureau) and on the airport management side at the Asheville (NC) Regional Airport with issues including air service development/ management/operations, DOT grant

funding/execution, community support/engagement, operational & safety requirements, tenant support, economic development, and general aviation collaboration/development.  
My extensive ongoing corporate background in aviation, business, legal, government, and destination marketing uniquely qualify me to serve on the Northeast Regional Airport Authority Board.

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

Very important

**Explain your answer.**

Maintaining our amazing natural environment and habitat is key for all businesses in Northeast Florida, including our Airport. We must operate in an environmentally sustainable manner that conserves natural resources and protects the environment. This requires proper planning, design, operation and maintenance of projects and airport property. While we have been successful in sustainability initiatives, we need to partner with businesses and move forward with new energy efficient projects, educational opportunities, and community involvement that tie-in with Federal Aviation Administration and other funded projects. With new Board leadership, we can do more.

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

For FY2021-22, the Airport Authority manages a \$4.2 mil budget with current revenues & reserves & grants of \$5.1 million. Total operating expenses are \$2.9 million, with reserves/capital non-operating expenses of \$6.4 million. The Airport doesn't receive funding from SJC tax revenues.

I will ensure that the Airport remains a transportation hub for all SJC residents, without support of taxpayer dollars. We have general aviation, commercial aviation, and small businesses that will be a part of the economic health of St. Johns County when actively approached. Last, we should continue to be a beacon and catalyst for attracting aviation businesses to our area to grow and develop clout as the aviation airport for up-and-coming businesses.

## **Jaime R. Topp**

**Party:** NON-PARTISAN OFFICE

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**What motivated you to run for office?**

- no response -

**What do you see as the most pressing issues for this office and how do you propose to address them?**

- no response -

**What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

- no response -

**How important are environmental concerns when making decisions for the St. Johns County Airport Authority?**

- no response -

**Explain your answer.**

- no response -

**The airport authority receives a significant amount in county tax revenues. What is your vision for how those revenues can best be allocated as SJC continues to grow?**

- no response -

## **St. Johns County Ten Year Sales Surtax to Fund Countywide Public Infrastructure and Improvements**

To provide for safer neighborhoods, reduce traffic congestion, and improve roadways and public facilities, shall St. Johns County levy a one-cent sales surtax for a period of ten years to fund road improvements, alternative transportation facilities, and infrastructure for law enforcement, emergency services, public parks and recreation facilities, libraries, storm water management, and coastal erosion management projects, beginning on January 1, 2023?