



Beaches Activists Movement 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

Questions	Atlantic Beach Mayor (Seat 1)		
	Curtis Ford	Sean Keane	Brittany Norris
<p>1. Please tell us briefly why you are seeking this office and what life, professional, and volunteer experiences have prepared you for this role, including service on volunteer city boards.</p>	<p>I have 37 years of professional experience in Banking and Finance. For the past 20 years I have volunteered, served as a member of the Board of Directors and as President/CEO of Beaches Habitat for Humanity. Additional service includes the Board of Directors of Beaches Fine Arts and 25 years as a member and past president of Jacksonville Oceanside Rotary.</p> <p>My unique skill set with my professional and volunteer experience will help guide me as Mayor of our city.</p>	<p>I'm Sean Keane I'm running for mayor. I'm pro common sense, pro reasonableness which I think will lead to greater and much-needed unity in our community. I bring a strong background of leadership to the table, working with people all over the globe in high stakes situations. I seek to unite us by building up the things we all love and enjoy about living in this city.</p> <p>I'm pro business and think there's significant areas to reduce and streamline our government bureaucracy, but that most certainly doesn't have to come at the expense of our schools, parks, trees, marshlands and beaches.</p>	<p>Over the last five years as City Commissioner, I have done a lot of good for my neighbors in Marsh Oaks and also for our city as a whole. Investing in my community has been part of my day-to-day since moving to Atlantic Beach in 2010.</p>
<p>2. What would you say are the 3 most important issues facing Atlantic Beach in the next 5 years? And what are your priority proposals for the one you consider most important?</p>	<p>1) Keep our Streets Safe 2) Protect and Enhance our Quality of Life 3) Prudent Use of your Tax Dollars</p> <p>We must be laser focused on public safety and hire at least 7 new police officers by finding new ways to attract and retain these needed public servants. We must also make sure our streets are walkable and fully accessible to two wheeled vehicles. Finally, we must fully enforce all traffic and parking regulations.</p>	<p>Storm water management/infrastructure improvement, more efficient/effective city government, residential and commercial permitting</p>	<p>Nestled between the Atlantic and the Intracoastal, the top issue and reality we are facing as a city is increased water. Summer thunderstorms are increasing in severity, larger hurricanes threaten the coast each year, and all that combined with rising sea levels puts our neighborhoods at risk. We need to build opportunities for resilience as waters rise.</p> <p>The second and third are split between protecting the character of our beach town as a city of neighborhoods and continuing the fight for home rule in Tallahassee.</p>

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			But when it comes to increased water, we need to follow through with what we learned in our Coastal Vulnerability, Resiliency, and Adaptation Planning and do the hard work in updating vulnerable areas and infrastructure in our city. This takes money. That funding is going to come through state and federal opportunities, or ideally, from keeping more of our tax dollars here at home.
3. Stormwater management and sea level rise are of obvious concern for coastal communities like ours. If elected, what would you propose first to improve our community's ability to manage these threats?	We should focus on those things within our control such as integrating street paving with storm water infrastructure enhancements as compared with ad hoc improvements without consideration of one or the other.	We (COAB) would look at what other coastal communities have proposed or implemented. Such communities as Miami/ Miami Beach or the Netherlands have already planned or implemented against rising water concerns.	Over the last five years, the commission and city staff have done the legwork to identify weak points in our city for increased water encroachment. Now comes the hard part of acquiring the funding to put plan sin action. My primary goal is to get dollars to Atlantic Beach so we can update aging pipes in old Atlantic Beach, build up roads and lift stations throughout the city, address standing water and weak points along Hopkins Creek and more.
4. As you make decisions regarding new development, how will you balance maintaining our city's character and livability with the pressure to continue growing?	There is not much land available for large scale development but there are homes that sit on multiple lots that are being purchased with the intent to knock down and replace them with multiple homes. In some cases the reverse is occurring with lots being assembled to build one large home. We should review these projects individually to insure the livability of our community is not negatively impacted.	What is this pressure to continue growing? Residential or commercial? COAB is limited on the residential side when it comes to housing capacity.	This is one of those moments where the call is coming from inside the house. Atlantic Beach is built out. The threat of over-development now comes from folks clearing lots and building much larger houses. It's here that we need to balance both updating ordinances to protect the character of Atlantic Beach and also incentivizing people to make different, better, choices with their properties. Anything we can do to encourage folks to build creatively and consciously is a win for our city.
5. In today's divisive political atmosphere, many voters are looking for leaders who can bridge the gap between the	As CEO of Beaches Habitat I was tasked with working with Corporate CEO's and those families looking for their first home. One thing stood out: everyone had a common goal to help families realize the dream of	My leadership abilities have been tested and forged over 31 Years in the United States Army Special Operations/Special Forces. A leader unites people towards a common goal...the greater good for the community.	Throughout my campaigns and my time in office, I maintain a non-partisan approach in what I do...from engaging with citizens and problem-solving to standing as a representative of Atlantic Beach to

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parties. Is that a goal for you? How would you do it?	homeownership. I learned skills necessary to bring people from different viewpoints and backgrounds together to achieve a common goal. These are lessons that prepared me to be mayor.	I'm pro common sense, pro reasonableness which I think will lead to greater and much-needed unity in our community. This isn't an either-or world despite what those bring division would like us to believe. How would I do this...by first becoming Mayor.	outside agencies (City of Jacksonville, TPO, etc). It's cliché, but we're in this together. And as a leader, I look for common ground where folks can meet in the middle. The best way to accomplish this is to focus locally. For example, consider the increased reality of more stormwater and bigger storms...weather and water don't follow party lines. By focusing local, we can build cooperation amongst our neighbors and networks at large.
6. As our public beaches and city center draw increasing numbers of people, the demand for parking keeps growing. How would you tackle this problem - balancing the rights and needs of city residents with those of the general public?	Atlantic Beach Residents First. We welcome our visitors but must never forego our quality of life.	As the elected Mayor, first we (COAB) would look at the COAB current "course of actions" regarding this issue. After reviewing them, I would then "open the aperture" and speak with the Subject Matter Experts to see if there are other "Course of Actions" that may have been missed. There are other cities that have dealt with this issue, so let's do a little research.	In Seat 5, I represented the only district in Atlantic Beach that does not touch the ocean, so I understand the challenge of calming traffic to the beach but still making access for citizens easy. A solution being tested now is paid parking at our larger northern beach accesses. But that's not the end. I think Atlantic Beach needs a parking department that can respond to parking issues during peak season and also help build out a city-wide strategy. Plus, we need to make it simple for people in communicating what is and isn't an available spot. For example, perhaps it's a sea turtle mark on the ground? If you see a turtle, you can park there. If you don't, then no parking is allowed.
7. Our neighborhoods comprise residents of different socio-economic levels, ethnic groups and political viewpoints. How will you address the varied needs of all of our residents including those facing food insecurity, securing affordable housing and accessing health care?	AS CEO of Beaches Habitat I worked with residents at different socio-economic levels. I learned the concerns of those that did not know where their next meal would come from as well as the corporate CEO's trying to build a business and challenged in finding staff. I am the only candidate who has worked with such a broad array of people. I will use these lessons to work to the benefit of all of our citizens.	In regards to affordable housing, a course of action that the COAB should investigate is what St Johns County is currently doing with "Workforce Housing". For the AB citizens facing food insecurity, COAB should research and try to increase SNAP availability at some of our primary grocery stores in the beaches area.	This is an excellent opportunity to build upon our city's relationships with community partners like BEAM and Beaches Habitat. For example, BEAM has an amazing pantry and service center on Mayport Road and the city can take the easy step of making these services known to folks in the area.

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8. The Interlocal Agreement, first signed in 1982 and amended in 1996, specifies services provided by the City of Jacksonville to the Beach cities. Are there changes you think need to be made to this agreement? Please explain.	Yes. It has been over 25 years since the Interlocal Agreement was negotiated. We should not wait any longer to meet with our beach partners in Neptune and Jacksonville Beach to review the agreement for changes to present to COJ.	Yes. A lot has changed since 1996, COAB would first need to unite the beach cities (JB, NB and AB) and then pursue conversations with the COJ in regards to financial equality of property taxes and services provided.	Yes. Our interlocal agreement with Jacksonville is due for an update. A lot has changed over the last couple of decades with Jacksonville, including what services are rendered, how COJ is handling their trash pickup, and more. Plus, more of Atlantic Beach's tax dollars should stay in Atlantic Beach.
9. Is there anything else you would like to share with voters?	We are a small community. What makes us special is the way we interact and treat each other. My wife Leah and I have two rules: 1) Be a good neighbor 2) Take time to stop and talk with the people you meet on the street.	The world is what you make it. Be brave.	As the only mayoral candidate with experience at city hall, I can hit the ground running. I bring the benefit of continuity to this role and won't lose time catching up. And as folks can see from the prior questions and answers, there's a lot of work to do and only two years to do it.