

1. Fire and Emergency Services funding:

How would you propose to equalize fire and emergency services funding between North and South Walton?

This is certainly a sensitive issue going back to 1995 when I believe the South Walton Fire District was
created. I would propose the BCC establish a committee with a clear mandate and time schedule to
make recommendations to the BCC for an equitable solution for all parties. The committee would hold
workshops for public input as well as input from cities and/or fire departments within the North Walton Fire
District.

Do you favor or oppose requiring owners of vacant or farm land to pay for fire protection?

Favor Oppose (The Forestry Service is responsible for forested land.)

2. Tourist Development Council:

a. Do you favor or oppose placing the TDC Executive Director under the County Administrator:

Favor Oppose

b. Do you believe the TDC Board should have more authority over TDC decision-making? If so, would you favor or oppose changing the statute to enable this?

Authority Favor Oppose **Statue** Favor Oppose

c. Do you favor or oppose allowing the TDC Board to decide the number of Board meetings each year?

Favor Oppose

d. Do you favor or oppose requiring the BCC representative to the TDC Board be a Commissioner representing a South Walton District? If in favor, will you vote to require same?

Favor Oppose Yes No
(I feel such a requirement would politicize the TDC Board)

e. Do you favor requiring the TDC to have public workshops as is finally to be done in the proposed "Discovery Center" as a necessary prerequisite to any engagement of outside agencies/contractors as was already done in the present case?

Favor Oppose

f. Do you favor or oppose the use of TDC funds for use north of the Bay? Please explain your answer.

Favor Oppose

I think tourism effects all of Walton County and it would seem equitable to use TDC funds in targeted
areas throughout the County.

Tourist Development Council (continued)

g. Do you favor or oppose requiring that all documents produced in the conduct of TDC business, including specifically those produced by and in the custody of outside contractors such as advertising and marketing firms, should be made available in their entirety monthly?

Favor Oppose

h. Do you think the TDC operates with too much independence, about the right amount of direction, or not independently enough?

Too Much About Right Not Independently Enough

3. BCC Role

a. Should Commissioners have individual discretionary accounts for unbudgeted discretionary expenditures? If so, why?

Yes No

However, in cases of public safety and true emergency situations such as hurricanes and natural disasters, Commissioners should have discretionary authority.

b. Should Commissioners micromanage county employees, or restrict their role to policy-making, budgeting and oversight of management?

Micromanage Restrict to Policy & Budget Oversight

c. Have the numerous early terminations of department heads and administrators have been a good thing for Walton County? Please explain.

Yes No

Early terminations are usually a deterrent to the stability and continuity of government business. The BCC should always seek capable long term personnel.

BCC Role (continued)

d. Do you favor or oppose allowing the office of the County Attorney re-organizing both itself and various county procedures and policies as exemplified by the recent proposals by Toni Craig? If opposed, please explain.

_____ Favor _____ Oppose

At this time, I do not have sufficient information as to proposed changes to have an informed opinion.

e. Do you favor or oppose using in-house legal vs outsourcing? If opposed, please explain.

___√___ Favor _____ Oppose

However, there are occasions when specific legal expertise is required from outside sources.

f. Do you favor or oppose using in-house outsourcing for road building and maintenance?

___√___ Favor _____ Oppose

I favor in-house resources as much as possible depending on work loads and the size of road building projects which may exceed the County's in-house personnel and equipment.

g. What other changes would you make to improve county government and the role of the BCC?

1) *Schedule more workshops for short term and long term planning.*

2) *Strengthen the policies for economic and community development.*

3) *Encourage public input on as many issues as possible.*

h. How would you improve transparency in Walton BCC processes?

1) I would encourage citizens to contact me for any specific issues and would have regular "open house" sessions in my district.

2) I would encourage citizen attendance for BCC meetings and workshops.

i. Would you support term limits for Commissioners?

Yes No (*The ballot box is the best form of term limits.*)

j. Would you support an encompassing code of ethics and appropriate penalties, including suspensions as necessary, for Commissioners? Would you include the public in that process, and if so, how?

Yes No

Yes No

State law currently covers such violations.

4. Budgeting:

a. Do you favor a Balanced Budget Resolution which keeps reserves off-limits except in emergencies?

Favor Oppose

b. Do you understand "Zero Based" budgeting. Please detail your experience in budgeting.

Yes No

Yes, plan your budget starting from zero every year. I owned and operated my own business, a drug store for 32 years. I had to manage inventory, advertising, insurance, licensing fees, payroll, rent, utilities, taxes, accounting and other areas. This planning was crucial for maintaining positive cash flow and steady growth.

Budgeting (continued):

c. Do you favor zero based budgeting and public input?

Zero Based Budgeting Favor Oppose **Public Input** Yes No

d. Do you favor or oppose internal auditing of all BCC departments?

Favor Oppose

e. If projected revenues are exceeded by projected expenditures, do you favor raising taxes or cutting proposed expenditures:

Raise Taxes Cut Expenditures

f. What are your most important priorities in budgeting?

Public services and safety, infrastructure, economic development, tourism, community development.

g. Do you support development of a strategic plan and annual reviews thereof for planning for the organizational and financial planning of the county?

Yes No

5. Infrastructure:

a. Please list in order of importance you priorities for infrastructure development in Walton County.

1. Roads
2. Water/sewer expansion
3. Beach access
4. Beach erosion
5. Solid waste
6. Recycling
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

b. What recreational facilities for residents and guests do you believe Walton need? How would you pay for them?

Facilities

- 1. *Parking* _____
- 2. *Boat ramps* _____
- 3. *Continued expansion of bike paths* _____
- 4. *Upgrades of Bay and Beach access* _____
- 5. *Bathrooms* _____

Funding

Establish cost estimates and look for ways to save corresponding funds from future budgets. If state statute allows use, TDC funds and possibly federal grants.

6. Economic Development/Taxation:

a. What ideas do you have for economic development in Walton County?

This should be a top priority for Walton County. There is a need for economic product (industrial parks) in order to attract clean industry especially on the North side of the County. We must aggressively target and attract suppliers for the Airbus assembly plant in Mobile. Suppliers are being signed up now and they will be looking for locations in northwest Florida. We have a short time table and must start now. In addition, I will seek distribution centers, jobbers and compatible businesses for our locations.

7. Key Issues:

Please list the 10 most important issues you think you need to address as a Commissioner.

Please list in order of importance:

1. *Transparency in government*
2. *Improve project permitting time.*
3. *Economic development*
4. *Community development*
5. *Recycling*
6. *Public workshops on major issues*
7. *Increasing cost of government*
8. *Strict adherence to the Sunshine law*
9. *Effort to unite South and North Walton County*
10. *Jobs for all of Walton County*

Return your completed questionnaire to:

**Walton County Taxpayers Association
P O Box 1085
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459**

By

July 9th, 2012

Questionnaires received after July 9th will have

“No Response Received from Candidate”

in all releases of survey results.

***THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WAS ANSWERED BY TOM BABCOCK, CANDIDATE
FOR WALTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5***