



## **Walton County Taxpayers Association, Inc.**

June 27, 2012

William J. 'West' Ritchie  
53 Mozart Lane  
Freeport, FL 32439

**P. O. Box 1085  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
32459**

**Phone: 850-543-2378  
www.walontaxpayers.org**

Dear West:

The Walton County Taxpayers Association is a non political voice of the citizens of Walton County. As such, we take no official position as an organization as to the worthiness of candidates for public office nor do we support any one candidate over another.

That having been said, we **DO** feel it is our responsibility to help inform the Citizens of Walton County where all of the candidates for public office stand on various positions that we deem important to our citizens.

We have, therefore designed the enclosed questionnaire that we hope you will take most seriously in expressing your position on so many important issues.

**These questionnaires will be due back at the above mailing address no later than July 9th, 2012.**

It is our intention to publish the results of this information in public vehicles, including newspapers.

**We will publish "No response" if you choose not to submit your survey.**

So, in many ways it will be a chance to get your message out to many people in our community. Of course, those not responding will be so noted in our filings.

We thank you for offering your service to Walton County and we look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire back.

Good Luck.

Dr. Don Riley  
President  
Walton County Taxpayers Association

### 2012 Officers

**Dr. Don Riley  
President**

**Robert Sullivan  
Vice-President**

**Dan Scupin  
Treasurer**

**Bobby Bowick  
Treasurer**

### 2012 Directors

**Jim Bagby  
Frank Day  
Suzanne Harris  
Emmett Hildreth  
JB Hillard  
Mary Nielson  
Jim Rice**

### 2012 Advisory Board

**Don Brown  
Robert Connor  
Pete Garcia  
Rep. Matt Gaetz  
Eileen McDermott  
Alan Powdermaker**

### Executive Director

**Bob Hudson**

Rickie for Dist. One C.C.

**1. Fire and Emergency Services funding:**

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

Address the needs of the dist. and fund them accordingly. Need based and fund from one source.

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

Favor  Oppose

**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 Statute  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

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

The TDC operates with \$11 million per year and has \$20 million in reserves. The rest of the County needs some of this money

**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 publicly 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 should have individual discretionary accounts for unbudgeted discretionary expenditures? If so, why?

Yes  No

---

---

---

---

---

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

*The BCC has not worked well with its dept. heads and administrators which has resulted in good people leaving, our the County without leadership.*

**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

---

---

---

---

---

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

Favor     Oppose

Use in house when we can, but outsource when needed.

---

---

---

---

---

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

Favor     Oppose

Same as above

---

---

---

---

---

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

Sack approval from the state to use TDC \$ for other needs of the county. Greatly expand the EDA. Put the BCC meeting on T.V. same for the T.D.C. meetings. BCC to meet before the meeting to hash out issues (public invited)

---

---

---

---

---

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

Put the meeting on T.V.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

i. Would you support term limits for Commissioners?

\_\_\_ Yes  No

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

Open the process to the public for feedback.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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

19 years as a bankruptcy lawyer and 17 years  
as an owner of a law firm.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. 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?

Find the smartest people to review and advise  
on the best way to be able to pay for and meet  
the needs of residents of W.C.

- g. Do you support development of a strategic plan and annual reviews thereof for planning for the organizational and financial planning needs of the county?  
 Yes  No

**5. Infrastructure**

- a. Please list in order of importance your priorities for infrastructure development in Walton County.
  1. Properly Fund the EDA
  2. More professionals on the board.
  3. Bring economic dev. in
  4. Increase the TAX base
  5. Use the \$ to build infrastructure
  6. Use proper planning
  7. Advertise what we have
  8. Keep infrastructure in working order
  9. Be open to new ideas
  10. Never give up.

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

**Facilities**

1. A water Park
2. upgrade existing parks
3. a Natatorium
4. Recreation Centers
5. for children out on  
break from school

**Funding**

Change the Law to allow the County to use  
some of the TIC \$ & private funding

**6. Economic Development/Taxation**

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

Properly fund the RDA, Appoint college economic  
professors to the Board and business leaders,  
Attract new business to Walton Co. increase  
infrastructure and properly use what we have  
to create a larger tax base to better Walton Co.

## **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. confidence of the people
2. follow the Sunshine Laws
3. Leadership in State and reg.
4. Strong review of the budget
5. Determine the needs of the County.
6. Address the needs of the L.E.D. and Fire Dist.
7. use our \$ correctly
8. How TDC \$ is spent
9. 4 lane of 331 to Alabama line
10. Education, how funded and spent

**Return your completed questionnaire to:**

**Walton County Taxpayers Association  
PO 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.**

**Walton County Taxpayers Association**