



## Pinellas County Voter Guide – Municipal Races August 20, 2024

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### Municipal Elections

#### St. Petersburg Council Member District 3

The city of St. Petersburg operates under a strong mayor and city council system. The St. Petersburg City Council is the non-partisan governing body of the City. The Council is responsible for legislating ordinances and resolutions, approving the city budget, appointing the charter review commission, and establishing a code of ethics for the city government and city employees. The Council consists of eight Council Members, elected from each of the eight districts of the City. Elections for the City Council are held in even-numbered years, usually with each election including four of the eight districts. In the general election, all eligible city voters vote "at large" for the candidates running in all of the Districts that are on the ballot.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$54,000/year

#### Pete Boland



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** [Pete@peteforstpete.com](mailto:Pete@peteforstpete.com)

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

**Education:** Graduate of St Pete High, Mass Communications major at St Petersburg College, College of Central Florida , culinary student at Art Institute of Tampa

**Professional Experience:** Co-Founder & COO The Galley: A St. Pete Tavern (2016), Co-Founder & Managing Partner Mary Margaret's Olde Irish Tavern (2020), Founder & Executive Producer PMB Events (2022)

**Public Service:** Member of St Pete Area Chamber of Commerce, Member of Ancient Order of Hibernians, Board Member Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association , Former Co-Chair Build the Pier Campaign

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 965 Saint Petersburg FL 33731

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

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**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

My top priority when being elected will be to cut red tape and reduce the costs on St. Pete businesses and residents. We need to make St Pete more affordable and eliminate unnecessary barriers to entry when opening a business and building or renovating homes. We need to return to a customer service type model and improve the connectivity between city departments so that we can have streamlined processes. One specific policy proposal I will advance is pre-approved site plans for buildings like ADUs.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

First off, I lead by example in my businesses by promoting and executing labor programs that pay above market wages.

We as a city need to promote economic development (like the Gas Plant project) and continue to covet and inspire job incubators that can produce higher-skilled workers. We must also work with Pinellas County schools to build apprenticeships and to create a pipeline of skilled labor that can lead to greater prosperity for our citizens and workers. We also need to continue to communicate the availability of great programs like the Greenhouse that create entrepreneurs.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

I'd like to instill new pre-approved site plans for Accessory Dwelling Units and for organizations like Habitat For Humanity. I also would like to upzone along busy transit corridors & reduce some stringent parking requirements so that we can build multi-family housing that meets the demands of our growing city.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

As a resident and native of Shore Acres, there are few issues that hit home more than this one. We must continue the work already underway to replace aging back flow preventers and to upgrade infrastructure under 62nd Ave NE, and move forward with the Connecticut Avenue NE Pump station project. We must also do all the little things like planting trees while keeping an eye bigger projects like seawall heightening. Additionally, I'd like to finally get a private lateral replacement grant/incentive on the books to properly mitigate storm water penetration that has caused much of the overflows.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

While I acknowledge 1 of 8 city councilors can only do so much, there is things we can do to improve equality of opportunity for the black community in St. Pete.

I would like to advance programs to help aspiring entrepreneurs in the black community open new businesses and learn the language of business. I would like to connect the black community to existing services and programs and help to make sure that those services reach the vulnerable areas and those in need of support. We also need to focus on our schools so that they can close the achievement gap and end the failure factories.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

Yes, I wrote an op-ed column in The Tampa Bay Times in June titled "Perfect can't be the enemy of abundant good with Rays-Hines Gas plant". The upside is monumental with managed risk on the city's part. When compared to the other stadium projects underway throughout the US, the Rays-Hines proposal stands to deliver substantially more with significantly less public subsidy. The public is getting many benefits and desired needs (like workforce housing, green space, convention center) and the potential long-term return on investment is massive. The city will also eliminate our annual operating expense going forward.

There should not be a public vote. Every candidate for office in St Pete for nearly 20 years has been asked about this issue.

**Nick Carey**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** [contact@careyforstpete.com](mailto:contact@careyforstpete.com)

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

**Education:** B.A. in Chemistry, University of North Carolina

**Professional Experience:** Agricultural Chemist (BASF), Analytical Chemist in Pharmaceuticals, Pinellas County Organizer (Faith in Florida), Lead Organizer, I4 Corridor (Faith in Florida)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 7093 St. Petersburg FL 33734

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550070838778](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550070838778)

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**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

Lowering the cost-of-living is my top priority because high costs are having a substantial impact on all St. Pete residents. Who gets to stay here and build strong connections with their neighbors is often determined by whether people can afford to do so. By investing in high quality, revenue generating public goods and services like housing, childcare, and utilities to lower costs and in parks, libraries, infrastructure and public transportation that improve quality of life we can take on many issues at once and strengthen our communities for healthier, more stable living conditions for all.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

Ensuring economic stability is one of the core responsibilities of an elected official. Broadly I will work with organized labor to protect our public sector unions and defend the right to collectively bargain for better wages and working conditions. I will push to have a standardized process for evaluating and awarding city contracts that includes good wages, benefits, and working conditions. Too often, childcare is left out of the conversation of a healthy economy and so I will also fight for city-run, affordable childcare options so our residents can afford to raise a family in St. Pete.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

The way we currently invest in "affordable" housing is broken. We rely on subsidizing developer profits with taxpayer dollars in exchange for a short period of a few more affordable--but still too expensive--units sprinkled amongst luxury apartments. We should be investing public resources into revenue generating, city-owned, mixed-income "social housing" that provides truly affordable housing permanently. This will grow the city's wealth, not developers. In the short term, when we subsidize private development, it should be prioritized for those making \$20 per hour or less.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

We have a lot of work to do to protect our environment, while also ensuring that residents in low-lying neighborhoods don't have to worry about storms devastating their homes. I will fight for strategic investments in our stormwater and road infrastructure that prioritizes homes that have been repetitively subject to flood losses. The city should take back control of our electrical grid to lower costs, increase resiliency through microgrids, and transition to renewable energy rapidly. Finally, developers should be held to the highest possible environmental standards when building in our city.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

Like so many places in the United States, St. Pete has a painful history of physical harm and discrimination against our Black residents that is still being felt today. As I have done in my role as an organizer I will lean on the lived experience and expertise of Black residents to lead, and I will prioritize economic policy that lifts up those at the lowest income levels where Black residents are disproportionately represented. I will work for housing, jobs, childcare, food access, and environmental policy that prioritizes Black and low income families and will lead to a better life for all.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I would like for the Rays to stay in St. Pete, but I don't believe in these types of tax-payer handouts for pro sports. I think the city is paying far too much, hampering our ability to address critical needs in our city. I don't believe we're getting nearly enough in return either. 1250 affordable housing units over decades is simply not enough. Finally, there is no guarantee we'll get many of the proposed benefits. There are contractual loopholes and weak penalties for not delivering benefits. Considering the amount of public financing and generational impact, I would support a referendum.

## Michael Harting



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** Mike@Mike4StPete.com

**Campaign Website:** www.mike4stpete.com

**Education:** BS Business, UF

**Professional Experience:** Founder and CEO, 3 Daughters Brewing

**Public Service:** NA

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 222 22nd street south unit J St Petersburg FL 33712

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/mike4stpete

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**Campaign Phone:** 8132998166

**Instagram:** www.instagram.com/mike4stpete/

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

I am focused on increased funding for what our city looks like in 20 years. Our infrastructure, from water to sidewalks and streetlights, is well planned (there are several 20-25-year master plans that have been approved by the council over the past decade) but not well funded. It is a cultural challenge to move from funding today to funding tomorrow.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

As a small business owner and someone with 30 years of experience in the hospitality sector, I know the importance of maintaining a strong economy in our city. The best thing our city can do is keep taxes and regulations to a minimum so that we can keep and attract great organizations.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

Workforce housing needs to be more of a public/private partnership. With the rising cost of labor and materials, it is not viable for a private company to build units that allow for rent structures that fit in the workforce housing silo. First, the city needs to improve and become more efficient at permitting and inspections. Second, the city needs to be willing to defray costs with city-supplied land and subsidized construction costs and city sponsored low interest loans to builders.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

Our Public Works Department's "Integrated Water Resource Master Plan" was approved by the city council in 2019. This plan addresses this topic with back-flow preventers, pump stations, hardening stormwater processing facilities and replacing stormwater management systems at the WRFs. The challenge for future Councils is holding the then current administration to a 5-year review schedule to ensure the goals and plans are still relevant and ensure the program as a whole remains funded.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

From the standpoint of the City Council, equity (of all types) is furthered by approving and funding programs/plans that cover the entire city. The ongoing "Complete Streets" and "Canopy tree planting" programs are great examples of what we intend to support.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I support the concept and the plan. I do however believe the contract needs further negotiation to better define the commitments (workforce housing in particular) and provide enforcement measures for the city in the future. Although the opportunity has passed, I would have supported a voter referendum on this type of proposal because of its broad reaching and long-term impact

## Juan Lopez-Estevez



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** info@juanforstpete.com

**Campaign Website:** www.juanforstpete.com

**Education:** (2) Bachelor of Science Degrees - Sports Administration, University of Florida ('97), Finance, University of South Florida ('16)

**Professional Experience:** Sales & Marketing Manager, Tampa Convention Center

**Public Service:** 13 years as a municipal employee

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 76102 St Petersburg FL 33734

**Campaign Phone:** 727-433-8731

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

My top policy priority will be flood mitigation. My goal is to have all short and intermediate solutions implemented during my term while proactively ensuring long-term strategies are in place. I will work diligently with our state and federal leaders to secure any grant funds available towards infrastructure projects.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

To promote living wages and fair labor standards, I will advocate for policies such as establishing industry-specific wage floors and offering incentives for businesses to pay higher wages. I will also engage with our community members, small businesses, nonprofits, unions and advocacy groups in policy discussions to pursue long-term economic development that creates higher-paying job opportunities.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

I believe affordable housing is primarily a market supply driven issue. I would collaborate more closely with partners such as Habitat for Humanity and Blue Sky Properties towards identifying City land that can be developed for affordable housing projects.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

I will prioritize addressing our aging infrastructure by replacing and expanding our wastewater and stormwater systems.

I will also advocate for sustainable development policies, integrate climate adaptation strategies, and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure effective resilience against future environmental challenges.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

I will collaborate closely with the city's Chief Equity Officer to prioritize fairness and equity. I will also ensure the recommendations from the Structural Racism Study are enacted, while focusing on equitable economic opportunities, education, health and housing policies to remove systemic barriers that result in racial inequalities.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I support keeping the Rays in St. Petersburg, building a new stadium and redeveloping the Historic Gas Plant district. As for the current deal between the City and Rays-Hines, I would like to see the commitments made by the developer on matters such as affordable housing & community benefits to be more contractually binding.

## Barry Rubin



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Email:** mail@barryrubin.com

**Campaign Website:** www.BarryRubin.com

**Education:** Temple University, Columbia Law School (Certificate)

**Professional Experience:** President & CEO of TIMB Chamber of Commerce / President & CEO of Direct HR, Inc

**Public Service:** Board of Directors: Shore Acres Civic Association, Friends of Strays, SPCA of Tampa Bay, Evergreen Life Services Member: Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, Elks, Florida Economic Club

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 204 37th Ave. N #208 SAINT PETERSBURG FL 33704

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/barryforstpete/

**Campaign Phone:** 727-409-8463

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

St. Petersburg's magnificent waterfront makes us special, it is also our greatest threat. The residents of St. Petersburg face significant flooding risks due to storm surge, especially in District 3. As a member of the Shore Acres Civic Association Board my top priority has been to mitigate flooding. As a member of the City Council, this will continue to be my priority. Educate residents about preparedness measures and implement a comprehensive flood management program including long overdue infrastructure improvements such as floodgates, improved backflow preventers, and pumping stations.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

As a member of city council, I will work to attract companies that offer high-paying jobs and adhere to fair labor standards and create economic zones and offer tax incentives to encourage the establishment of businesses that contribute to a living wage economy. Continue city youth workforce partnerships with the Urban League, R'Club, and Boley Centers in which St. Petersburg contributed \$485,000 last year. And of course, require all companies contracting with the city to pay employees a living wage, promote stable scheduling practices and adhere to fair labor standards.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

The city currently has a comprehensive 10-year plan to address housing affordability. I would work to improve that by expanding developer incentives for homes sold under 120% AMI, increase participation in the State housing Initiatives Partnership, CRA funding, and public private partnerships IE: Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, I am in favor of expanding NTM zoning, and smart inclusionary zoning that offers incentives such as density bonuses, expedited permitting, or tax advantages.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

St. Petersburg, like many coastal cities, faces significant challenges with sewage overflow and stormwater management. I'm haunted by the memory of the days following Hurricane Hermine, when millions of gallons of raw sewage overflowed, and the city dumped that overflow into the bay. I would prioritize infrastructure upgrades including both the Southwest and water reclamation facilities which can be funded by a portion of the 20-million-dollar Department of Environmental Protection resilience and coastal protection.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

As a member of council, I will address systemic inequities in various sectors, including education, employment, healthcare, housing, and criminal justice. I will support the office of supplier diversity, the South St. Petersburg CRA, and small business enterprise programs. I would encourage community policing strategies that builds trust, promote voter registration and participation among black communities, and develop leadership programs for black youth to encourage civic engagement and prepare the next generation of St. Petersburg leadership.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

St. Petersburg is a representative form of government; citizens elect a City Council to vote on their behalf. It's imperative that the city hold regular public hearings where citizens can express their views about things that will impact the city. I would implement policies to promote transparency in decision-making. If a referendum were deemed in the best interest of the citizens, I would push for that. The current Gas Plant/Rays deal, while not perfect, will generate thousands of jobs and is anticipated to generate over a billion dollars in revenue. I support that.

## **St. Petersburg Council Member District 7**

The city of St. Petersburg operates under a strong mayor and city council system. The St. Petersburg City Council is the non-partisan governing body of the City. The Council is responsible for legislating ordinances and resolutions, approving the city budget, appointing the charter review commission, and establishing a code of ethics for the city government and city employees. The Council consists of eight Council Members, elected from each of the eight districts of the City. Elections for the City Council are held in even-numbered years, usually with each election including four of the eight districts. In the general election, all eligible city voters vote "at large" for the candidates running in all of the Districts that are on the ballot.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$54,000/year

### **Donald Bowens**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Professional Experience:** Former Director of Operations at HHS. (HCA Florida Brandon Hospital, HCA Florida Northside Hospital, HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital)

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**Campaign Website:** [www.donaldbowensjr4stpete.com/](http://www.donaldbowensjr4stpete.com/)

**Public Service:** Coaching and Youth Sports Training- Shorecrest Preparatory School, Gibbs High School, Azalea Bulldogs Youth Football

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/p/Donald-Bowens-Jr-61555927763816/](https://www.facebook.com/p/Donald-Bowens-Jr-61555927763816/)

**Campaign Phone:** 727-656-1515

**Education:** St. Petersburg High School 2006 /North Carolina State University, BA Sports Management, 2010

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

Youth development is my top priority for our city. Crime, housing affordability, and good paying jobs are all extremely important and pressing issues. But it all stems from a root need for educating our children, giving them opportunities to grow their minds, and allowing them to realize their potential. A busy child, who is hopeful for the future, will not commit a crime. And they can earn enough with the right education to help provide for their family.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

I myself have worked all sorts of jobs, from the fast food industry as a youth to my role as a hospital executive. It is not about eliminating these "gap" jobs, but creating more opportunities for good paying jobs. This can be done by working to promote diversity of industry. Our city's economy has largely been service and real estate based, the latter of which causes price increases. We need to focus on tech and environmental science jobs, using such examples as manufacturing (Jabil) or the Hub along the waterfront as a blueprint for success.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

Land, labor, and materials are the three main costs associated with homes. Currently, the city subsidizes developers to incentivize them to build affordable units. But as we saw with the Sankofa project, by the end even the group's leader was dismayed with the final cost. Going straight to the consumer, by offering programs such as no interest city backed mortgages, would allow every dollar that entered the affordable housing program to never leave it. I also am a

proponent of looking at flexible new development options such as dormitory style housing for the low income and housing challenged.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

City Council approved new construction density in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA), provided resiliency standards were met. We must continue pushing for replacement of windows, roofs, and garage doors to protect homes. Flooding from surge has become a growing issue. We do not properly budget for seawall replacement (one city issued report states that at current budgeting, it will take over 1000 years to replace all our seawalls). Additionally, we must reduce peak time flooding in low lying areas. Create a fund to buy repeat loss homes and create swails to catch runoff during peak times

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

I will underscore that I believe youth opportunities are not available to all, especially those in the black community. Growing up in project housing in St Pete, some nights I went to bed hungry. I channeled that feeling into a hunger for greatness in athletics, and in my career. I was lucky. But I want to make sure it doesn't take "luck" for others in our city to achieve the American Dream and create a better life. Giving children options and a clear, direct career path to earn good wages and break cycles of generational poverty are easier than they sound. But we need a champion for the cause

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I think that a referendum vote, where all voters can have a choice, is the closest you can come to direct democracy. I support that. Not just on the Rays issue, but other big ticket items as well. There should be a dollar threshold attached to triggering a referendum. Of course the counterpoint is "elected officials are elected to make decisions for the people". But some issues, like Tropicana Field, are just so big that we need more input. And we can never forget that elected officials are meant to be the voice of the people, fighting for their wishes.

**Eritha Cainion**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Professional Experience:** Director of Media and Communications, Editor-in-Chief of The Burning Spear newspaper

**Campaign Email:** [contact@voteakile.com](mailto:contact@voteakile.com)

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

**Public Service:** No prior office held; community outreach, support, activism

**Facebook** [facebook.com/Akile4D7](https://facebook.com/Akile4D7)

**Campaign Phone:** 8132608341

**Education:** BA in English Literature from University of South Florida

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1919 Quincy St S St. Petersburg FL 33711

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

My top policy priority would be to halt gentrification through a multi-year moratorium on high rises and luxury apartments, and instead focusing on creating sustainable, genuinely affordable housing. This looks like, in part, working with developers who agree to set the cost of housing based on the area median income, ensuring that a household pays no more than 20% of their income towards housing. Regarding another yet crucial issue, I will work to defend the people's right to free speech by introducing a resolution to city council that calls on St. Pete to become a sanctuary city.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

I will lobby at the state-level for a livable wage throughout Florida. I will initiate a proposal on adjusting utility bill payments based on income so that it alleviates some financial burden on low-income households. I will also advocate for workers' power which, in part, places power in the hands of workers to define what's fair in terms of standards and conditions.



**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

I believe halting gentrification and redefining what affordable housing means is critical. Affordable housing should be based on an area's median income, which also means that a developer couldn't come into a zone charging rent that exceeds more than 20% of residents' income for that area. Imposing a multi-year moratorium on luxury apartments will also allow us to focus on building more genuinely affordable housing units, decreasing rent and housing costs. I'd also support rent control.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

My proposed multi-year moratorium on high rise, luxury apartment development will improve the resiliency of the Coastal High-Density areas. I would also discourage any development, especially residential, in those areas. I will also propose that the city budget allocate more resources to finally upgrade our stormwater infrastructure, to combat sewage overflow. This includes opening up another sewage plant. Workers' power for city workers is again a factor here, as those with the expertise should be the ones making the determinations about what's best rather than the politicians.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

I will advocate for reparations and economic development for the black community as opposed to the current policy of police containment. I will work to put an end to gentrification -- the forced removal of the black population. I am proposing an end to the rigged electoral system which results in the veto of the black vote with a city-wide general election; this includes an end to gerrymandering districts to increase the political power of other communities. I am also proposing that St. Pete become a sanctuary city, protecting black community organizers from government/state repression.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I cannot support a "deal" that doesn't center reparations and economic development to the black community. Anything less than the complete return of that land back to the black community through a land trust is a slap in the face. It doesn't presuppose that a crime was committed against black people for the dome's construction in the first place. For St. Pete to be truly progressive, it must acknowledge this history and work to rectify it by empowering the community it destroyed through the development of that stadium. I don't think it needs a vote, it needs the will of the city council to do what's right and return that land into a reparations land trust, where the black community can then develop that land in our own interests.

**Treva Davis**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Professional Experience:** Project Manager

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/trevadavis4spccd7?igsh=MWNwM251bDllaW9naQ==](https://www.instagram.com/trevadavis4spccd7?igsh=MWNwM251bDllaW9naQ==)

**Campaign Email:** [trevadavis4d7@gmail.com](mailto:trevadavis4d7@gmail.com)

**Campaign Website:** [www.trevadavis4d7.com/](http://www.trevadavis4d7.com/)

**Public Service:** Leadership St. Petersburg Class of 2021, St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/share/FVtzt4xHB1QhPrDx/?mibextid=qj2Omg](https://www.facebook.com/share/FVtzt4xHB1QhPrDx/?mibextid=qj2Omg)

**Campaign Phone:** 727-537-6403

**Education:** Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University: Bachelor of Science, Major: Biology, Florida International University: Master of International Business, Master of Science in Public Health

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 4905 34th St S Unit 353 St. Petersburg FL 33711

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

I will collaborate with my colleagues and other for profit and nonprofit organizations to improve the health outcomes and overall well-being of our community. I will also seek to enhance homeless initiatives, by increasing the funding allocated and supporting partnerships to expand mental health services for adults and our youth. When elected, I plan

to collaborate with colleagues/community to improve residents' access services, by supporting the Coordinated Access Model spearheaded by Pinellas County.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

I would work with St. Petersburg College and Pinellas Technical College to expand the availability of trade programs such as plumbing, electrical and construction. Under Pinellas Technical College, the Office for Workforce Innovation assists with providing scholarships, however developing additional scholarship opportunities and apprenticeship programs will allow for greater numbers to be served. Expanding these programs will help residents to receive an education, attain a job that pays above the living wage, and not owe student loans.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

The city's decision to become a member of the Pinellas County's Housing Compact assures that the availability of programs and funding is a priority in each of the municipalities as well as the county. I desire to expand programs that provide housing opportunities that are affordable to those earning minimum wage and above. Additionally, there remains a need for rental-friendly housing, which is realistic for current residents to be able to afford. With this, the city should partner with organizations to provide additional move-in and deposit assistance.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

The increase of residential density in the Coastal High Hazard Area is a decision that will require significant research on the impact of our community. In the interim, we must be aware of the damage that we are doing as we continue to allow building in the high hazard coastal areas. City leaders will need to conduct continuous analysis of its systems and make necessary expansions to accommodate growth. In addition, the city will need to take a good look at its storm water sewer systems and determine what it would take to expand those systems to accommodate the increase in population.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

When elected, I will remain true to my core values and support causes that make our diverse community a better place for everyone, regardless of race, sexual orientation, or gender identity. For example, I am fully aware of the issues with the air quality in the Childs Park Community. This has been ongoing for far too long. I will continue to partner with Pinellas County, USF St. Petersburg, Congresswoman Cathy Castors office, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to aide in identifying ways to mitigate the odor and the health issues of those living in the area.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

After 20 plus years of dealing with the Rays, one thing is for certain and that is that there will never be a one-size that fits all proposal. The stadium vote will occur before I take office. I will support whatever decision (vote) is made by the city and the county as it relates to the submitted proposal/contract. I will also ensure, with my vote, that the promises made to the Gas Plant District in those contracts are kept, and all neighborhoods, specifically South St. Petersburg, benefit from the deal. We must move forward.

**Corey Givens**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

My top policy priority for the city will be the redevelopment of the Tropicana Field site. I want to use my experience as a financial representative and community organizer to enact positive change and tangible results for the people of St. Petersburg. I have a strategic plan for how we can bring the public sector and our local non-profit organizations together to increase our housing supply while protecting our city's unique character.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

Roughly 40-60% of St. Pete's labor force is reliant on low-wage jobs. The vast majority of the lowest-paid workers work for large companies with more than 100 people, usually in the food service and retail industries. Many lower-wage City of St. Pete employees are required to reside inside the city limits, but some decry the cost of living in the city & say it's become too high for them. Once elected, I will work with our state and federal leaders to push-back on preemptions that prohibit local governments from paying employees more than the state minimum wage.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

One pragmatic solution to increasing the availability & attainability of affordable housing in our city is to begin by eliminating the barriers & red tape that make it more expensive for developers to build here. That starts with changes in our zoning regulations to incentive workforce housing developments in blighted communities. On council I will utilize the Homeless Leadership Network and the County Housing Trust Fund to expand our continuum of housing for emergency shelters, those evicted, low-income housing, and those earning \$50-60K/year (120% AMI).

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

St. Petersburg is a peninsula on a peninsula. Our city's infrastructure simply cannot sustain the overdevelopment that will occur by increasing residential density in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). Over development within Coastal High-Density areas or flood zones is not rational, no matter how high construction standards are raised. Our leaders didn't take climate change or sea level rise in consideration when they made the decision to approve an ordinance that amends the city's comprehensive plan to allow greater density, or more dwelling units per acre.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

To truly address the effects of racism and racial inequity at the local government level, meaningful change will require a leader who has a track record of building bridges and bringing people together from all walks of life. I would take the necessary steps to create a coordinated effort in City Hall to enact policy that will make right the wrongs of the past. The only true equity is financial equity. I will be intentional about connecting minority communities to organizations like the Bright Community Trust, who provide credit counseling for those interested in becoming homeowners.

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

I love the Rays & I love baseball, but I do not support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal. This matter should be decided by voters in the form of a referendum. I personally believe that this vote has been rushed and we need to start over. It's not too late!

**Wengay "Newt" Newton**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Professional Experience:** I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Served on Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. It would be honor to serve you again on St. Petersburg City Council D7.

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/newthd70](http://www.instagram.com/newthd70)

**Campaign Email:** [newt@newt7.com](mailto:newt@newt7.com)

**Campaign Website:** [www.newt7.com/](http://www.newt7.com/)

**Public Service:** I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Served on Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. 15 years of Governance.

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/Newt4HD62](http://www.facebook.com/Newt4HD62)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/NEWTFL](http://www.twitter.com/NEWTFL)

**Campaign Phone:** 727-619-6398

**Education:** Northeast High School, Class of 1981-Diploma. ITT Technical Institute, A.S. Degree in Electronic Engineering, Class of 1983. Xerox Corporation Management Training Graduate 1996. Microsoft MCS - SPC 2001. CONA Leadership Graduate 2006.

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Post Office Box 11551 ST. PETERSBURG FL 33733

**What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

I am the only candidate with legislative experience.

I will work with the Mayor and Council to ensure that the Tropicana Field and the Rays development moves forward. Address the Affordable Housing crisis here in St. Petersburg. Alleviate the flooding in the Snell Isles and Shore Acres. I will also use the relationships and bridges that I have built to seek State and Federal matching funds.

**Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

When I served on St. Petersburg City Council District 7 we passed \$15 an hour minimum wages for all city employees. I would enforce our Community Benefit Program on all new construction. I would also fund apprenticeship programs for entry level employment with living wages.

**As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

When I served in the Florida Legislator, for the first time in over a decade we were successful in preventing the sweeping of the Sadowski Trust Fund. Which provided \$370 Million for Affordable Housing. I would continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity and Mike Sutton to provide Affordable Home Ownership, Equity and Generational Wealth. Also, Divvy Rent to Own Program.

**What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

The effects of Sea Level Rise is contributing to the flooding in Shore Acres & Snell Isle. I would submit a New Business Item to add \$2 Million dollar line item in our Capital Improvement Budget to fund Back-Flow Converters. We must install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water backups. Also construct interior barriers to stop low level floodwater from entering homes. I would also seek State and Federal matching dollars to assist. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. Please visit my website at [www.newt7.com](http://www.newt7.com) and look under accomplishments tab.

**Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

I would propose or support a New Business Item on any and all city policies that pertain to race. Then I would work with the Mayor and Council to remove policies from our dark past that created racial disparities. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. I ask for your VOTE by Mail, Early Voting and on August 20th, 2024. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve you again on St. Petersburg City Council District 7. Thank You. "Newt"

**Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

By the time I get sworn into City Council the Vote on the Gas Plant and Rays Stadium will have already happened. That said, I will work with the Mayor and Council to ensure that the Tropicana Field and the Rays development moves forward. The Rays are a regional asset.

I Served two terms on the St. Petersburg City Council District 7, 2008 to 2016. I Served two terms in Florida House of Representatives, 2016 and re-elected in 2018. Florida Commission on Ethics 2020 to present. I am the only candidate with legislative experience. I return to St. Petersburg with the relationship and bridges that I have built to continue moving our city forward. I am endorsed by the St. Petersburg Association of Firefighters and Paramedics Local #747.

VOTE!

## Daniel Soronen



**Party:** Non Partisan

### **Biographical Info:**

**Professional Experience:** Commercial Realtor with Main Street & Main

**Campaign Email:** dansoronen@yahoo.com

**Campaign Website:** www.dansoronen.com/

**Public Service:** I have been an active community leader for the past 20 years

**Facebook** www.facebook.com/dan.soronen.for.city.council.d.7

**Campaign Phone:** 7275809937

**Education:** College of Saint Rose, Albany NY. Studied History & Political Science

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 903 22nd St S Saint Petersburg FL 33712

### **What is your top policy priority for the city and how will you make it happen amidst competing needs?**

28 day permits- Many of our issues can be cured by streamlining the permitting department. 9-12 month permits lead to business failures and higher building costs which translate to higher rents and commercial vacancies. We can decrease the permit time by eliminating the online portal instituted during covid as well as by getting our plans reviewers and inspectors certified in life safety. The main hold up in the process is the fire department, we need to send them back to their fire stations and out of the building department.

### **Many people in St. Petersburg are reliant on low-wage jobs. What steps would you take to promote living wages and fair labor standards in the city for these members of our community?**

District 7's commercial corridors need to be re-zoned to allow for restaurants, cafes and retail. This will increase entrepreneurship and increase the livable wage opportunity inside of our own neighborhoods. My restaurant (The Catalyst on the Deuces) currently employs close to 30 local residents, we opened when the licensing restrictions on the state level changed July 2023. We need the local restrictions removed that pertain to proximity to churches (currently 400 feet). We have over 160 churches in South St Petersburg.

### **As rental and home prices continue to rise rapidly in St. Petersburg, describe one concrete solution you'd support to increase the availability and attainability of affordable housing in our city?**

Technology is changing and affordable building solutions are coming, elected officials need to make sure these technologies are approved for use. Look at renco-usa.com as an example. Solar installs on new construction will become the norm and potentially a requirement. Removing parking restrictions along commercial corridors will allow developers to build cheaper. There is no 1 answer, affordable housing will take multiple changes.

### **What are your plans for increasing resilience in Coastal High-Density areas, flood zones, areas affected by sewage overflow, and areas affected by stormwater management issues?**

District 7 really doesn't face these issues as we are on a higher plain. I am open to whatever best suits the electorate. Our district faces different issues, I would be looking to find a solution to the air quality issues we face in Child's Park.

### **Findings from a USF study indicate that the history of St. Petersburg city policies is one that has resulted in racial disparities that currently impact Black residents today. What steps would you take to address racial equity in the city?**

This goes back to removing the fire department from the building department. Chief Large was a racist bigot that oversaw the department for 20 years. He is gone but his people and policies are not. Equity of opportunity starts with an equal opportunity to get a permit, license, et cetera. Zoning restrictions relating to proximity to churches is an obvious attack on the black businesses in our city. We need the zoning changed on our commercial corridors.

### **Do you support the current Gas Plant/Rays Stadium deal? Why or why not? Residents have indicated that they want the opportunity to vote on this, as has happened in other cities. What is your position on holding a vote on this decision?**

No. As a realtor I believe that property taken through eminent domain must be returned to its rightful owners when the public use ends. It is called inverse condemnation and there is an example in California (Bruce Beach Hotel) where after 100 years the generational wealth was returned to descendants. I believe a referendum was absolutely necessary in this circumstance. Not just a referendum was necessary but the Mayor needs to start being honest with our citizens about the true cost and who truly has the most to gain here.

## Special Election - Oldsmar Council Member Seat 2

The City of Oldsmar has a council-manager form of government. The city council has five members, including the mayor and four council members. Any registered voter who resides in the city is eligible to be a candidate for city council. The city council is the governing body of the city and has the power to pass ordinances, adopt resolutions, approve the budget, and appropriate funds. The city council also appoints the city manager, city clerk, and city attorney. The city manager is responsible for the administration of all city affairs and is accountable to the city council. The city council is responsible for ensuring proper conduct of all municipal operations.

Normal Term: 3 years. However, for this Special Election, the term is 7-months, until next normal election cycle in March 2025.

Salary: \$8,400/year

### Sean Swauger



**Party:** Non Partisan

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Licensed Managing Real Estate Broker

**Professional Experience:** Manufacturing & Design Engineering, Real Estate sales and office leadership in residential, commercial and vacant land

**Public Service:** 2019 Oldsmar Citizen's Academy, 2021 Charter Review Committee, 2021-present Board of Adjustment, 2024 Canvassing Board, 2018-present Upper Tampa Bay Chamber Member

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 601 SPRUCE ST OLDSMAR FL 34677

**Campaign Website:** sean4oldsmar.com

**Campaign Email:** sean4oldsmar@gmail.com

**Campaign Phone:** 727-415-6220

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559705480830](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559705480830)

#### **Why are you the best candidate to occupy this seat? Do you intend to seek re-election when the seat is up again?**

Yes, I intend to seek re-election when the seat is up again in March 2025. I believe I am the best candidate now and for the next term based on 3 main reasons. 1. My passion for the city that raised me and my respect for its rich history. 2. My diverse technical background and experience in Engineering and Real Estate leadership, including fiscal responsibility as a small, local business owner. 3. My city public service experience, volunteerism, and knowledge of current/upcoming city projects.

#### **What is your vision for downtown and what resources will it take to make it happen?**

My vision for Downtown Oldsmar blends mixed-use residential/commercial areas with an inclusive outdoor entertainment area for all ages featuring food trucks, Friday markets, kids zone and community events. I also propose a specialized graduate level university campus for Marine Biology, focusing on our Upper Tampa Bay water cleanup and enhancing waterfront safety and activity. Essential to this vision are robust parking and safety measures. With my engineering and real estate expertise, I aim to integrate my feedback and foster partnerships among local businesses, universities, and residents.

#### **What specific actions should the council take to attract more living wage jobs, support small business and generate sustainable economic development?**

To attract more living wage jobs, support small businesses, & generate sustainable economic development in Oldsmar, the council should consider a variety of actions. Working more closely with the UTB Chamber of Commerce may be the most economical and effective vehicle to give the biggest impact. Through my UTB Chamber experience, many Oldsmar businesses are always looking for more skilled workforce. Incentives for training and development could be a strong consideration & partnering with educational institutions that align the needs with local industries. ie. PTEC/Industrial, USF Muma/Retail.

#### **How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?**

Balancing development and environmental resilience involves integrated planning starting with zoning and future land use criteria. Adopting sustainable practices such as green infrastructure and renewable energy can mitigate environmental impact and spur economic growth. In our city, most areas are developed except downtown and a few

vacant parcels, all requiring modern building codes for redevelopment, enhancing safety, resiliency, and land values. Community engagement is essential to align economic development with environmental sustainability.

### **What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the City of Oldsmar?**

Our Infrastructure is the City of Oldsmar's single most important issue. Specifically, our 1972 wastewater treatment plant is at risk due to its vulnerable location between Brooker Creek preserve & the Bay. A severe storm would be catastrophic & would endanger residents should the toxic wastewater flood into streets & our homes. To mitigate this risk, upgrading our wastewater treatment plant is essential. Also, implementing a stormwater master plan will identify necessary drainage improvements & lead to a higher FEMA CRA rating, reducing flood insurance costs & making our city more resilient.

### **Valerie Tatarzewski**



**Party:** Non Partisan

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Public Service:** Guardian Ad Litem for Pinellas County, Coach of Oldsmar Cardio Drumming, Active Member of the Woman's Club of Oldsmar, Supporter of Oldsmar Cares and Oldsmar Friends of the Arts, Graduate of Oldsmar Citizens Academy

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 1200 SAWGRASS COURT OLDSMAR FL 34677

**Professional Experience:** Paralegal helping to represent homeowners who have their claims underpaid or denied by their homeowners or flood insurance company.

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553705100574](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553705100574)

**Campaign Email:** [valforoldsmar@gmail.com](mailto:valforoldsmar@gmail.com)

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

**Campaign Phone:** 813-731-1286

**Education:** Bachelor Degrees in Social Work and Psychology

### **Why are you the best candidate to occupy this seat? Do you intend to seek re-election when the seat is up again?**

I believe that the role of a council member is a service position in our community. Serving my community comes naturally to me. I have been a Guardian Ad Litem for 10 years advocating for children in our foster care system, a volunteer coach at Oldsmar Cardio Drumming, and an active member of the Women's Club of Oldsmar helping local charities. It is time to bridge the gap between our leaders and our citizens, to foster transparency, and to build a stronger, more united community.

### **What is your vision for downtown and what resources will it take to make it happen?**

My vision for downtown includes mixed-use development with low density housing options, boutique shops, restaurants, cafes, art galleries, or entertainment venues in an area that is walkable and accessible to both golf carts and motor vehicles. I would like this project to honor and compliment Oldsmar's historical buildings and landmarks while incorporating modern sustainable development. To make this a reality, it will take community involvement, collaboration with local government and a strong partnership with developer who shares the vision for our downtown development.

### **What specific actions should the council take to attract more living wage jobs, support small business and generate sustainable economic development?**

City council should establish tax incentives for new businesses that create living wage jobs or commit to sustainable practices. They should simplify the permitting process for new development and reduce hurdles for small or first-time businesses owners, while encouraging collaboration and good communication with the city. The creation of a business advisory board or hiring of a small business coordinator could help with this process. The council can also continue to make it a priority to our maintain parks and rec facilities that attract visitors and help ensure patrons for local businesses.

### **How will you balance competing demands of development and environmental resilience?**

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

### **What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the City of Oldsmar?**

The number one issue facing Oldsmar is affordable housing. There are people who work in Oldsmar that cannot afford to buy homes in our city. Rising insurance costs are also forcing some residents to sell their homes and ultimately leave Oldsmar. We need to prioritize our Climate Resiliency Plan to mitigate the effect of storms and hurricanes, which will reduce insurance rates. I would also encourage the city to continue talks with Pinellas County officials who have already identified land through the Live Local Act to be used for additional affordable housing.

## **Special Election - St. Pete Beach Commissioner District 2**

The City of St. Pete Beach operates under a council-manager form of government. Under this form of government, the commission provides legislative direction while the city manager is responsible for day-to-day administrative operations of the city. The St. Pete Beach City Commission consists of the mayor and four commissioners. Commissioners qualify to run in one of the four districts in St. Pete Beach, and are then elected by voters who live within their respective districts. The Commission is responsible for establishing policies, ordinances, and programs to administer to the needs of the community and for approval of the annual budget.

Normal Term: 2 Years However, for this Special Election, the term is 7-months, until the normal election cycle in March 2025

Salary: \$5,400

### **Nick Filtz**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Website:** [www.stpetebeach.org/589/Nick-Filtz](http://www.stpetebeach.org/589/Nick-Filtz)

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

**As hotels and development expand in St Pete Beach, what action will you take to ensure this growth does not negatively impact critical services such as sewerage, water, flooding, traffic congestion, and fire services?**

- candidate declined to respond -

### **Lisa Robinson**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** University of Florida, Bachelor of Science - Advertising

**Professional Experience:** Remote Television Broadcast Professional 1989-current

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 7100 Boca Ciega Drive St Pete Beach FL 33706



**Campaign Website:** [www.lisaforspb.com/](http://www.lisaforspb.com/)  
**Campaign Email:** [VoteForLisaRobinson@gmail.com](mailto:VoteForLisaRobinson@gmail.com)  
**Campaign Phone:** 727-367-5377  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/LisaRobinsonforCommissioner-District2](http://www.facebook.com/LisaRobinsonforCommissioner-District2)  
**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/vote\\_lisarobinson/](http://www.instagram.com/vote_lisarobinson/)

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

For over 2 decades, I've actively participated in the community to make positive change. I was a founder of my neighborhood assoc which successfully worked to slow traffic and increase safety. I've taken part in city workshops, labs and meetings. I have proudly supported residents' initiatives to protect our beach, quality of life and the character of our community. Professionally, I am a strategic planner. I'm responsible for budgets, equipment specs, contract negotiating and personnel.

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

Accountability:

I will prioritize resident's needs and quality of life over those of special interests. I will ensure that city codes & ordinances are enforced without favoritism or bias to preserve & protect our community, beaches & wildlife.

Aging Infrastructure:

I will negotiate development agreements for community partnership to improve & repair our infrastructure for a safe, flood resilient & environmentally sound future. And I will insist that development expansion covers increases to 1st responder services & additional demands so that the residents are not carrying the financial burden

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

As a community with high day trip counts, I will use a holistic approach taking into account not only the increase in development on St Pete Beach, but also increases in development of surrounding communities and the overall impact on our city. Manageable growth must be based on reliable, credible data to minimize negative impacts. Further, I would strictly enforce our beach codes and ordinances to protect our environment and wildlife

**As hotels and development expand in St Pete Beach, what action will you take to ensure this growth does not negatively impact critical services such as sewerage, water, flooding, traffic congestion, and fire services?**

We need a realistic baseline assessment of our current infrastructure to go confidently into the future. Responsible growth must be based on fact, and not on fictional projections, to minimize negative impacts. We must have reliable, credible data for short and long term planning and fiscal responsibility. If the project/development/expansion cannot be supported by the data or decreases our level of services then it should not be approved until such time it can be modified or supported

## Special Election - Tarpon Springs Commissioner Seat 2

The City of Tarpon Springs operates under a commission-manager form of government. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in the mayor and Board of Commissioners. The mayor and Board of Commissioners are responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the city's manager, attorney, clerk and internal auditor. The board consists of four commissioners. The Mayor and Board of Commissioners are elected on a non-partisan basis and may serve up to two three-year terms.

Normal Term: 3 years However, for this Special Election, the term is 19-months, until the normal election cycle in March 2026

Salary: \$8,000

### Frank DiDonato



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/frank.didonato.33](http://www.facebook.com/frank.didonato.33)

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

**Affordability, density and green space are all issues of concern in our community. How would you balance the need for more affordable housing with concerns about the impacts of greater density and the importance of preserving green space?**

- candidate declined to respond -

**Sewer and drainage infrastructure continue to be an issue in the City of Tarpon Springs, are in you in agreement with the current projects? What would you do differently?**

- candidate declined to respond -

## **Chris Hrabovsky**



**Party:** Non Partisan

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:**

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

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

- candidate declined to respond -

**Affordability, density and green space are all issues of concern in our community. How would you balance the need for more affordable housing with concerns about the impacts of greater density and the importance of preserving green space?**

- candidate declined to respond -

**Sewer and drainage infrastructure continue to be an issue in the City of Tarpon Springs, are in you in agreement with the current projects? What would you do differently?**

- candidate declined to respond -