



## **TYBEE ISLAND CANDIDATE FORUMS 2023** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **WHEN ARE THE FORUMS?**

CITY COUNCIL (four year terms) - Monday September 25, **6:30** pm to 8:30 pm

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ELECTION (2 year term) - Monday, October 2,  
**7:00 pm** - 8:30 pm

MAYORAL - Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

### **WHERE ARE THE FORUMS?**

The Forums will be held in person at the Council Chambers, 78 Van Horn Street

### **WHO IS ASKING THE QUESTIONS AT THE FORUMS?**

The City Council Forum will be moderated by [Susan Catron with The Current](#)

The City Council Special Election Forum will be moderated by [Susan Catron with The Current](#)

The Mayoral Forum will be moderated by [Adam Van Brimmer with the Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)

### **WHO IS INVITED TO THE FORUMS?**

**The entire Tybee Community is invited to the Forums.** Please spread the word!

Here are flyers you can download and share:

[City Council Forum Flyer](#)

[Special Election City Council Candidate Forum](#)

[Mayoral Forum Flyer](#)

These events are open to all, everyone is encouraged to attend and everyone is invited and encouraged to submit questions for the candidates.

## **WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES, and WHICH CANDIDATES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FORUMS?**

Candidates are listed below. All candidates have confirmed they will participate in a Forum, with the exception of those noted below.

### Mayor

Mack Kitchens - He has declined to attend the Mayoral Forum

Julia Pearce

Brian West

### Council - 4 year term

Barry Brown

John Branigin

Jay Burke

Joey Goralczyk

Jack Long

James Lucas

Tony Ploughe

Nick Sears

Kathryn Williams

### Council 2-year term (special election)

William Garbett

Beau Livingston

William Mosely

David Roberts

## **WHEN IS THE ELECTION?**

November 7, 2023

## **WHERE DO I VOTE?**

More information about voter residency requirements and where to vote can be found at <https://www.cityoftybee.org/245/Election>

**Please note that some of the City of Tybee information refers to 2022 and not 2023 regarding early voting locations. All other information appears to be correct.**

## OTHER KEY DATES

September 25	City Council Candidate Forum
October 4	Mayoral Candidate Forum
October 10	Voter Registration Deadline
October 16	Early Voting Begins
November 3	Early Voting Ends
November 5	Candidate Meet & Greet
November 7	Election and Special Election

## HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

<https://voter.chathamcountyga.gov/HowToRegister>

## HOW DO I SUBMIT QUESTIONS?

We welcome all questions about the issues you want to be addressed. Please submit your questions in advance for City Council by September 21 and for Mayor by October 1:

**Email to:** [ForeverTybee@gmail.com](mailto:ForeverTybee@gmail.com) **Mail to:** Tybee Candidate Forums P O Box 306, Tybee Island, Ga. 31328

## HOW WILL QUESTIONS BE USED?

Questions will be grouped by topic and provided to the moderator, who will decide how and to whom to ask the questions. Because this is a FORUM and *not* a debate, each question will not be asked of each candidate. However, when appropriate, the Moderator may choose to ask a question to all candidates, particularly a hot issue, especially if there has been a large number of questions submitted on the same topic. The decision is made solely by the Moderator. All questions will be anonymous.

## **WILL THE AUDIENCE BE ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS AT THE FORUM?**

No live questions will be taken at the Forum. *All questions must be submitted in advance.* This is simply to help the moderator and ensure that the Forum runs smoothly.

## **WILL THE FORUMS BE RECORDED?**

Yes. Recordings will be posted on the City of Tybee website and the Forever Tybee website

## **CAN I WATCH THE FORUMS LIVE?**

Yes. The City of Tybee will live stream the Forums on Public Access Channel 13.

However, please do come join us in person! If you require special accommodation to participate, please do let us know and we will make arrangements.

## **WHO IS HOSTING THE FORUMS?**

[Forever Tybee](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 2009 by residents with a mission to support an ethical, open, and transparent city government. In 2017 and 2021 the mission was expanded and refined to include “to build common ground for solutions to local issues through information, programs, and citizen engagement.”

[League of Women Voters of Coastal Georgia](#): The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.

## **DOES FOREVER TYBEE HAVE A POLITICAL PLATFORM?**

No. Forever Tybee does not have a political platform. In addition to the mission stated above, Forever Tybee does have core values:

1. Protect beaches and marshes, historic and artistic treasures, small businesses, and the unique character of the island.
2. Listen objectively and respectfully to citizens and City committees who speak at public hearings, and honor the time, thoughtful work, and recommendations of committees.
3. Uphold the City Charter, Master Plan, Ethics Ordinance, all other city laws, codes and ordinances, and Georgia laws.

4. Encourage and empower volunteerism and participation in open government.
5. Demonstrate strong financial responsibility and knowledge of financial principles.
6. Respect the City Manager form of government by asking elected officials to avoid direct involvement in the day-to-day operations of the City.

## **DOES FOREVER TYBEE ENDORSE CANDIDATES?**

No. Forever Tybee is a nonprofit 501c3. “Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. . .certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.”

For more information, visit the IRS website:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/the-restriction-of-political-campaign-intervention-by-section-501c3-tax-exempt-organizations>

**Individual Forever Tybee members may freely endorse the candidates of their choice.**

## **I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS!**

Call 912-786-9781, email Forever Tybee at [ForeverTybee@gmail.com](mailto:ForeverTybee@gmail.com) or email [Kelly.OBrien67@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.OBrien67@gmail.com) Kelly O'Brien is organizing the 2023 Forums.