

# TYBEE ISLAND VOTER GUIDE

2023 City Council and Mayoral Elections



Candidates were offered the opportunity to respond to nine general questions in their own words at any length. Each candidate received the same questions on the same day in the same order. Responses have not been edited. **Click on the candidate name to go directly to their response.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### City Council Elections- 4 Year Term (3 Seats)

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<a href="#">JOHN BRANIGIN</a> .....	3
<a href="#">BARRY BROWN</a> .....	4
<a href="#">JAY BURKE</a> .....	5
<a href="#">JOSEPH GORALCZYK</a> .....	6
<a href="#">JACK LONG – NO RESPONSE</a> .....	7
<a href="#">JAMES LUCAS</a> .....	8
<a href="#">TONY PLOUGHE</a> .....	9
<a href="#">NICK SEARS</a> .....	12
<a href="#">KATHRYN WILLIAMS</a> .....	14

### Special Election for City Council - 2 year term (1 seat)

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<a href="#">BILL GARBETT</a> .....	16
<a href="#">BEAU LIVINGSTON</a> .....	18
<a href="#">WILLIAM MOSELEY – NO RESPONSE</a> .....	20
<a href="#">DAVE ROBERTS</a> .....	21

### Mayor

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<a href="#">MACK KITCHENS – NO RESPONSE</a> .....	22
<a href="#">JULIA PEARCE</a> .....	23
<a href="#">BRIAN WEST</a> .....	25

## JOHN BRANIGIN

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I was asked to run by numerous residents and friends who feel my approach of collaboration and compromise would benefit our City government.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The job of the Mayor and Council, collectively, is to set policy. It's that simple. Policies set by the Mayor and Council are then enacted by the City Manager and staff.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee "look and feel like" 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>My vision doesn't really matter. I hope Tybee residents can come together and coalesce on a unified vision for the Island. Right now, most "visions" are too focused on one issue or another without taking into consideration a bigger picture.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>I will continue to push (as I did when I served before) to find a way for the City to become "water independent". Tybee's water permit is insignificant when compared to the total "draw" allowed from the aquifer. Therefore, whatever we do will have little to no impact on the issue of saltwater intrusion. As a result, it is incumbent on us to be prepared for when that ultimately happens. Solutions are expensive but will only get more expensive the longer we wait.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>I believe there are more benefits than negatives from tourism on our community and I'm not talking about tourist dollars or tax revenues. Tybee has always been a vacation destination. Our visitors help keep our community infused with a sense of "youthfulness" and fun. Who hasn't felt good after meeting and talking to someone visiting who can't stop talking about what a "great place" this is and how lucky we are to live here. For those few who come here and cause trouble, I believe we have adequate ordinances to manage their bad behavior.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>I believe that collaboration, cooperation and compromise are the keys to dealing with complicated and/or controversial issues.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>The City operates under a "City Manager" form of government. By definition, this means that the relationship between elected officials (Mayor and Council) and City staff is largely "hands off". Elected officials mostly interact with the City Manager as only the City Manager may give direction to staff. It may be appropriate for elected officials to "meet" with staff but never in a manner that gives the appearance of giving direction to staff.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>Elected officials (and residents) should always be open to broadening their understanding of issues and not be closed minded when presented with new or updated information.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I have previously served as the following: Councilman (2018-2021) Council liaison to Public Safety &amp; Finance Committees (2020-2021) Chairman, Audit Committee (2014-2015)</p>

## BARRY BROWN

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>Tybee is my home, I raised my children and now my grandchildren I care about the future of Tybee and would like to keep it as a neighborhood for residents and still welcome visitors without hurting our small town feel.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>City council members are supposed to listen to residents and to match make rules, while the city manager and staff make the day to day operations happen based on those rules</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>To keep Tybee a small town feeling where businesses can do good and visitors are welcome to enjoy the beach. What Tybee looks and feels like in 10 years depends on the people who are elected and what they do. If they make the rules that are good for residents and make sure infrastructure and public safety is planned right and the beach is taken care of, it will be a good look and feel. If they have their own plans and not the residents, who can say what Tybee will look and feel like in 10 years.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>Work on getting fire safety building started and finished. Public Safety is top priority and we have made good progress on police department and need to do the same for fire and rescue.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Work to keep tourism from spreading and overtaking the residential neighborhoods. Regulating the STVRs and businesses like parking lots needs more attention. I have fought for these and will continue if reelected.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>Face them head on, and try to listen to opinions and ideas to try ot find solutions. You can't please everybody, but working with other councilmembers and citizens and businesses and city staff is the best way to try.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>I will work with council members to make rules and work with the city manager directly so that the city manager can with employees.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>Council members are supposed to look at all the information they have before making decisions. Sometimes information is given to council at the meeting and that could make them change their mind.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>Listening to residents and using my past knowledge of Tybee's history and my experience of serving on the planning commission and 14 years on council.</p>

## JAY BURKE

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I have several reasons for running for re-election to Tybee Island City Council. One is to continue to carry on the long family tradition of serving our lovely island community. As volunteer fire chief for many years, my grandfather began our family history on the island, followed by my father who served on the city council and dedicated his life to this beautiful island that he so loved. My second reason for running is that I too, was born with sand in my shoes, the only candidate born and raised on Tybee and my goal is to make it the best place in the world to live. My long history on the island helps me to accomplish this goal because I understand the community, it's problems and it's changing needs in ways that those who are newer to the island cannot.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The role of a city council is to act as a good steward for the community.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee "look and feel like" 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>My vision for Tybee Island is to make this island the best community for its citizens to live and work. Specifically I believe height limits should remain at 35' and with growth expansion moving west towards Lazzaretto Creek, I see a possible need for increased recreational facilities and a new community center.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>Our Tybee city budget increases every year! If re-elected to the city council, my first priority will be to look at this overall budget and find ways to make our government more efficient by providing better services at lower costs.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Balancing the benefits and impact of tourism with the quality of life for our residents is always a difficult task. I feel, however, that this can best be accomplished by enforcing our laws equally for both our visitors and our residents alike.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>When dealing with complicated and controversial issues I try and gather information from both sides to get a clear idea of what's going on. Then I try and evaluate this information fairly in an attempt to find a compromise that provides a positive outcome for everyone involved.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>In the past four years as council member, I feel that I've maintained a good rapport with other members as well as those employed by the city. I've done this by maintaining open and honest communication to insure that we're always on the same page on important issues even if our views on how to solve these issues may differ.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>In assessing information on how best to provide services to our community and its citizens, new facts are always welcomed. No one is perfect and often in the face of new information, I'm happy to correct my error in judgement and change my vote on any issue.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I have always felt it important to be a part of community activities. In the past I've served as chairman of the Tybee Island Planning Commission. Currently I'm liaison to the City of Tyee Business/MainStreet. I've served on numerous nonprofit boards in Savannah and Tybee Island. As a loyal Irish Catholic, I founded the Tybee Island Heritage some 25 years ago, was as General Chairman of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day parade as well as being an active member of many other Irish societies in the community. I believe this involvement in community activities has made me effective in my first four-year term as a councilman for the City of Tybee Island.</p>

## JOSEPH GORALCZYK

<b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b>	City council
<b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b>	To represent the best interests the community and the residents who elected them. Not your OWN interests, but the interests of the whole island. To Engage in useful ways with residents, businesses, and community groups to gather input and address issues.
<b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee "look and feel like" 10 years from now?</b>	I want this City to stay as similar to the community I moved to and fell in love with 16 years ago. We need to remain the open, down-to-earth town that people from all over the country came to love us for. I think we could do more to make this the "Home Town" it used to be. I would like families to feel more at home on the Island. Perhaps offering more essential services such as Doctors, Pharmacies etc... Frankly, I don't want it change much at all!
<b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b>	I think the most help I can offer is to reduce the division we have in certain cases on the Island. I pride myself on being open to other positions and points of view. I think my open mind and ability to communicate can only be helpful. That's why this election is so important to me.
<b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b>	I believe this to be the hot-button topic this cycle. It is definitely difficult to strike the ideal balance, but it is essential. Obviously most of our businesses depend on tourism to thrive, and I count myself in that group. We really have the regulations already in place to achieve that balance, and I think we need to do better at enforcing the ones we have. That being said, things change all the time. Staying vigilant and using all the resources at our disposal to stay on top the situation is the best effort I can offer.
<b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b>	Conversation. It's that simple. Who ever is elected is going to deal with complications. Its important to listen to others and respect their position, even if you disagree. I realize that we all have our differences, but that can't get in the way progress. Obviously not everyone is gonna love you all the time, and I can live with that. Because ultimately it's about Tybee, not anything else .
<b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b>	I think it is best for us all to work as a team. I have great respect for anyone who runs for or serves on the council. It is a full time job in many ways, as I have recently discovered! It's best if we can work together and not against each other, but obviously there will be disagreements. As long as we remain respectful and professional with each other though, we can work through anything.
<b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b>	My goodness, that's the whole idea. Things change all the time, and so must we. I think much less of someone who wouldn't change. I don't pretend to know everything, and nobody should. Ones ego should never get in the way of plain facts.
<b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b>	I have 16 years on Tybee and I adore this city. Most of those years have been spent in the service industry and I've learned much doing that. I think my greatest asset is my ability to communicate with others and I believe I can serve you well!

JACK LONG – no response

## JAMES LUCAS

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I care very much for the people of Tybee Island. I have been blessed to have lived here for all but 4 years of my life when I took a job at the ports in Florida. Tybee has given my family three generations of wonderful childhoods and great memories. I feel like I have some good perspective and the ability to get along with or find common ground with people from all walks of life and I would like to do my part to serve and give back to the only home I've ever known.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>To work together with the Mayor, City Manager and City staff to make the best decisions for the citizens of Tybee Island based on facts and input from the community.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee "look and feel like" 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>My vision for Tybee Island is a Unified community working together to keep Tybee Tybee. Where we can provide sound infrastructure, safe streets and the spirit of tolerance, forgiveness and acceptance that has drawn so many here for so many years.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>My first priority would be to protect the lives of our citizens. We must be able to provide citizens with access to Emergency medical care during busy weekends and big events. Whether it be an agreement with local hospitals to set up temporary triage centers or maybe even a satellite Emergency Room, this should be priority number one.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Enhance the residents quality of life by funding residents amenities/utilities with tax revenue collected from the tourism industry and rentals.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>I like to do research and educate my self on all aspects of an issue and get input from all parties involved so that I can make a sound decision based on facts and an all around perspective.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>I believe that the City staff are the most vital part of a well functioning City. They are the back bone of the community and they are very knowledgeable in what it takes to get things done and their opinions should be valued and exemplary performance should be rewarded and praised. I believe there should be opportunity for the City staff to address the City Council "as a whole" if they have concerns or suggestions that will help keep things functioning at optimal levels.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>I believe decisions should be made based on all information available and if new information changes the scope of an issue or the liability of one party or the other then it is just to change one's mind.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I have been a member of the community my whole life. I have raised two wonderful children on Tybee. I am a former volunteer fire fighter, former Tybee Police Department Explorer, former working musician and I worked for the City in the water and sewer department. I have been a member of the recreation committee and a volunteer coach for the YMCA, Savannah United and Tybee Island Maritime Academy and I have been blessed to get to know people of our community of all ages and professions and I feel that I can do a good job of making we'll informed decisions in favor of their well being.</p>



## TONY PLOUGHE

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I am running for Tybee Island City Council to be a representative of the residents. My commitment is to be open minded and as well informed, with research and data as I can on the topics to provide compassionate and balanced decisions and leadership for our community of Tybee Island. I have attended 38 of the last 40 regular Tybee City Council meetings since August of 2021. I am committed to do the work to make informed decisions and leadership for our community.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>Tybee City Council role in our community is to help provide for our communities welfare through services provided by our city government, protection and aid to our citizens, the success of businesses on the island, seeking and listening to community input, long range planning through policies and ordinances. Tybee City Council is also the checks and balances on the City Manager and staff that they are working to city ordinances, within the bounds and enforcement of those ordinances. City Council needs to be thinking and approaching topics on the 5, 10, 20, 50 year influence on our families and community when developing ordinances.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>Tybee is an incredible community. Visitors are amazed with the community of friends they find here and how we interact with each other. The City of Tybee is doing a lot of things right! We are looking after and maintaining our waterways, marshes and beaches; providing more services of Police, Fire, EMS, upgrading infrastructure for our residents, making efforts to make the island more family friendly, trying to help our businesses succeed, looking after the appearance of our community, historical preservation efforts and providing access to a beautiful beach for all to come and enjoy.</p> <p>Tybee is a community that helps others when they are of need. The food bank, churches support, go fund me cancer drives. I look for us to be an even more supportive community with positive attitudes – a large part of leadership is setting a tone and an example.</p> <p>A balance of residents and tourists is high on our list on what our focus for Tybee is over the next 10 years.</p> <p>The 2024 Annual Budget, adopted on June 22, 2023, page 7 showed that we are projected to spend approximately \$7M in 2024 and \$9M in each of 2025, 2026 &amp; 2027 on water and sewer infrastructure repairs and improvements over the next several years that we were getting behind on. I believe these are all warranted, needed expenses and good for our island to catch up on these infrastructure needs, but these are large numbers to be aware of!</p> <p>I see technology continuing to aid our city. In 10 years time, we could be evaluating how to have free wifi access.</p> <p>The 2021-2026 Comprehensive Plan denotes 52.4% of our residents are 60 years of age and older. 74.5% of our residents were born before 1980.</p> <p>The city is studying how to provide more for families to encourage them to move here including as an example of the questionnaire partnered with YMCA to understand childcare needs on the island.</p> <p>With the aging population, we will need to be more aware of our needs in mobility and health care.</p>

<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>I am looking for the City of Tybee to be more strategic planning in our efforts. It appears to me that we have been more reactive to situations after they happen. I am looking for us to be more pro-active. I believe a City Operations Manual, developed by the city staff that includes job descriptions, duties and responsibilities, expectations of the positions, 360 degree employee review process including employees ability to review their management, hiring practices, employee rights, training processes, how our city coordinates with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, State of GA and Federal agencies is one of those ways that we become more strategic and pro-active. The City operations manual would contain department procedures in how they conduct their daily operations. It could include public relations expectations, what and how we share public information.</p> <p>I have seen the employee manual, emergency management, public safety and additional information guides on the Tybee website that does include some of this information already and a portion of these items may exist or be in work that I could not find.</p> <p>This operations manual will aid us in being more pro-active defining strategic planning expectations than being reactive to conditions after they happen. This operation manual can define preparation for events planned and unplanned on Tybee. Estimation for crowd size can occur 4-6 weeks in advance, staffing of police, fire, ems can be defined for the crowd size and coordination for additional assistance and support a month in advance as a regular activity.</p> <p>Written hazard response plans could include plans of temporary water transportation of people if Bull River or Lazaretto Creek bridge were damaged during a hurricane or a ferry system capable of transporting emergency, resident or restoration vehicles.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Tourism is the main engine for Tybee economy. This tourism has enhanced the quality of life for Tybee residents including employment opportunities, standard of living, community services, infrastructure, restaurants and introduction of many different cultures of visitors. Per our 2023 approved City of Tybee Budget, of our 17.7M projected 2023 revenue for the general fund; tourism helps bring in directly \$400K STR licenses, \$6.4M projected Hotel/motel taxes including STR taxes, \$5.9M parking revenue plus indirect income of taxes paid on food and services. Assuming most of the \$952K of fines are not coming from our citizens. Assuming more than ½ of the \$2M property taxes are not coming from residents. By my math, those direct accountable income from tourism accounts for approximately \$14.6M of our \$17.7M projected general fund revenue, 82.5% of our budgeted general fund revenue. It has been less than a decade when several businesses would close for the winter months. It is nice to have thriving restaurants and businesses on the island.</p> <p>There is an impact to resident quality of life though. Traffic, parking, noise, pollution, impact on infrastructure, not having full time neighbors, housing prices, reduced community engagement. It is about balance, but how do we measure and determine where that balance is. The Chamber of Commerce is projected to receive \$1.8M of 2023 budget funds to promote tourism on Tybee and the Hutchinson Island Trade Center is projected to receive \$900K funding from the \$6.4M projected revenue from the 7% hotel/motel/STR taxes. I understand these are approved by special option tax base. I do not believe that we want to limit or reduce tourism, that will impact the Tybee businesses; but if that is the desire, the city could reduce the tourism promotion. Then we need to look at how to compensate for the reduced income and realize the impact to businesses.</p>

<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>Complicated issues can be broken down into smaller, detailed and more manageable topics. We can strive to understand the root cause and how we got to the position of having the issue. We need to be open minded to work with others for the best solution for our community. Engaging our community for input and listening to them as a whole, ensuring that we are hearing from more than a vocal few will help educate us. Researching and speaking to other communities on their solutions to issues similar to ours is reasonable.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>With a City Manager reporting to a Mayor and city council style government; the city staff reports to the city manager. The City Manager and staff provide for the cities daily operations with the guidance of the city ordinances. The city council represents the community citizens needs and wishes through long range planning accomplished with policy and ordinances. The city council may be involved with city staff in development of city ordinances, but is generally not expected to be involved in daily activities. I believe it is important for city council to understand the city staffs needs to support our city with the city managers acceptance of this communication.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>I very much appreciate elected officials who are open minded and make decisions from research, data, compassion and community input. I expect my elected officials to research and understand the issue as much as they are reasonably able to before the city council meeting, then listen to other council members and community input at the council meeting to make the best decisions that are good for our community.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I am a flight test instrumentation engineer for the past 32 years. I have worked for 8 aerospace companies on 3 continents who are very good about defining detail processes and procedures, studying and understanding issues and working with others to provide the best and safest solution.</p> <p>I was on the board of directors of Alpha Phi Omega – National Service Fraternity through 2007 and 2008 focused on developing college age men and women as student leaders to provide community service.</p> <p>I believe my strengths of research, work ethic, positive attitude, willingness to listen to others, desire to share information with the residents and the desire for the well being of Tybee will help lead our community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and being an engaged part of this very special island!</p>

## NICK SEARS

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>For many years it has been my privilege to call Tybee my home and to enjoy the pleasure of Tybee life. The basic reason I am running for City Council is that in return I feel it is my responsibility to “give back” by making a meaningful contribution to Tybee and that I am best suited to do so by serving on the Council.</p> <p>In addition, during my lengthy involvement with the problems presented by the City’s permitting short-term rentals in its residential districts I became increasingly disappointed in the Council’s performance and decided that rather than simply complaining it would be more productive for me to try to improve matters by serving on the Council.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The Council’s main governmental functions are to legislate, provide administrative oversight and to hire and fire the City Manager. The Council should assume a leadership role in the community by anticipating future issues and needs and by publicly setting out and then following guiding policies. In performing that role, the Council should take steps to keep its citizens informed of what actions it is taking or proposing to take, the status of those actions and the reasons for such actions.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>I hope that 10 years from now Tybee will “feel” pretty much the same as it does today. It is my hope that 10 years from now the “look” of Tybee’s public spaces and roads (particularly Butler Avenue) will be significantly improved by planting trees and increased landscaping. In addition over the next 10 years I see Tybee becoming an environmentally sensitive model for the Country --- no plastic bags or straws, no Styrofoam containers, significantly decreased use of gas powered vehicles, and continued focus on the health of our estuaries.</p> <p>I also envision Tybee in the future as a beach community that has come to grips with the fact that it has a very limited amount of space and that rational controls over the number of cars and people on the Island at any one time must be put in place.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>My top priority would be the enactment of clearly written comprehensible legislation that would, over a period of time, reduce the number of STVR’s permitted in Tybee’s neighborhoods to well below the number allowed now and that would provide that STR permits shall not survive the sale of the houses to which they apply. That is, once a house is sold its STR permit will no longer apply to it but may be reissued in favor of another house so long as there are no more than the allowed number of permits outstanding.</p>

<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Tourism is imbedded in Tybee’s culture and is essential to its financial well-being. On the other hand, its neighborhoods are the soul of Tybee and must be protected by providing the residents with a quality of life that will insure the survival of the neighborhoods. Balancing tourism and the interests of residents should be to a large extent a matter of common sense. Tourism benefits from healthy neighborhoods populated by permanent residents who take part in its government and who voluntarily spend time caring for and maintaining Tybee; and tourism will suffer if it harms those neighborhoods by increased commercialization, traffic and overcrowding.</p> <p>For instance, restricting short term rentals in neighborhoods is necessary to protect their health and does no significant harm to tourism. Thus, in that instance common sense dictates that the neighborhoods’ needs outweigh the wishes of the tourism industry. Of course, what constitutes common sense is not always obvious and can be a matter of opinion in which case balance can only be achieved by an enlightened Council.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>The first step in handling complicated issues or for that matter any issue is to create a clear statement of exactly what the issue is. The next step is to create an organized and correct statement of all pertinent facts (get the facts right). If the issue is controversial the next step should be to focus on the similarities rather than the differences between the various points of view. Finally, since it’s almost never possible to please everyone a resolution of the differences must be found through compromise and good faith balancing of benefits against burdens.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>A good deal of my answer to this question is found in Section 2.31 of Tybee’s Charter:</p> <p>“Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under section 2.15 of this charter the city council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the manager solely through the manager and neither the city council or its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee either publicly or privately.”</p> <p>Further the Council, as a matter of practice, should appoint only one or two Members who may discuss any issue or area of concern with the manager and through whom other Members’ questions or concerns about that issue should be communicated. Further direct communications between members and staff should only occur with manager’s approval.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>My view of an elected official who refuses to consider changing his or her mind when faced with new pertinent facts or facts of which he or she was not aware would be very unfavorable. Obviously new facts could justify or even require an elected official’s changing his or her mind; and my view of an elected official’s considering changing his or her mind in light of new facts would be favorable.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>My legal practice, which extended well over 40 years involved an almost constant exercise in out- of -court conflict resolution. This experience should be of real value to the City if I were to be elected. My legal practice also gave me experience in zoning matters and in dealing with municipalities which I feel certain would be of benefit as would my experience in drafting clear concise legal documents.</p> <p>Practicing law requires the development of an almost extreme work ethic to which I would adhere if elected to City Council.</p>

## KATHRYN WILLIAMS

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I am running for city council because Tybee is at a critical juncture, and this election will determine the future of the island. If elected, I pledge to use my years of experience in government, education, business, and nonprofits to address the challenges and opportunities facing our island.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>Tybee has a city manager form of government, so the role of city council/mayor is to set policy and to adopt ordinances that "protect and improve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tybee Island". The mayor and council are also responsible for holding the city manager accountable, adopting a budget, setting tax rates, and focusing on strategic planning.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee "look and feel like" 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>In ten years, I vision Tybee as the model of a small, vibrant island who successfully restored balance to the community. I see Tybee as a community who welcomes visitors, but not at the expense of our residents. I see a resilient community who celebrates and protects the natural beauty of the island.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>Restoring accountability is my top priority. To start, the mayor and council must hold themselves accountable. Members of council must be prepared by reading the packet, doing their homework and showing up prepared, sober, and with an open mind. The second part of accountability is holding those who report directly to council accountable. This includes the city manager, the clerk of council, and the city attorneys. When we hold ourselves and others accountable, great things can be accomplished.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>For an island known for embracing visitors, the realization that we can't accommodate everyone at the same time on a 3 mile spit of sand has been difficult for many to accept. It's not a question of whether we need or want tourists, it's a question of how to manage tremendous numbers of guests/vehicles while ensuring public safety and the ability of visitors and residents to navigate the island without the frustrations of gridlocked traffic. To achieve balance on the island, we need to address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marketing - Although the state has interfered with our ability to do so, the city must have more input and control over how the island is marketed. The city has already taken steps to address how VisitTybee and the the island market Tybee, and as a result, ads now promote visitor etiquette. In my opinion, it just doesn't make sense to spend millions of dollars on promoting a crowded destination when the H/M tax money could be spent on improving the infrastructure, services, and attractions needed to support visitors.</li> <li>2. Public Beach Issue - Tybee must work with county, state, and federal agencies to determine visitor capacity. It's not about restricting access or being elitist, territorial, or exclusionary; it's about protecting the essence of the island so that people will continue to want to live and visit here. Tybee must work with these agencies to develop procedures to deal with high volume weekends and to pursue alternative means of transportation to the island.</li> <li>3. Remote Parking - Tybee usually has enough beach to support the level of visitors. What we lack is parking. I am very interested in pursuing remote parking locations and believe this will elevate much of the gridlock.</li> <li>4. Preserving residential neighborhoods - I will work to prohibit additional STRs in residential neighborhoods. This act alone will reduce the impact felt by residents in R-1, R-1-B, and R-2 neighborhoods.</li> </ol>

<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>When faced with a complicated and/or controversial issue, I believe information and transparency are critical. When controversial issues come up, the public needs and wants Information. They need to know if/how the charter, the master plan, and the code factor into the issue. They want their opinions and concerns to be heard. I pledge to listen. At the end of this process, I will make my decisions based on the facts, relevant codes, and citizen input.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>Ideally, the mayor and council will establish a positive work culture based on trust and respect. If elected, I will work to foster a collaborative relationship between council and professional staff by being prepared, consistent, and willing to work as part of the team. I will strive to provide the staff with clear expectations and outcomes while refraining from meddling in day-to-day operations.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>I find the ability to view new information objectively and then reconsider previously held perspectives to be a very positive characteristic. It has been my experience that elected officials with this trait are highly effective, successful leaders.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I have four years of experience serving on city council and have held leadership positions in several organizations including the Tybee Island Marine Science Center, the Humane Society of Greater Savannah, the Savannah Skate Park Committee, Tybee Beautification, Forever Tybee, and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. In these positions, I was/am known for scrutinizing budgets and instituting evaluation processes while creating new programs and consistently demonstrating the ability to organize and execute. I have the tenacity and vision needed to follow through on long-range plans and projects such as the purchase of the campground and the construction of the new marine science center facility.</p>

## BILL GARBETT

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I am running for council because I believe I represent those on Tybee who value an honest, efficient, cost effective, fair and representative city government focused on residents. I believe I have demonstrated that I will listen to all sides of an issue before making a decision and I pledge to continue to do so. I believe I have made and will continue to make a positive impact on the way Tybee is run.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The key role of the City Council is to decide which ordinances are necessary to ensure the welfare of our community. These run the gamut from funding the government, to providing water and sewers, to zoning, to pickleball courts. Surprisingly, all of these can be controversial and require careful consideration and discussion.</p> <p>One additional note. Council members do not direct the day to day operations of the city. That is the job of the city manager who reports to the council.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>My crystal ball? If I were transported to a future Tybee in 2033 I would hope that I would still be able to recognize it. I would hope that the houses were occupied by full time residents. I would hope that we don’t have skyscrapers along the beach.</p> <p>I’ve been accused of longing for Mayberry, but I say that’s not a bad thing.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>My mission is to prevent the further intrusion of STRs (Short Term Rentals) into residential areas.</p> <p>There are problems associated with the high percentage of transient, non-owner occupancy such as noise and lack of on-site supervision. The bigger threat, however, is the loss of the community which defines us. We need to ensure that long term residents do not become the minority.</p> <p>Long term residents volunteer for and support the innumerable community programs which unite us, the Post Theater, American Legion, Shrine Club, TIMA, the Y and all its youth sports and classes, Tybee Arts Association, the Pantry, Pirates Fest, the St. Patrick’s parade. Who would want to open a dental practice, a vet office or a car repair shop where the clientele is dependent on a declining residential client base? In a landscape of merely beach homes for tourists we would end up pretty much with only restaurants, gift shops and bars. In a future where STRs outnumber owner-occupied homes, who is going to form the community base to support the programs that make Tybee a joy?</p> <p>What is my plan?</p> <p>First, we must protect the current ordinance. There are current council members and council candidates who favor repealing it. If repealed it would open the floodgates and drown us in a sea of mini-Holiday Inns and eventually overwhelm our residential communities with STRs.</p> <p>Second, we must pursue options to accelerate the return of STRs to homes through attrition. Currently, an STR license continues with the land, owner after owner, until the owner stops operating an STR. This needs to be changed so that the license expires with the transfer of the property to a new owner.</p> <p>Short term rentals should never have been allowed in residential neighborhoods. A review of the descriptions of the residential districts in Tybee’s land development code describes residential land uses as, “Quiet, livable, low-density single-family</p>



	<p>neighborhoods,” “The character of development in these areas is oriented for permanent residents.” and “Commercial and industrial uses are incompatible.” Frankly, this was Tybee in the mid 90’s when we settled here, and it remained so for about 20 years.</p> <p>When the influx of STRs began, it seemed innocuous, but then we began to see STRs overwhelm neighborhoods. Now, in our residential neighborhoods, every third residence is a registered STR with over 700 registered STRs. Enough is enough. There are about 1,200 housing units in our commercially zoned districts and about 2/3 of these are registered STRs. This is where our transient housing belongs.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>Tybee is a tourist destination. Balancing the benefits and impact of tourism with the quality of life for residents is tough. I feel like the current “balance” is tourists get 6 months then residents get 6 months. Sometimes it feels like residents get the short end of the stick, but that’s not always true, residents get to enjoy the island year round.</p> <p>There is no simple solution here. We reap substantial economic benefits from our visitors and our visitors often overwhelm the island. I don’t have silver bullet here. We need to vigorously enforce our codes and we must continue to collaborate among residents and businesses to seek that “balance”.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>“For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong.” H. L. Mencken</p> <p>Solving complicated, controversial issues requires fact finding, open communication and cooperation. It is important that we understand all applicable laws as the city may be constrained as to what it can do. Problem solving requires a commitment by all parties to finding a solution which is fair and benefits Tybee’s residents first of all.</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>The ideal relationship between council members and professional staff would be that of colleagues looking for what is best for the city and its residents.</p> <p>I have utmost respect for the city staff. I have always found them to be a reliable source of information as to the operation of the city. I will continue to do so.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>Smart.</p> <p>As Justice Felix Frankfurter stated, “Wisdom too often never comes, and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes late.”</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>Tybee resident since 1995</p> <p>My wonderful wife Chris and I married in the jungles of Guatemala 52 years ago. We have two sons who both live in Atlanta.</p> <p>For over 30 years I worked as a research forester in forest productivity at the University of Florida, Union Camp and International Paper. I know how to analyze information.</p> <p>I have been active in the Tybee community, serving on Planning Commission for 2 years, City Council for 8 years, as well as participating in Better Hometown/Downtown Development Authority, Tybee Island Historical Society, Tybee Marine Science Center, Tybee Beautification Association and other groups over the years.</p> <p>I treat people with respect and look for solutions.</p>

## BEAU LIVINGSTON

<p><b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b></p>	<p>I chose to run for this office because of my concerns about the current state of affairs on Tybee. I feel that many of the full-time residents feel disenfranchised. Many have expressed that their concerns are not being addressed in an acceptable manner. They do not feel that their voices are being heard, and that the gentrification of Tybee has left a bad taste in their mouth. This is especially true of the long-term renters on the island who have been displaced, some multiple times due to the STVR influx. Others, friends and valued workers forced to leave the island completely. They were just priced out.</p> <p>I am also deeply concerned about the over capacity of visitors in the summer months, especially where parking, traffic and behavior issues are concerned. Along with the state of the infrastructure, the water draw and discharge limits and the diminishing amount of green space.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The first role is to represent our constituents concerns and visions for the island in a responsible and respectful sense. The charter defines the roles and responsibilities of council in a formal manner and should be followed. Along with that, council is representative of this island to other communities. Council members should be available for our residents concerns.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>I envision a Tybee that stays true to the unique character of the island. A welcoming, diverse population who continue to care for each other as the small village that we really are. I would like to expand options for family activities and events, strongly encourage conservation of our natural resources and continue to support our thriving artist communities.</p> <p>This could go in many directions based on the leadership. What I would love to see would be a community that is active with neighborhoods, businesses and activities. Being a destination for visitors, all while preserving the natural beauty and resources of our island and the historic properties.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>I want to foster relationships between neighbors with opposing views in an effort to encourage healthy and respectful conversation. To understand others point of view, therefore providing solutions to existing problems. Basically, just bring our island together. This is a priority because, this is what gives us a sense of community. Something that I think is really important to all of our residents.</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>I believe that there is a wealth of information and resources available. By referring to the city’s master plan, the carrying capacity study, the land development code, data and statistics that have been compiled for these projects and current municipal code, the solution to many issues is at our fingertips. Along with that, we have the marine science center, Tybee Beach cleanup, the Burton 4H facilities, our police force, firefighters, lifeguards and many other sources who all keep records as standard practice. If these tools are reviewed, followed and updated regularly, a natural balance should follow.</p>
<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>Generally, I like to break down issues into smaller, more manageable matters and address each one while keeping an eye on the big picture. It’s imperative to look at all sides and weigh each issue and possible solutions while also working to determine any unforeseen consequences. In general, I am not in favor of rapid, reactive, poorly thought out solutions and believe in governing in a proactive, insightful manner. I truly believe that everyone wants what is best for Tybee. We just don’t always agree on how to get there. I feel that we as a city need to be more proactive. What I see now is reactionary, in some situations that can be necessary in others it is avoidable with proper planning.</p>

<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>I have the utmost respect for all city staff and recognize the challenges that they have on our very busy island. I would follow the requirements of the charter and deal directly with the city manager when required. When appropriate, I will listen, ask questions and consider their expertise in the matter at hand.</p> <p>My ideal relationship with other council members would be as a team member of a group. All with varying ideas and opinions that should have one common goal. That goal should prioritize the residents and local business's needs, while not losing sight of the big picture, which is to be stewards of our beautiful home.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>My view is that they are doing something right. I will always be open minded when presented with new information on a subject. I believe that no elected official should have their mind made up prior to knowing all available facts.</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I have been a United States citizen for my entire life. I believe in the U.S. Constitution, The Bill of Rights, the Constitution of the State of Georgia and the Tybee City Charter. I have been blessed to have had a diverse career path, all of which have provided me with the opportunity to learn many different skills.</p> <p>I have experience with research, data analysis, reading and dissemination of legal code, budgeting, contractual requirements, troubleshooting and establishing working relationships within the community. My schooling and continued education along with careers in sales, management, service as well as 13 years as a professional tattoo artist have given a unique skill set in a variety of different areas.</p> <p>All of these could prove helpful to a position on council. I have worked with local health departments to develop codes, procedures, training and standards in a then growing, now mainstream industry. Throughout all of this I have learned to communicate well with people from all walks of life. To understand their needs, goals and visions, then use that information in a constructive way.</p>

WILLIAM MOSELEY – no response

## DAVE ROBERTS

<b>Why are you running for Tybee City Council/Mayor?</b>	I made the decision to run for Tybee City Council because I have witnessed bad decisions made by the current council on numerous issues that effect our community.
<b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b>	I believe the role of City Council is to listen to all concerns and opinions expressed, carefully consider these views and make the best decision to meet the needs of our community.
<b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b>	My vision is for Tybee Island to not only be the best beach town to visit but also the best beach town to reside.
<b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b>	My main priority as Councilman would be to find balance for STVR including establishment of rules and regulations with oversight and shared accountability between the property owner and the property manager.
<b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b>	Better preparation for all events, permitted and unpermitted.
<b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b>	I will be able to vote on all controversial issues as I have no affiliations with any businesses on Tybee. I will listen with an open mind to all complicated and unique needs of our residents and follow through accordingly.
<b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b>	I would work collaboratively and professionally.
<b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b>	If a new fact is presented or identified, it is acceptable to change your view as an elected official.
<b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b>	I have served in many leadership positions in civic and religious committees including but not limited to the following: President of Armstrong State University's chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Board Member of Habersham YMCA ( 8 yrs) Board Member of Boy Scouts of America (5 yrs) Past President of Benedictine Alumni Association Past President of various Irish Organizations including past Chairman of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

MACK KITCHENS – no response

## JULIA PEARCE

<p><b>Why are you running for Mayor of Tybee?</b></p>	<p>Because I would make a great one 2. Brian was about to just walk into the office without any opposition. 3. I love making History, Shirley cracked that male only ceiling and I am cracking another.</p>
<p><b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b></p>	<p>The Mayor sets the Leadership tone for the city,- she runs the City Council meetings; Not by Robert’s Rules of Order but by the Rules of Council. She works closely with City Manager, Attorney and Council members and City partners, County, State and Federal government. She addresses the Universal and the Particular she is the face of representation for our community. She makes sure all voices are heard. She assures the city ordinances are faithfully executed. Her top priority is keeping the citizens and tourists safe., as she represents the City in times of crisis when necessary.</p>
<p><b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b></p>	<p>2033 My Vision for Tybee is a well balanced Community, measured by sustainability of resources and implementation plastic bags a thing of the pass. Citizen awareness about maintenance of infrastructure . We would have our own Deep Well to supply water. And City elected officials would approve ordinances that respect the Carrying Capacity. Our City decision around growth would be water and Green Space based. City Green space rewarded and encouraged. Housing for for families with children, and city workers, as mentioned in the Master Plan. A community center that is multi generational, school that reflects all the demographic of people who use the beach. A city with public transportation and a public swimming pool. A City with a rebranded Orange Crush Into a profitable cultural event a model to be copied by small town communities a-crossed the country. We would be a city with a cultural affairs department, A city bold and brave that faces, recognizes, and honors the true history of Tybee Island. We would pay homage to the Guale and Yuchee Native tribes whose land was stolen and the inhibits forcibly removed.- We would embrace Heritage tourism as mentioned, in the City Master Plan. There would be a historical monument on display acknowledging the true history: a marker of Tybee Lazaretto port during the TransAtlantic Slave trade. We would have forged International relationships with Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone the African Diaspora acknowledging Africa’s and Africans historic role in building Tybee, Georgia and the Nation.</p>
<p><b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b></p>	<p>Job too important for a single accomplishment: the fact that Tybee is 134 years old and never a non white candidate for Mayor is a important pejorative accomplishment</p>
<p><b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b></p>	<p>That balance horse left the proverbial barn many noons ago. Today we must encourage and help residents to organize and let their voices be collective heard. The people with money and business interests on Tybee get the attention and their candidate for Mayor was about to walk into the Mayor’s office unopposed- well he may still walk in, it will not be without opposition. Meanwhile citizens had to fight and sign petitions to replace Beach Benches and Swings that should not have been removed in the first place- while he was on council. We have a representative form of government we are suppose to vote in individuals who represent our interests - Common citizens without monetary motives or powerful friends should run for local office and be elected.</p>

<p><b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b></p>	<p>We live in a time where complicated and controversial issues have become the normal. I am thankful to the Community Organization Forever Tybee started by Tybee former resident Freda Rutherford, Tybee’s governmental committee meetings are numerous, it is impossible to attend them all. However as a member of Forever Tybee I read the minutes written by community volunteers to stay informed. The key to complicated and controversial issues is information and conversation seeking common ground. Freda Rutherford ran for Tybee City Council 2004 -although she lost by a few votes her lost was a community gain for government transparency. Anyone wishing to be informed has a solid opportunity</p>
<p><b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b></p>	<p>I considered not responding to this questions because it is about power issues.... I would work with everyone from a place of mutual respect.. Because as Mayor I would be a Public Servant; Mayor suggests and listens to City Council, Mayor with Council and City Attorney form a consensus and directs the City Manager and City Manager gives directives and manages the professional staff.</p>
<p><b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b></p>	<p>Those people can called intelligent</p>
<p><b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b></p>	<p>I am a 26 year continuous resident of Tybee Island, I am a wife and mother and grandmother- the skill set needed to manage a successful home and raise productive functioning children to adulthood involves critical thinking, budget understanding, resource accountability, leadership, communication, problem solving, safety guidelines and implementation of visionary strategic goals these qualities are sufficient to be Mayor. However, in addition I have education from Spelman College class of 1984 major in Economics and minor in Philosophy. Spelman College is Woman’s College in Atlanta,Georgia with a long history of producing women leaders since 1888. A nursing degree from Georgia Perimeter College 1994. Registered Nurse: MICU Grady Memorial Hospital.1994-1997</p> <p>Psychiatric Mental Health ANCC Board certified Registered Nurse 2000-2013</p> <p>Executive Program Director Tidelands Adolescent Behavioral Residential Treatment facility Bloomingdale , Georgia: Founding Clinical Director of Gateway CSB Transitional Crisis Center, Thunderbolt, GA.: Program Manager Gateway 14 day Rehabilitation Drug and Alcohol Program Fahm St. Savannah.</p> <p>Assessment Admission Nurse Hospice Savannah, Charge Nurse and Staff Nurse Curtis V. Copper Primary Health Savannah, GA.</p>



## BRIAN WEST

<b>Why are you running for Mayor of Tybee?</b>	To provide leadership and to accomplish goals needed for our safety, health, and security; and wanted to improve the quality of life for our residents.
<b>What do you believe is the role of City Council/Mayor in our community?</b>	The Mayor and Council set policy for the City and provide instruction and leadership to the City Manager.
<b>What is your vision for Tybee Island? What does Tybee “look and feel like” 10 years from now?</b>	Tybee could look and feel very different 10 years from now. New bridges with multipurpose lanes will provide opportunities to modify our transportation infrastructure to accommodate multiple modes of transportation. This would lead to improvements for a safer and more pedestrian and bike friendly Tybee. We also have opportunities to remember our tree-lined roads of the past and bury power lines. This combined with wayfinding improvements that would reduce the number of signs will affect our "look and feel."
<b>Name one thing you want to do during your term if elected and describe why accomplishing this is your top priority.</b>	One of my top priorities is to begin implementation of an improved independent and eco-friendly water supply system.
<b>How would you balance the benefits and impact of tourism and quality of life for residents?</b>	The two require each other. While I do not support growth in tourism, I do recognize that tourists support our businesses, and residents need businesses for good quality of life.
<b>What is your approach to handling complicated and controversial issues?</b>	Create a friendly environment, then gather all available data and seek input from all affected parties, then work toward compromise. Compromise requires amicable relationships.
<b>Describe how you would work with city staff and your view of the ideal relationship between elected council members, mayor, and professional staff.</b>	The mayor and council should seek advice from professional staff and provide leadership to the City Manager to direct city staff.
<b>What is your view about elected officials who change their mind when presented with facts that are new or that they did not previously know?</b>	I appreciate anyone who is open-minded and willing to compromise.
<b>What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to our community if you are elected to serve?</b>	I have business leadership experience (30 years), education experience (5 years), community leadership experience (25 years) and experience with City of Tybee Island government (2 years).