



## Manatee County Voters' Guide for Candidates in the General Election, November 8, 2022

Featuring the background and viewpoints of candidates in the following elections:

- ❖ Manatee County Commission District 2
- ❖ Manatee County School Board District 2
- ❖ Bradenton City Council Ward 2
- ❖ Bradenton City Council Ward 4
- ❖ City of Palmetto Commission Ward 2
- ❖ Holmes Beach City Commission

*and also:*

Economic Development Tax Referendum



Videos of candidate forums are available at:  
<https://lwvmanatee.org/voting-videos/>

Complete voting information is available at:  
<https://www.vote411.org/>

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues*

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**Please see page 3 for “What's missing from this guide and how to get it” and more voting sources and information.**

**Sign up to get League of Women Voters of Manatee County emails at <https://lwvmanatee.org/>**

Benefits Include:

- Notice of Events
- Notice of Educational Seminars
- Summaries many of the Board of County Commissioner Meetings
- Summaries of many of the Board of Education Meetings
- It is a great way to get involved in your community and play an active role in our democracy.

Better still, women and men, become a member!



# Voting Information

## What's missing from this guide and how to get it.:

**US Senate and House of Representatives:** [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) or [ballotpedia.org](http://ballotpedia.org)

**Judges:** Guide to Judicial Retention Elections: <https://lwvmanatee.org/election-information/>

**Florida Constitutional Amendments:** <https://lwvfl.org/amendments-2022>

**CDDs:** Go to your community board or HOA for more information.

## More Candidate Information

### [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

See the candidates that will be on your ballot, read their information and responses to LWV questions, compare, select the candidates you prefer. You can even print out your ballot selections.

<https://www.vote411.org/>

### Want to see the candidates in action?

Got to <https://lwvmanatee.org/voting-video>. This link will take you to videos of candidate forums. There you will find both LWVMC videos as well as candidate forums sponsored by other nonpartisan organizations

### [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org)

Ballotpedia gives some additional information on candidates such as a brief biography and analysis of voting records, key themes, etc. [https://ballotpedia.org/Sample Ballot Lookup](https://ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup)

## Additional Voting Information

### How to assure your vote is counted if using vote-by-mail:

- Follow instructions carefully.
- Drop off vote-by-mail ballots at the Supervisors of Elections office, 600 301 Blvd. W., Suite 108, Bradenton during office hours.
- Ballot must be turned in by 7:00 P.M. on election night.
- Drop off your ballot to secure drop box sites at early voting locations during early voting hours.
- Mail your ballot two to three weeks prior to election day. Before October 25.
- Track your ballot online, and educate voters how to track their ballots. <https://www.votemanatee.gov/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Track-Your-Vote-By-Mail-Ballot>

### If using early voting or vote on general election day, November 3:

- Consider and encourage utilization of early vote centers, which often have little to no wait times and no crowds.
- Bring your signed picture ID, if you have one. You may provisionally vote if you cannot find one, but it must be at your correct polling place and the signatures must match. To see valid voting IDs, go to <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/election-day-voting/>

# Economic Development Tax Referendum

**Wording of the referendum** -Ballot wording - Shall the Board of County Commissioners of this county be authorized to grant, pursuant to section 3, article VII of the state constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in the county?

## **A Vote Yes**

- Continue the ability of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) authority to grant real estate tax exemptions.
- Could possibly bring in more jobs to Manatee County.
- Would possibly reduce real estate taxes the county would have to meet other county needs.

## **A Vote No**

Would not continue the ability of the BoCC to grant real estate tax exemptions to targeted businesses.

## Elected Position Descriptions

### **Manatee County Commissioner District 2**

Manatee County Commissioners represent their single-member or at-large geographic district and overall countywide interests, as part of the legislative and policy-setting branch of county government. County government is typically responsible for: fire rescue; disaster relief; county jail; constructing and maintaining county buildings, roads, and bridges; providing programs for housing and land conservation, as well as approving the Comprehensive Plan (for development). Commissioners serve staggered 4-year terms, with a term limit of 8 years, or 2 consecutive 4-year terms.

### **Manatee County School Board District 2**

Manatee County School Board consists of 5 members. Each serves a 4-year term. Candidates' terms of office, beginning on or after November 8, 2022, are limited to terms of 12 consecutive years. School board members reelected to a consecutive term in 2022 could serve another 12 consecutive years before reaching the term limit. The primary responsibilities of the School Board are to ensure the operation of all public schools within the district; set policy and meet requirements set by the Florida Legislature and State Board of Education; determine the rate of school district taxes as prescribed by State Law; provide a safe learning environment; and adopt and oversee the school district budget.

### **City of Bradenton Ward 2 and 4**

City Council members are responsible for overseeing the business of the city. Including such jobs as setting a budget and seeing that it is followed, coordinating with other local governments, overseeing the police and fire departments, and responding to the needs of their constituents.

### **Holmes Beach Commissioner**

There shall be a city commission with all legislative powers of the city vested therein consisting of five members, who shall be electors of the city, elected by the electors of the city. The number of commission members to be elected shall be three in odd-numbered years and two in even-numbered years. Length of term is two years. The commission shall determine the annual salary of commission members by ordinance; provided that no elected officer's salary or unaccountable expenses shall be increased during his/her current term of office.

### **City of Palmetto Ward 2**

City Council members are responsible for overseeing the business of the city. Including such jobs as setting a budget and seeing that it is followed, coordinating with other local governments, overseeing the police and fire departments, and responding to the needs of their constituents.

## **Amanda Ballard**



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### **What skills, qualifications, abilities do you possess that would make you an effective Commissioner?**

I'm an attorney, child advocate, wife, and mother of two young daughters. I was the first in my family to graduate from college. After that, I put myself through law school. While there, I met my husband David, and found my passion for helping kids in the child welfare system. After graduating, we immediately moved to Bradenton, and knew that we would live in Manatee County forever. I've spent my entire career as an attorney in the local foster care system.

Having grown up blue-collar, I understand the challenges faced by working families here in Manatee County. My work in child welfare has shined a light on the toughest issues faced by our community. I will serve our County with the same passion with which I've advocated for voiceless children. I will put District 2's needs and concerns first and keep an open-door policy with all constituents. Historically, District 2 has been underserved and left behind. As Commissioner, I vow to change that.

### **Why are you running for the County Commission?**

I've always had a passion for service, which is why following law school, I became a child welfare attorney. Through my work, as well as serving on the Board of Directors at F.E.L.T. in Palmetto, I've come face-to-face with the hardest issues faced by our community, especially in District 2. Lack of affordable housing, human trafficking, the opioid crisis, lagging infrastructure, and lack of workforce training are problems that affect many in Manatee County every day. After almost a decade behind the scenes, helping put families back together, and giving kids permanent homes, I'll tackle the systemic and policy issues that lead to the problems I've seen throughout my career. I bring a new perspective, and the energy to make real change.

### **Please explain how you would handle what you see as the most important/urgent issue in Manatee County.**

In District 2, our number one issue is lagging infrastructure. This affects not only our communities but slows traffic throughout the County. Throughout District 2, we struggle with the lack of basic amenities like streetlamps, and sidewalks, while watching other areas develop at a record pace. In District 2, hardworking families have to worry about how they'll get to work or school, because yards and roads become too flooded to pass easily. I will listen to citizens, finding out their infrastructure concerns, and fight to ensure that District 2 projects get a fair shake in the Capital Improvement Program.

### **How will you connect with the constituents you serve in order to best understand their needs/views?**

I will always be accessible to citizens in District 2. I will strive to maintain an open-door policy, meeting regularly with citizens who have concerns. I will hold regular evening town-hall forums, so that people who have issues can bring them to me directly, even if they work during the day. If I find out that a constituent is having a problem and the County can assist, I will proactively reach out to help.

## **Reggie Bellamy**



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### **What skills, qualifications, abilities do you possess that would make you an effective Commissioner?**

As the incumbent, many in Manatee County has identified me as the "Voice of Reason" in Manatee County. As a veteran from the United States Army and a graduate from Bethune Cookman University, I have been fortunate to build positive professional relationships with all commissioners and staff with an effort to move the needle on projects in District 2 and Manatee County abroad. Focusing on local issues have given me the ability to be embraced by the business community and work across the aisle to have positive and productive results.

### **Why are you running for the County Commission?**

Serving my country has prepared me to serve my county. As a fifth-generation resident, impacting my neighborhood, community and county has given me great pride in things accomplished and efforts made to make a difference. Implementing sidewalks, paving roads and supporting various public safety strides has extended proven, professional performance as a commissioner which has encouraged me to continue serving which is why I am running to be re-elected.

### **Please explain how you would handle what you see as the most important/urgent issue in Manatee County.**

The housing demand in Manatee County has created a domino effect of issues for our residents. The commissioners have identified affordable housing as one of its priorities. I have consistently recommended we implement public private partnerships to support the affordable housing crisis. All housing projects need land, money and permits. If these three are in place, it will take 18-24 months to complete. Manatee County Commissioners can support all three as well as collaborating with other significant entities in the private sector. It would be my intent to support such collaborations to put our residents and county in a win-win situation.

### **How will you connect with the constituents you serve in order to best understand their needs/views?**

Accessibility is very important. There are various ways in which residents can be reached as well as multiple ways residents can reach out. All avenues of communication are open. Therefore, different residents can utilize different ways to access their elected officials to assure access is not denied. It's been successful from my office to address issues within my capability immediately instead of eventually. Whether its via office meetings, homeowner association meetings or neighborhood meetings it would be my attempt to meet the residents where they are as long as the discussion is professional and progressive.

## **Harold E. Byrd, Jr.**



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### **Why are you running for a position on the school board?**

Public service has always been a part of my life. This will continue to be a major focus of my work. This election cycle only voters in District 2 will decide on their representative on the Manatee County School Board. Many residents and voters have urged me to consider representing them in this single member district. It is my opinion that we need committed, honest, and competent leadership to better serve all the citizens of Manatee County and our School District. I have seen firsthand the compassion, dedication and work ethics exhibited by my mother, Former School Board Member Ruby Byrd in her public service. These qualities are needed on the board. That is why I am running for Manatee County School Board District 2.

**For-profit charter schools are an important means of providing choice for parents in our school district.**  
Disagree

### **Please support your answer to the previous statement.**

Charter schools are very popular and give parents a choice. In many cases they provide more effective choices to diverse groups of students. It is my opinion that nonprofit organizations can accomplish this intent and original idea without the perceptions associated with large corporations.

I am in favor of public charter schools with local control and oversight. Presently there are too many issues and criticisms regarding the financial relationships and tax payer dollars associated with for-profit charter schools. This issue regarding the use of management companies can be solved legislatively.

### **What steps do you believe should be taken to ensure all students are taught African American history as required by state law and recommended by the district's African American Task Force?**

The task force mission is to ensure that the requirements set forth by the Florida Legislature are followed. The main issues are that K-12 students are taught a factual history without exclusions or omissions. It is my opinion that the major step will be to teach a true and candid history of African American people in the United States. This has recently come under political attack and has no place in the education of our kids.

Debunk the false information concerning the teaching of Critical Race Theory in our school district. Educators and others say critical race theory, a decades-old legal framework that says racism is systemic in the United States, isn't taught in schools.

### **What do you recommend be done to guarantee that all Manatee County students are at or above English/Language Arts proficiency levels?**

The English/Language Arts proficiency levels represent the skills students should master by the end of each grade. They are divided into four strands: Foundations, Reading, Communication, and Vocabulary. The mastery must begin early in education which makes adequate Pre-K funding a necessary solution to accomplishing objectives. The Manatee County School District has a diverse student population that will make it important to address the Equity Gaps and provide solutions. The arbitrary circumstances in which people are born — such as their race, ethnicity, ZIP code and socioeconomic status — determine their opportunities in life, Solutions would be to develop specific programs for EL or ELL students. Provide adequate Pre-K funding in earlier years of education. Promote and advocate tutorial support for students who struggle and lack support at home. Advocate stronger mentoring programs, social services, child development and civic engagement. Also, a focus on teacher retention.

## **Cindy Spray**



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### **Why are you running for a position on the school board?**

The most important factor that weighed on my mind in making the decision to run for the seat is I think we need to get Back to Basics. It is what our parents want, grandparents and quite honestly, it's what our taxpayers expect from the district. It is my opinion there are three very important basics that have been used for decades and we should be focusing on them the most. The three R's as they call it. Reading, writing, and arithmetic. Over the years, we have migrated away from teaching basic education and life skills and not preparing our young adults to be stewards of the community after graduation. We all want children to be able to read and do basic math. Some are not college-bound. Prepare them for skilled trades in high school

**For-profit charter schools are an important means of providing choice for parents in our school district.**  
Support

### **Please support your answer to the previous statement.**

It is my opinion that the parent of any student should have a choice in what school they want their child to attend. If we are not providing quality education in the public sector, they should have the information and the opportunity to send their child to a charter school, taking the funding with them. The purpose of the public school is to teach. If a family feels we are not giving students the tools they expect in the classroom, give them access to find the school that better suits their child. I believe charter schools should find ways to provide transportation to students that have chosen to attend their schools. They receive funding from many sources including the taxpayers through the 1 millage. The business of education is just that. Educate our youth in any way possible in any field they choose to provide for themselves and their family in adult life. It should be a joint effort between the parents, and students, and use every resource possible.

### **What steps do you believe should be taken to ensure all students are taught African American history as required by state law and recommended by the district's African American Task Force?**

The history of the African American community may have started in Africa where many black leaders sold their people across the world for goods or services to benefit themselves. In America, we took the positive steps to undo the bad actions of people who took advantage of their positions. In our country many did not want things to change. You can see that by looking at the Congressional Voting Records from 1866-1874 and the overdue Civil Rights Act in 1964. Our Constitutional 13th Amendment to Abolish Slavery had a vote of 93% Republicans and 23% Democrats who supported it. Our Constitutional 14th Amendment for Full Citizenship had a vote of 94% Republicans and 0% Democrats who supported it. Our Constitutional 15th Amendment for the Right for Blacks to Vote had a 100% of Republicans and 0% of Democrats supporting it. I find it astonishing that one of the greatest men in black history, Frederick Douglas, and the bond he had to work with our congress to undo our tragic past.

### **What do you recommend be done to guarantee that all Manatee County students are at or above English/Language Arts proficiency levels?**

Grade Level Proficiency, teachers have been forced to pass students to the next grade level before they are ready. Teaching English to Hispanics is a huge challenge. I think students should be able to talk and read English to succeed in our society. We should look at all programs and eliminate those that are not working and develop phonic programs to help students that are so far behind due to the pandemic. English is our primary language and a simple Spanish to English course should be developed and used to encourage students that being Bi-Lingual is such an asset and they should take full advantage of the opportunity they will have in adult life.

## **Marianne Barnebey**



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### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I am blessed with common sense and a strong work ethic. I am a graduate of Manatee High School and was named their Outstanding Alumni in Community Service. I also graduated from Manatee Junior College and High Point University in North Carolina, earning a degree in Nonprofit Agency Administration. Working for Manatee County Girls Clubs and 2 Girl Scout Councils, I learned the importance of working with community leaders while sticking to a budget. My husband Mark and I raised our children in Bradenton. We are very involved in our community and are founding members of Faith United Methodist Church and Winter Wonderland. My years here give me a unique perspective and one of the reasons I am very respectful to all members of our community.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

I have a passion for serving you and I love our city, my hometown. This community gave me wonderful opportunities growing up, educated me and encouraged me to dream and grow. You made an investment in me and serving is the way for me to pay Bradenton back.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

The number one challenge facing our city is growth. As we grow we need to make sure our city stays safe and our quality of life is protected and improved. As a city we can grow smarter and by growing smarter we can continue to fix our city's pressing problems.



## **David M. Levin**



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### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I run about 3 miles almost every day in the streets of Bradenton. That provides me with a unique, nuts and bolts perspective that my opponent does not have. I see the little things and the big things.

I also have a vision for the City of Bradenton that includes being a better steward from downtown to LECOM Park, and to our urban core.

I'm also a small business owner with real world experience in balancing a budget, and my educational background is in law and policy. I'm also a veteran, and was raised in a Judeo-Christian household, and that's how my wife and I are raising our 3 kids here in Bradenton.

I also have no ties to the developer community.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

I'm running for Bradenton City Council because the curbside recycling program fell apart and there was no accountability for that mess. Reinstating a curbside program is a top priority of mine.

I also want to put an end to the entanglement between major area developers, their lawyers (who also hold the position of Bradenton City Attorney), and the city.

My opponent is a councilwoman, whose husband's law firm represents both the city and developers. It's a conflict of interest and a racket.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

Getting a curbside recycling program back I don't expect to be easy, but I think the most important challenge will be ending the entanglement between developers, lawyers, and the city. That's not something you will hear from my opponent because her husband is one of those lawyers.

Once we put the People's interest first again, ahead of developers, I think services like curbside recycling and refilling dog bags at parks will come back.

To meet this challenge, I think it's important to select a new city attorney. Many places have a city attorney who only works for the city and doesn't wear another hat. The current firm, Blalock Walters, holds the station with only a letter of engagement. By ousting my opponent, and selecting a new attorney that will put Bradenton back on a path that bends towards the interests of the People, not developers.

## **Kurt Landefeld**



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### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I have served on the Bradenton Planning Commission since 2019. I've helped make decisions ranging from residential and commercial development to the height of neighborhood fences.

I serve on the River Isles Homeowners Association Board of Directors, including two years as president (2018, 2019).

Since 2017, I serve as our community's liaison to the city, resolving problems and requesting services.

I belong to the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and serve on its City Redevelopment Committee.

Prior to moving to Florida in 2016, I served nine years on the Erie County Metroparks commission, including five as president. I worked closely with city and county officials on issues ranging from environmental protection to economic development.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

I pledge to restore civility and effective representation to Ward 4. I know, and respect, the leadership in the administration including the City Administrator, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, and others. I will work with the Mayor and the rest of my colleagues on Council as we take on complex issues regarding development and infrastructure. The next four years will bring generational change to Bradenton. Our residents and businesses need leadership at City Hall equal to the task.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

The most important ECONOMIC challenge is managing the massive investments that are on the cusp of happening within the downtown core.

The next Council must work closely with the Mayor to make sure the city gets the right mix of residents and businesses resulting in a downtown that is vibrant, sustainable, walkable and fun. Done well, we will have an even more beautiful Bradenton. The most important RESIDENTIAL challenge is continuing to partner with private industry to produce more workforce housing.

The current shortage of apartment units and resultant skyrocketing rents are simply unacceptable. The city must continue to work to expand rental inventories and bring back price stability to this market.

Also, the housing industry is responding with new products that are hurricane-resistant, have high energy efficiency, and allow quality homes to be built at a fraction of current costs. The city should work with industry and explore where these might fit within our market.

## **Lisa Gonzalez Moore**



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### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I will bring over 20 years of experience as a real estate attorney in varied work environments, over six years of a small business owner, and 12 years as a resident of East Bradenton. My skills as a working mom include exceptional multitasking and honed skills at communication and responsiveness to the needs and goals of others. I bring a fresh perspective on how we can work together to improve the quality of life in Bradenton so that our community can grow and flourish.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

Infrastructure! Many neighborhoods in East Bradenton are in dire need of updated infrastructure, and with a new influx of dollars, my hope is to be able to work with the City Council to make sure that East Bradenton gets what it needs to continue to grow.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

One of our biggest challenges is going to be to retain our younger generations. I hope to bridge the gap between the needs of our new residents and younger folks leaving to seek opportunities outside of Bradenton by listening to the different perspectives and creatively find solutions to problems that potentially hinder Bradenton's quality of life.

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## **Bill Sanders**



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**Campaign Facebook:** bill sanders city council ward 4

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

Business Degree from Indiana University in Finance & Marketing. 40 years as an Executive in national and multinational corporations. Prior City Administration employment. Bradenton City Councilman and CRA Vice Chairman for the past 4 years. Member of Florida League of cities Serving on Finance, taxation, State & Federal legislative committees. Serving on Affordable Housing for Florida, Bradenton Housing, Bradenton City Housing and County Affordable housing boards. Member of the Metropolitan Planning (MPO). Serving on the Suncoast Coalition for Homeless. Member of Manatee Chamber of Commerce serving on Transportation Committee. Received Professional Certification for Community Redevelopment.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

To finish my vision for our city. Better government. Meetings for the public with transparent implementation. Finish the citywide sidewalk program I championed. Complete the Riverwalk to all areas of the city. Return curbside recycling. Lower tax mileage rate. Build more affordable housing. Bring good corporate jobs to Bradenton. Fix our traffic issues. Review our comprehensive plan with public input for the vision of our city with citizen input vs special interest direction.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

Rebuilding confidence in our Police department with reorganization. Promote rank and file to stabilize morale and appoint a citizen advisory board with oversight. Return curbside recycling. Prevent overbuilding of city facilities and limit use of bonding to burden the taxpayers with long term debt. Limit the use of reserves and unnecessary spending. Replace the autocracy with open transparent governance where nothing is hidden and the public has full access. Our water lawsuit will require more infrastructure commitment to help our residence with upgrading underground old declining system.

## **Sunshine R Mathews**



**Party:** NPA

**Mailing Address:** 1489 17th St W Palmetto FL 34221

**Campaign Phone:** 407-808-8410

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**Campaign Facebook:** @thefuturelooksbrightwithsunshine

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I desire to serve Palmetto by being a uniter, making sure people are respected and heard. I am a quick learner and a problem solver, desiring to be well-informed. I hold strong Biblical principles and believe character is of utmost importance. I believe the words we speak should match the actions we take.

I bring decades of dealing with businesses, committees, and the public. I have also been a self-employed entrepreneur. I have experience in building and leading teams and businesses alike. I can think outside the box, using creative ideas to propel initiatives forward. My desire has always been to help people and I will use a winsome personality, sharp organizational skills, a peacemaker's heart, and analytical thinking to do just that.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

My love for the people and the City of Palmetto, the heritage of its past and the potential for its future, have given me the inspiration to positively affect the city for years to come.

I see an opportunity to directly impact the safety and education of our children, to improve our infrastructure and protect our resources, and to support our law enforcement and first responders. I want to be an advocate for the overlooked people in our community, as well as preserving our personal liberties.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

The most important challenge facing our city right now has to do with the dilemma of the city's boat ramp parking. We are a coastal community and proudly embrace that fact. The Manatee River is our most important natural resource, and we need to maintain access to it. But we need to use cautious wisdom in moving forward because we are responsible for the future success of Palmetto as well. I believe this isn't just a Palmetto issue though. Our whole county enjoys, and has access to, the Manatee River via Palmetto's open access boat ramp. I would love to see Manatee County stand with Palmetto in responsibility, seeing the need, hearing the outcry of the boating community, and in helping come up with a solution that both allows for growth for Palmetto and acknowledges the importance for continued access to our beautiful river.

## **Kurt Mattingly**



**Party:** NPA

**Biographical Info:**

**Mailing Address:** 2306 14th St W Palmetto FL 34221

**Campaign Phone:** 785-550-6270

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

**Email:** [GetitRightPalmetto2022@gmail.com](mailto:GetitRightPalmetto2022@gmail.com)

**Campaign Facebook:** Kurt Mattingly, City of Palmetto

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

Bachelor of Sciences – American Studies – Urban Studies  
Minor - Public Administration  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 2008

Manatee County Government BOCC Construction Services Project Manager 2019-Present  
Manatee County Government BOCC Housing and Community Development Specialist 2017-2019  
Manatee County Government BOCC PMT Project Coordinator 2016- 2017  
AMI River Bay Townhomes Property Management Project Coordinator 2012-2017  
Cracker Barrel Facilities Manager 2012-2014  
Applebee’s Associate GM 2008-2012

PMP Certification Qualified  
CCM Qualified  
FHSAA Certified Referee  
Toastmasters Public Relations  
Global Awareness Committee Vice Chair KU  
Model UN Recruiting Liaison KU  
Accredited Thesis Advisor KU  
KU Mentor Program Advisor

### **Why are you running for this office?**

Get it Right is creating the best Palmetto for the present and foreseeable future. Palmetto is in a unique situation that will require collaboration, experience, work ethic, and proven leadership to successfully develop. We can Get it Right as a community by working together and using the knowledge, skills, and experience of our elected officials; too many potential permanent changes are going to be decided by the next council it's important to hit the ground running.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

Lack of Business and Housing Growth Opportunities. City and CRA's leadership unavailability to collaborate with developers for incentives to build in Palmetto. Transparency of information and proposals with the council and public for potential development. Lack of accountability from the City Administration to provide information in a timely matter for council to make informative decisions. CRA under the leadership of the City Administrator, CRA and advisory board should be independent of the administrator and allowed to conduct business in collaboration with the Mayor and Council. Time is not a luxury to address the issues outlined. My education allows me to holistically look at growth impacts as it relates to the whole city. From work experience I understand the policies and procedures; more importantly the questions to ask to ensure proper spending and smart planning. Working with established relationships with local leaders I will be able to hit the ground running.

## **Jayne Christenson**

**Party:** NPA

**Mailing Address:** 132 49th St Holmes Beach FL 34217

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**Facebook** [www.Facebook.com/JayneC4HBCommission/](http://www.Facebook.com/JayneC4HBCommission/)

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

I have served for 3 years on the Holmes Beach Planning Commission, 1 year as Vice-Chair. I participate at Holmes Beach Commission meetings. I chaired a committee, organized by the Mayor, to look at the city parking & traffic congestion which continues to impact the quality of life of residents.

I have spent my career in management, product training, marketing, and finance. I am celebrating my 24th year working for a large Biopharmaceutical Research and Development Manufacturer. I will bring key attributes of leadership, teamwork, and innovative thinking to the City Commission. My experience has prepared me to work towards consensus on challenging issues facing Holmes Beach today and into the future. I have a Bachelor of Science from USF.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

As a commissioner, I will push for Holmes Beach City Hall to be more proactive at positive engagement with residents and businesses. Citizens expect transparency, accountability, & better communication from city government.

We need to continue efforts to preserve our neighborhoods. Better balance between short term rentals & residential homes.

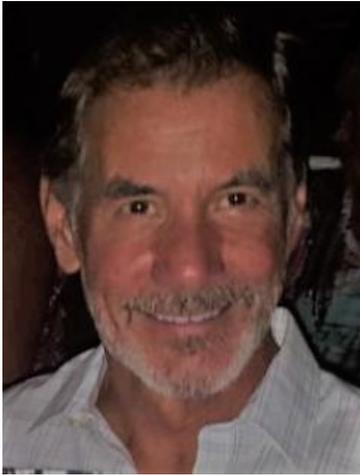
I support the right to Home Rule for Florida cities.

I will provide budget oversight to achieve smart financial decisions.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

I am concerned that Holmes Beach continues to face pressures from increased tourism and population growth from on & off the island. We are a small, residential community yet we face increase use of the city infrastructure by those wanting to visit the island. As Manatee County population continues to increase annually by 10,000 for the next 25 years, the pressure on Holmes Beach will magnify. The challenge is to maintain the island culture & quality of life yet provide the services necessary for the increase visitor population. Holmes Beach also has financial challenges as we face the COVID19 pandemic. Environment issues of water quality & storm water run off are concern as well.

By electing me, I will be a voice for the residents and local businesses. We need innovative, forward thinking commissioners who have a strong business background and are prepared to work towards consensus on the challenging issues facing our city today and into the future. I am asking for your vote!



## **Daniel P Diggins**

**Party:** NPA

**Biographical Info:**

**Mailing Address:** 2809 Gulf Dr Holmes Beach FL 34217

**Campaign Phone:** 941-201-5941

**Email:** dpdiggins@gmail.com

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

Ability to listen and lead others in complex endeavors. Traveled the world for many years investigating major aircraft accidents as part of the US "Go-Team" based in Washington, DC. Also, a former member of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force investigating the events of September 11, 2001. Was a main investigator to the Space Shuttle Colombia accident on February 1, 2003. Lived in Afghanistan for 4 years advising the US military, the Afghan government and the US Embassy on ways to safely manage civilian and military air operations in a war zone.

My experience in the above complex tasks has given me the ability to offer solutions to problems that others may not see.

### **Why are you running for this office?**

I decided to retire from international travel as a commercial aviation consultant and enjoy my new twin granddaughters and felt it was time to also serve my community.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

Beach parking. As a commercial aviation professional for over 40 years, I've had the opportunity to manage airport capacity and airline demand issues at most of the nation's busiest airports. I believe the skills attained through those projects makes me uniquely qualified to find solutions to beach parking demand versus capacity problems.



## **Greg Kerchner**



**Party:** NPA

**Biographical Info:**

**Mailing Address:** 637 Key Royale Dr Holmes Beach FL 34217

**Campaign Phone:** 410-782-9100

**Email:** Kerchner4HBCommissioner@GMail.com

### **What qualities, experience and skills do you bring to this position?**

My wife Kathy and I both love Holmes Beach, we reside here full time and it is very much our adopted hometown.

I worked in Aerospace for 35 years, most recently leading multi-functional teams, both govt & industry, focused on improving critical processes in some of the world's most challenging environments.

I serve on your Planning Commission & have been voted Chair 3 times. We just completed re-writing the Comprehensive Plan helping me further understand the challenges facing Holmes Beach. I have not missed a meeting in 3 years and will bring along that same work ethic. I also serve on the Elections Canvassing Board.

I know what needs to be done to guide our city's growth and preserve paradise. I can help make that happen!

### **Why are you running for this office?**

This was not an easy choice. I'm an introvert and not a natural politician. I have no political agenda other than a strong desire to improve life for our remaining island residents.

I decided to step up from my role on the Planning Commission now because of the many threats to life here on our fragile island. I want to guide our city's growth and preserve paradise by taking a more active role in formulating sound policies which do just that.

We must also preserve Home Rule at all costs.

### **What do you feel is the most important challenge facing your city? How do you plan to meet this challenge?**

Guiding growth & preserving paradise. We must implement & enforce forward looking ordinances now which make that possible.

Other issues facing us coalesce around this same challenge: nearby population growth & island tourism cause traffic & parking concerns but also strain both our infrastructure and our local ecosystems, residents then move off island, leading to more growth as investors buy up cottages & replace them with ever larger mini-hotels. The cycle continues.

We do need to be realistic, though. We do live in paradise. More and more people will continue to visit us & vacation here. We can't stop that growth but we can work with both of our AMI sister cities, federal, state & county governments to guide that growth through shared vision, sensible infrastructure improvements and necessary regulation.

Visitors are part of our lifestyle and they bring a vibrancy that many residents embrace. In the long run, what will be good for Holmes Beach will be good for all our area.