

Name:

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Page 1: Business Climate / Regulations Issues

Q1 Rate the regulatory climate for business in Escambia County. Is it Good/Fair/Bad? Explain your answer.

Fair, we can be better especially at assisting business, both existing and new, at navigating the maze of requirements. And I continually hear that our approval process takes too long.

Q2 Please provide any examples of how regulations have affected the life of county residents in a positive or negative way.

Certainly there are positive impact in the area of the environment, but there are also negatives in slowness of approvals and the apparent lack of advocacy in navigating the process.

Q3 Name the top 3 specific county ordinances/regulations you would like to see eliminated. Explain why they should be eliminated.

I will take a broader answer, rather than naming three. I believe a regulatory review is called for, where input from both new and existing businesses identify regulations that are overly burdensome. It might make sense to benchmark midsize governments that have a known positive business environment and learn what we can use from that review.

Page 2: Operations / Infrastructure Issues

Q4 Do you see any overlap or duplication of services between the county and the city? If so, what services, and how could these services be consolidated?

Utilities, parks and recreation, garbage and recycling, fire and EMS all come to mind as candidates for consideration.

Q5 There have been a number of joint government meetings over the past few years. What is your opinion of these meetings? What types of cooperative meetings would you like to see moving forward?

An annual meeting is a good idea, but I think the agenda should focus on issue where cooperation can reduce duplication and improve efficiency. Importantly there should be follow-up.

2018 Chamber County Commission Candidate Survey

Q6 Do you believe the county allocates sufficient resources for infrastructure projects? How would you prioritize these projects and fund them?

Infrastructure is one of the major priorities of county government. Priorities should focus on current and future needs. We must resist the easy answer of more government spending or tax increases.

Q7 What is your opinion of the beach congestion plans that have been proposed? What is your vision for solving this problem?

I am generally opposed to hiring more consultants to give us big spending ideas. Let's talk to the local residents and business and together with county staff make a decision.

Q8 There is a proposal for a new sports/meeting facility. Do you approve of this project and how would you propose to pay for this type of facility?

I don't think we in the general public know enough yet about this project. Private funds should be the primary source, but if hard data shows substantial public gains, appropriate incentives should be considered.

Q9 What would your Five Year Plan for Escambia County look like?

Provide the infrastructure to support growth, jobs, better schools, maintaining a great environment, strong military establishment and continuing Escambia as a great tourism destination.

Page 3: Economic Development Issues

Q10 What role should county government take in attracting new businesses to the area? What types of jobs would you like to see growing in Escambia County? Be specific.

The private sector should lead with government supporting. We should use our role model success stories like iHMC, IRIS, Navy Federal, App River and the like to be ambassadors to showcase the work-life balance afforded in Escambia.

Q11 What is your vision for the various commerce parks or potential sites throughout Escambia County?

We need to tell our story about our Commerce Parks in a better way. We need consistent business and citizen input to make sure we understand the needs of a growing economy and business environment.

Q12 What should the county do with excess properties that it owns? Be specific.

If these properties are determined to be excess for the foreseeable future, they should be examined for their highest and best use.

Q13 Tourism is an integral part of Escambia County's economy. In what ways can the county commission support tourism in Escambia County? Be specific.

The current plans are working and should be continually reviewed to ensure the highest rate of return on our investment. We have to become a year-round destination.

Q14 What types of Triumph/RESTORE projects would you like to see funded? Be specific.

Economic development and growth key. Projects like VTMAE, IHMC Underwater Robotics, Aircraft MRO and Vocational Training are projects that are ideal for funding.
