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Boyce T White

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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.

It is currently fair. We've got several areas for improvement, such as infrastructure, budget allocations and a county master plan- which (when elected) I am ready to work with my fellow BoCC members on the dais to get our county government focused for our future.

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

Zoning ordinances create a structure that provides guidelines that frame how our county flows. Incorporating these ordinances into the framework of our County master plan helps everyone understand what is the "big picture" for our Gulf Coast region. In the formulation of this Master Plan, I want a board consisting of business owners, residents, corporate involvement, non-profit entities participating as well as constitutional government officials. This collective group, with the guidance of professional planners can frame the most beneficial use of our assets for our citizens.

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

We've got County & City ordinances that overlap and create impediments for business to get going in our area. It is my plan to establish an economic development advocate position who's primary function is to guide new businesses wanting to come to our area through the labyrinth of County & City requirements so they can start their business as effectively as possible. Further, I'd listen to this advocate about regulations at the county level that are redundant and work with the BoCC to eliminate those ordinances.

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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?

I've stated in question 3 that there are overlaps causing builders, potential business owners & developers unnecessary obstacles for the contribution to the betterment of our county. My economic development advocate will be in the trenches and will advise as to what regulations need to be consolidated and centralized under one governing authority as opposed to duplicate channels.

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## 2018 Chamber County Commission Candidate Survey

**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?

I am aware of these meetings however I haven't seen much fruit from these meetings. Anytime you can get with this city and county governments working in alignment for the betterment of it's citizens is a positive thing. My relationships, because I've sat on the city zoning variance board, I have formed the relationships with city government that I feel I can work to the advantage of all of our citizens. District 4 has three distinct personalities: The beach, the city portion, and the county portion. It is my intention to address issues that are concerning to these three distinct personalities and working with my county board so that the government operate with efficiency while protecting the citizens and their ability to lead the lives they wish.

Further, the state legislature issues rules that affect county governments with no financial support. I will fight for Escambia County citizens at the state level as well.

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

The county is working with a limited budget and after the raising of the homestead exemption level passes, the county budget will be even more constrained. That is why I will work to find fun at the state level and the federal level to help support and fund our infrastructure needs in Escambia county. One pressing concern that we have is the Bob Sikes bridge and the use of the toll funding for looking at funding sources of a new bridge when this bridge life expires in 2030. It is my intention to activate the license plate capture system for purposes of collecting the toll and illuminating the positions of the toll takers that is causing significant traffic delay issues getting on to Pensacola Beach.

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

I am the only candidate in this race that lives on Pensacola Beach and personally has to deal with these traffic issues on a daily basis. As I mentioned in the previous question we need to eliminate the toll takers position and convert to the tag capture system as a way of collecting the toll. We also need to have either a deputy sheriff or a county employee operating the traffic signal during our congested time periods. We know when these time periods will present a problem we just need the personnel to address it. This is a much more economical approach. A second contributing factor to the traffic congestion problems is the pedestrians trying to cross the street. I have spoken with Volkert Engineers at various meetings and it is possible to economically utilize three pedestrian underpasses. Lastly, we need to deal with the parking issue on the beach. I have a 3 part plan approach for dealing with the parking.

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**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 am absolutely in support of working with our business development group to place and find a sports facility. While we are still working on a location, I will do everything I can to help find funding sources for Projects that enhance the quality of life and economic impact for Escambia County.

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

As I have described above, I want to create a master plan for Escambia county which is not been done in almost a decade. I want to create an Economic development advocate to help businesses and development that are in line with our master plan to get started as efficiently as possible and work to eliminate over regulations where duplicate ordinances are major obstacles for businesses to economic development advocate to help businesses and development that are in line with our master plan to get started as efficiently as possible and work to eliminate over regulations where duplicate ordinances are major obstacles for businesses to thrive in Escambia county.

I will continue working with my partners at CSX to acquire funding for rerouting there Jacksonville to New Orleans line so that it goes north of Pensacola and the land that they vacate south of GE/ Westinghouse (at I-10) all the way to 9th Avenue at the Grand Hotel and work with state and federal funding to make that a bike/running/jogging path along scenic Highway. Once CSX vacates that land, we can also open up Bayou Texar so that it flows naturally the way it did 100 years ago. Lastly, we could put in a boat launch/park south of Chimney Park at the corner of Langley Ave and Scenic Hwy.

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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 government needs to work with businesses that are complementary for our area. The government needs to work with businesses that are complementary for our area. As a government official, I would represent our area and trying to attract businesses and or the business leaders to visit our area and show them all the many benefits for operating in Pensacola. We do need to make sure we can provide training through our educational system for the skills and talents that some of these companies may need to come to our area. Businesses that I would like to see in our area would be technology development, some light manufacturing, marine research and as much small business as possible.

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

I am an advocate for urban infill and trying to utilize vacant spots we have first before utilizing County resources for development of areas for which we will have to set up new services. We still have space and Ellison industrial park and other various areas in the county where big box business develop the land and has vacated the area. These areas provide little tax revenue but yet the county has to provide infrastructure service to these areas and I feel we need To invest in these type areas or bring attention to these areas so that businesses can utilize space where services and already been set up.

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

Government should not be in the real estate business. We need to look at each of these properties for it's best use and find a way of attracting investors so that we can get tax revenues for the citizens of Escambia County. This does not apply to lands that Escambia County has been endowed with by the federaland/or state government and we need to protect our parks and preservation areas. All this will be directed by the Master Plan set by and approved by the county for our future growth over the next 20, 50, 100 years

## 2018 Chamber County Commission Candidate Survey

**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.

Tourism supports a significant portion of our tax revenue and we need to insure the tourist experience continues to be one of our top priorities. Hospitals are judged on the patient experience and, by the dollar vote, so is Escambia County. We need to cut the beach congestion as I described earlier, monitor code enforcement down Via DeLuna neighborhoods so families feel safe, provide police presence in and around public areas for crowd behavior control and the invest with TDT revenues promoting our area in designated markets looking for destination visits. Also, we need to capture more VRBO & AirBnB taxes from website rentals.

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

My CSX Re-routing project of the railroad off Scenic Hwy.

Efforts to clean up our polluted waterways allowing better fishing in our bayous, canals & bays. Fishing provides a significant economic impact to our region.

I am in support of using Triumph funds for a Sports Complex that will further have a significant economic impact on our region as well as tourist exposure for their next vacation.

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