



## Mexico Beach Candidates 2023 Municipal Election

Candidate	Office	Responded to Questionnaire
Al Cathey	Mexico Beach Mayor / Council Member Group 1	Yes
Michele Miller	Mexico Beach Mayor / Council Member Group 1	Yes
Gary Cox	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 2	Yes
Jerry Smith	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 2	Yes
Lisa Logan	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 2	No
Bobby Pollock	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 3	No
Linda Hamilton	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 3	Yes

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Al Cathey
Office	Mexico Beach Mayor/Council Member Group 1
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	NO
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	SERVEED AS MAYOR OF MEXICO BEACH 16 OF THE PAST 18 YEARS.
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	MAYOR OF MEXICO BEACH FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE MB COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CURRENT CDC BOARD MEMBER
Why are you running for office?	HURRICANE MICHAEL DEVASTED OUR CITY. THE REBUILD HAS BEEN A DAUNTING TASK AND WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THE JOB REMAINS UNFINISHED. RECEIVING FEMA RECOVERY FUNDS FOR OUR PIER, GOVERNMENT COMPLEX (FIRE, POLICE AND CIVIC CENTER) AND EAST JETTY CANAL WALL IS MY TOP PRIORITY.
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNER PROVEN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP HEARTFELT PASSION FOR OUR COMMUNITY
What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?	RECEIVING FEMA OBLIGATION FOR PIER, FIRE/POLICE/CIVIC CENTER AND CANAL MANAGEING GROWTH CITY INFRASTRUCTURE
If elected, how do you plan on measuring your	

<p>performance to report to your constituents?</p>	
<p>What role should local governments play in attracting new and supporting the existing business community?</p>	
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber’s 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	
<p>In the Chamber’s 2023 Business Plan, workforce development remains a key objective. How do you plan to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?</p>	
<p>Another important issue identified in the Chamber’s Business Plan and Legislative Priorities is affordable workforce housing. What ideas do you have to address workforce housing?</p>	
<p>What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?</p>	
<p>Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate</p>	

those concerns or change the situation?	
Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share your thoughts on challenges and opportunities facing our local public education system and how you can help.	

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Michele Miller
Office	Mexico Beach Mayor / Council Member Group 1
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	No.
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	Yes, 2022 City Council Group 5 Mexico Beach
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	Planning and Zoning 2020-2022 Nursing and Nursing Education Advisory Boards
Why are you running for office?	We need change in Mexico Beach's leadership. I believe in Equality and Inclusion of our Community. I feel there needs to be more Transparency and Accountability.
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	I have a Doctoral Degree in Leadership and Management. I have 26 years experience in Nursing Leadership I have owned and operated two successful businesses.
What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?	Spending/Budget Infrastructure/Controlled Growth Citizen's Inclusion/ hear their voices
If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?	A yearly survey available by mail and online. Town hall meetings to get feedback for improving.
What role should local governments play in	It is the job of the local government to provide services which includes businesses. I hope we can get

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<p>attracting new and supporting the existing business community?</p>	<p>our budget in order of offer incentives for growth of needed businesses.</p>
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	<p>Economic Stability and workforce support.</p>
<p>In the Chamber's 2023 Business Plan, workforce development remains a key objective. How do you plan to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?</p>	<p>I would like to see ways we can attract workers to our City. Housing is an issue so less expensive options will be to help with transportation or provide businesses with hiring incentives.</p>
<p>Another important issue identified in the Chamber's Business Plan and Legislative Priorities is affordable workforce housing. What ideas do you have to address workforce housing?</p>	<p>We are limited in housing/land use properties and housing at affordable prices. I hope to see the businesses with work with the city in order to help with transporting workers into the city from local communities.</p>
<p>What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?</p>	<p>\$400,000 - Immediate needs for operating i.e. supplies and employees, added wants by priority Wish lists.</p>
<p>Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?</p>	<p>Yes, Mexico Beach is dealing with a higher flow of traffic. I would like to help make travel throughout our city safer for travel within the city by bicycle and golf cart paths. So the through traffic will not have to increase with those traveling within the city.</p>
<p>Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share</p>	<p>Mexico Beach does not have a local school.</p>

your thoughts on challenges and opportunities facing our local public education system and how you can help.

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Gary Cox
Office	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 2
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	No
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	No
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	
Why are you running for office?	To see if I can make change
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	I'm a people person with 45 plus years in the construction field in management.
What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?	Infrastructure Over building Not keeping the citizens informed.
If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?	Yes
What role should local governments play in attracting new and	No Comment



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supporting the existing business community?	
Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?	None
In the Chamber's 2023 Business Plan, workforce development remains a key objective. How do you plan to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?	No Comment
Another important issue identified in the Chamber's Business Plan and Legislative Priorities is affordable workforce housing. What ideas do you have to address workforce housing?	None
What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?	
Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?	
Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share your thoughts on	

challenges and opportunities facing our local public education system and how you can help.

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Candidate Name	Jerry Smith
Office	Mexico Beach Council Member Group 2
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	Yes. I have served Mexico Beach City Council Group 2 since 2019
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	Transportation Planning Organization Board League of Cities
Why are you running for office?	When I ran for office in 2019 my sole reason was to answer a call to help and that remains true to this day. Our community has made tremendous progress since Michael hit us on 10/10/18 but there is a lot more work to be done. The most important issue for this council is delivery.
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	I believe in hard work. I believe in working as a team. From my days at the railroad to farming and especially those first few weeks after Michael I knew we could finish the job if we always relied on one another. Having served two terms on council I have learned a great deal and want to use that knowledge and established camaraderie to benefit our community.
What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?	Pier reconstruction. We have had meetings, acquired adjacent property, pursued funding opportunities, and now it is time to finalize/design/permit/build. The pier is a special landmark that will spark community engagement, year round enjoyment and boost economic tourism. Stormwater management is

	<p>underway, yet improvements are necessary. I have been hands-on alongside our public works crew making repairs and assisting with ongoing maintenance, worked closely with FDOT on drainage and will continue to do my part in resolving this city wide concern. Reinstating a homeowner first mindset will aid in the city's recovery and long term success. Residents have overcome so many battles since the hurricane coupled with the pandemic and it's time to focus on why we fought so hard to stay here on our unforgettable coast.</p>
<p>If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?</p>	<p>DELIVERY. I want our resilient citizens to feel good about the efforts of their elected officials. There are many layers to progress and I want voters to know I work every day with the best interest of our city in mind.</p>
<p>What role should local governments play in attracting new and supporting the existing business community?</p>	<p>I am a people person so I consider relationships to be vital in all business matters and connectivity is the lifeblood of any community. Mexico Beach could be seen as a unique opportunity for commerce for multiple reasons. It took 46 years to double the population of our beautiful city that measures 4 square miles wide and provides unbeatable natural landscapes. There is no one-size-fits-all economic strategy for a city leveled by a devastating storm. Local government can play a supporting role by making meaningful policy that does not rebrand this community, safe guards our limited commercial property, protects residents quality of life while serving visitors and a workforce.</p>
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	
<p>In the Chamber's 2023 Business Plan, workforce</p>	

<p>development remains a key objective. How do you plan to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?</p>	
<p>Another important issue identified in the Chamber’s Business Plan and Legislative Priorities is affordable workforce housing. What ideas do you have to address workforce housing?</p>	
<p>What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?</p>	<p>Need not want.</p>
<p>Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?</p>	
<p>Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share your thoughts on challenges and opportunities facing our local public education system and how you can help.</p>	

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Linda Hamilton
Office	Mexico Beach Council Group 3
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	No
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	Running for public office currently city council group 3 Mexico Beach
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	Volunteer at Two Fish Food Pantry, a ministry of Port St Joe Methodist Church, Chair of Angel Tree with Port St Joe Garden Club.
Why are you running for office?	Time for a Change due to excessive spending of our current city council and lack of respect of our citizens.
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	Independent thinker, excellent people skills, problem solver, motivated.
What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?	Excessive spending Lack of respect of citizens Lack of interest in preserving our wetlands
If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?	By listening to the voices of the citizens and seeking their support.
What role should local governments play in attracting new and	Support the interest of new businesses and existing businesses without changing existing laws to accommodate their desires.

<p>supporting the existing business community?</p>	
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	
<p>In the Chamber's 2023 Business Plan, workforce development remains a key objective. How do you plan to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?</p>	<p>Adequate pay and benefits to match their talents and experience that they bring to the position. Treat with respect.</p>
<p>Another important issue identified in the Chamber's Business Plan and Legislative Priorities is affordable workforce housing. What ideas do you have to address workforce housing?</p>	<p>Mexico Beach lacks adequate affordable housing for many in the workforce. Encourage developers to build affordable housing in our community.</p>
<p>What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?</p>	
<p>Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems. What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?</p>	<p>Traffic has greatly increased as Mexico Beach rebuilds from Hurricane Michael. I would advocate for a bypass from Hwy 98.</p>
<p>Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share your thoughts on</p>	<p>Improve teacher pay and benefits to attract qualified teachers.</p>

challenges and opportunities facing our local public education system and how you can help.