



Parker Candidates 2023 Municipal Election

Candidate	Office	Responded to Questionnaire
Andrew Kelly	Parker Mayor	No
Patricia Fousek	Parker Mayor	Yes
Cameron Fuqua	Parker Council Member Seat 2	Yes
Stacie Galbreath	Parker Council Member Seat 4	No
Tonya Barrow	Parker Council Member Seat 2	No

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Patricia Fousek
Office	Parker Mayor
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.	I'm an active participant in all Parker City meetings (council, planning, quasi-judicial, infrastructure surtax) as well as meetings conducted by Bay County, Panama City, Springfield and Callaway.
Why are you running for office?	The leadership of Parker is not leading the city into the future, and we are not prepared to be the gateway to Tyndall AFB. There has been improvement since Hurricane Michael, but very little when compared to the time before Michael. The city government has not been transparent to the citizens, resulting in the perception that citizens are unwelcome or an interruption in the city's business. The city is its citizens. Parker is struggling financially, yet the limited funding available to the city does not appear to be spent on the most crucial items - infrastructure repair and replacement. The leadership has voted to pass an ad valorem tax on to property owners without having completed a thorough review of the current financial situation or considering alternatives. Despite admitting the need to hire a grant writer during the last election, the mayor has not done so, and millions of dollars of opportunity have been lost. The mayor has not aggressively

	<p>explored development opportunities to bring businesses to Parker and does not take advantage of the experience and exposure provided when networking with sister cities. I am committed to correcting these issues while ensuring transparency with, and support of, the citizens. Only with these concerted efforts will Parker be prepared to support its current residents and those who visit Parker or may choose to move here in the future.</p>
<p>What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?</p>	<p>I worked for the world's largest diver training membership organization for 35 years. My focus during this time was risk management, insurance acquisition, litigation management, contract development and review, standards development and review, and quality management. All of these responsibilities were to serve a membership of over 100,000 individuals and 4700 businesses, globally. I was president of my Homeowners' Association for two terms managing a budget of over \$1 million. I am detail oriented, committed to my work and an excellent networker and negotiator. Most importantly, I have empathy for all and am able to relate to individuals of all backgrounds. My experience also provides me the skills and knowledge to work with military and government officials, and businesses of all sizes. And I'm proud to call Parker my home where I grew up and attended school and have returned to retire.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?</p>	<p>1) Financial instability 2) Lack of business development efforts 3) Lack of consistent and equal code enforcement process</p>
<p>If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?</p>	<p>I will host regular meetings with constituents, separate from city council meetings, to listen to their concerns, suggestions and complaints. I will develop a practice of accountability to the citizens including</p>

	<p>providing answers to questions raised during meetings. I will ensure all staff members know and understand their responsibility is to serve the constituents. Before each decision or vote I make, I will ask myself, "will this decision improve the quality of life for the people of Parker?".</p>
<p>What role should local governments play in attracting new and supporting the existing business community?</p>	<p>Local governments are the only entity that can truly accomplish this role. The government's efforts to improve the city, promote the city's existence and pitch to developers the opportunities available in Parker is crucial to the growth of the city. A look at Parker's city website for Economic Development shows data from the US Census, nothing more. Parker has so much to offer, especially as Tyndall rebuilds and more military personnel come to the area. Currently, there is little business here to support the existing residents, let alone the thousands that will soon call Bay County and Parker home.</p>
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	<p>* Ensuring SB 50 remains in effect to leverage business development in Bay County and Florida. * Protecting Florida's Home Rule Powers Act to allow local governments to make the decisions that directly affect the local constituents. Local government is the best government. * Continuing a Better Way for a Brighter Bay initiative to support local schools and enhance the education of children. Parker Elementary School is currently rated as "D," this is unacceptable in my opinion. * Maintaining Local Workforce Development Boards to better analyze poorly performing boards and not take the whole down to the lowest denominator. * Supporting the acquisition of the Barefoot Palms property to allow expansion of NSAC Panama City. National defense and growth of this perfectly located facility is critical to the area and the country. * Expanding ECP to include an aerospace and aviation hub to bring needed development and</p>

	<p>high-paying jobs to the area. * Ensuring the local fishing industry can continue to thrive and provide jobs to the area by opposing HR 4690. Fisherman know best the importance of balancing healthy, sustainable fisheries with the viability of their industry. They see it first-hand every day.</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 will actively seek developers and entrepreneurs to open businesses in Parker to improve employment opportunities for the local constituents. As businesses come in, the city can assist with promoting the businesses and the need for talented employees. If we have the jobs, people will come.</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>The East Bay Flats apartment complex was recently opened at the foot of Dupont Bridge and adds significantly to the housing opportunities in Parker. Another property, destroyed by Michael, has yet to rebuild and efforts by the city may help the developer to move forward more quickly. I support working with Re-home Bay and Habitat for Humanity to help rehabilitate existing housing that may be in poor condition to allow for affordable housing.</p>
<p>What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?</p>	<p>As President of an HOA, I managed an annual budget of over \$1 million for two terms. Priorities were based on critical needs such as infrastructure and reserves set aside for repair and replacement of community park, pool, landscaping, etc. Corporately, I managed a department budget of over \$2 million dollars. I was responsible for ensuring income forecasts were met and disbursements were in line with the overall department plan. If urgent or emergency needs were identified, I had to provide compelling evidence to support the expenditure and had to make cuts in other areas of the budget accordingly.</p>
<p>Some people in our community say that we have traffic problems.</p>	<p>I would work with businesses and use city properties where possible, to allow park-n-ride spaces to promote ride-sharing. I would also work with DOT and</p>

<p>What do you think? How would you mitigate those concerns or change the situation?</p>	<p>local entities to plan for bike paths allowing commuters to more safely ride to work and play. As new developments and businesses come to Parker, the city planning and development team needs to consider development assessments to make accommodations to roads that the customers and/or residents of these developments will use. This expense should not be borne solely by the existing residents of the city.</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>	<p>Not unlike many other areas of the country, Bay County faces a teacher shortage. This is complicated further by Hurricane Michael and the resulting exodus of qualified teachers (and families/students). I would work with residents, school administrators and the school board to open dialog and try to find creative solutions to enhancing the education of our children. Parker residents have a wealth of knowledge and experience that would be of significant benefit to students. Retirees could volunteer as teachers' aids to provide more personalized coaching to students to offset the overcrowding many classes see. There needs to be an effort by the community leaders in Bay County to bring people together and draw on their passions and experience to create the village it takes to raise and educate a child.</p>

BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name	Cameron Fuqua
Office	Parker Council Member Seat 2
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	As a relatively new member of the Chamber of Commerce, I have yet to have the opportunity to attend either of these institutes. However, I have heard very positive and productive things about the events hosted by the Economic Development Council and look forward to attending one in the near future.
Have you ever run for or been elected to public office? If yes, please describe.	I have not run for or been elected to public office. However, my experience as the attorney for nearly 150 community associations throughout the panhandle, my experience in the Air Force, and my economics degree have prepared me to support and grow the community of Parker, Florida.
Describe your civic involvement. Please include any Boards on which you serve and any positions of leadership.	I have always been a believer in community involvement and support. Primarily I have shown that support through local youth soccer clubs. I have been a treasurer, an assistant executive director, and now am a coach with Bay United supporting two different teams. I have also recently established a robust scholarship program for the club, which supports ten local youth athletes.
Why are you running for office?	It is undeniable that the panhandle of Florida is growing, and more specifically, Bay County is growing. As a resident of Parker and a big believer in the community of Parker, it is my opinion that the leadership within Parker must be proactive in receiving this growth and developing the community to benefit from such growth.
What skills or qualifications do you possess that make you the best choice to serve in this position?	As an attorney, Air Force veteran, and student of economics, I believe that I have the abilities which are best suited not only to assist Parker in developing economically and financially but also to grow a community that is prideful in its town and to encourage its residents to take ownership in their town.

<p>What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing your city (listing in order of importance)?</p>	<p>1. Revenue-Parker must find creative ways to generate additional revenue without any increases to taxes to its residents. It is impossible to accomplish anything without some level of revenue and income. 2. Infrastructure-The infrastructure in Parker should have been taken care of a long time ago. Now the infrastructure is dilapidated and rapidly declining. This is something that must be addressed immediately. 3. Beautification-Parker is a lovely quaint pocket of Bay County. We must share this beauty with the community at large and compound on such to continue growing the city of Parker.</p>
<p>If elected, how do you plan on measuring your performance to report to your constituents?</p>	<p>Parker must compare itself to the other local municipalities in Bay County (Lynn Haven, Callaway, Springfield, Mexico Beach). If Parker is falling behind the curve compared to these other municipalities, we have failed. We must stay with the times and grow and develop just as these other communities are equally doing.</p>
<p>What role should local governments play in attracting new and supporting the existing business community?</p>	<p>Local governments have the greatest ability of all to attract and support new businesses to the community. We must market and promote the allure of Parker. Parker has some of the cheapest real estate and land available in Bay County. We are also the nearest community to Tyndall AFB. We must utilize these factors to our advantage and spread the word about the community of Parker.</p>
<p>Which legislative priorities in the Bay County Chamber's 2023 Legislative Agenda do you support? Why?</p>	<p>I am a big proponent of "Continuing our 2022 A Better Way for a Brighter Bay Education initiative that encourages the business community's involvement in our public schools. Current resolutions include: 1) support for school-based mentoring and; 2) targeted bringing business experience at the school board level." With my coaching experience with the local youth soccer clubs, our local youth are the future of our community. We must educate and promote the</p>

	development of this future generation. I have personally mentored and taught students at all ages.
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?	Parker must continue to promote business development and work with businesses not against them. We must provide the local resources necessary to encourage young professionals to seek out work in Bay County, and specifically Parker.
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?	One of the allures of Parker is that housing is still affordable. We have the property available to attract and support lower income and service industry individuals. Our leadership needs to ensure that while the lower income housing is available, we do not allow that housing to come into disrepair or become unsightly within the community.
What is the largest budget you have overseen and how did you prioritize spending?	As an attorney, I assist dozens of community associations with budgets every day, including budgets of ten million dollars or more. Further, as a former treasurer of a soccer club, I handled a budget of nearly \$500,000.00.
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?	That is one of the great aspects of Parker. We don't have traffic problems. We have infrastructure problems and our roads need to be able to support our travels. It is imperative though that we are proactive in preparing for any unexpected increases in infrastructure.
Public education remains important to the Chamber. Share your thoughts on challenges and opportunities facing our local public education	Parker has an amazing elementary school right in the heart of its community. We must promote the students within this school, and support the teachers and administrators providing to those students, and continue to work with the Bay County School Board to ensure that Parker Elementary receives the care and attention that is equal to all other local educational institutions.

system and how you can help.