

# Jewel Cannada-Wynn - Mayoral Candidate

## Business Climate / Regulations Issues

- 1. Rate the regulatory climate for business in the City of Pensacola. Is it Good/Fair/Bad? Explain your answer.**

Currently, I rate the climate of the city as good. Business growth and development have improved over the years. However, I would like to see communication improve between city government and the business community.

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

Zoning regulations in reference to density have had a tremendous impact on the entire city. Neighborhoods are concerned with the tremendous growth in their neighborhoods. The growth especially in our residential areas has created a sense of uncertainty about preserving the essence of every neighborhood. It is a positive outcome to have a large number of houses built within the city limits, however, the homes in many cases are affordable and they are for rent and not home ownership. The growth has impacted the city in both positive and negative ways. The lack of Regulations in reference to Airbnb's concern citizens as well.

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

Currently, I do not have a list of the top three ordinances/regulations that I would eliminate. I also have not seen a list generated by the Pensacola Chamber of ordinances that impede growth in the city. Currently, the city council is responsible for updating, and/or rescinding ordinances. City ordinances, probably in some cases, have not been reviewed for their effectiveness in running the day-to-day operation of the city. As Mayor, I would task the city administrator with assisting in identifying regulations that need to be reviewed for updating or rescinding. This process should include the business community as well as the executive and legislative branches of government. After recommendations by city staff and vetted with the support of the business community, it will be up to the council to act. It is also important to note that citizens often provide ideas that improve the functioning of business within the government. Those ideas will be welcomed in my administration. The tree ordinance and the CRA Overlay are concerns for some business development.

- 4. Downtown Pensacola has grown and flourished over the past decade. What areas of the city would you like to see development focus next?**

I would like to see development in West Pensacola including the Brownsville area. I would also want the city to play an intricate part in the redevelopment of the Baptist Hospital property. This development would provide an economic anchor for West Pensacola. It is also important to develop affordable housing across the entire city as well as strengthen neighborhoods.

## Operations / Infrastructure Issues

- 5. 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?**

The city and county provide its citizens with essential basic services. These services include police and fire protection, permitting, code enforcement, and other services that improve the quality of life for its citizens and communities. The primary responsibility of a municipality is to provide basic services. I see the City of Pensacola maintaining these responsibilities. In the past, citizens have requested that the city and county create a one-stop permitting process. The city and county partners in reference to some services. The city and county work together in support of the library and transportation systems. The Human Relations Commission is another example of how the city and county can work together. I served on the Escambia Charter Commission a number of years ago. One of the recommendations included dividing the county and city into ten districts. The voters rejected the concept. I would like to see a joint economic development department.

- 6. Homelessness and panhandling continue to be a significant problem in the city of Pensacola. What are your solutions to this pressing problem that impacts the business community?**

Homelessness and panhandling are significant problems all over the country. These issues are not just government issues. Solutions along with a dedicated funding source must also come from the private sector. Some cities across the country have created ordinances to address panhandling. The City of Pensacola can also develop effective legislation by using examples from other cities that have withstood legal challenges. Homelessness requires a case management approach. I would refer to the study completed by the City of Pensacola for my initial actions to address homelessness. Solutions include creating more transitional centers to appropriately place individuals. Housing solutions include boarding houses, rental units as well as permanent housing solutions. Case managers must access all community resources to find solutions to homelessness in our community including mental health resources. The private sector must also contribute to our funding solutions. An important aspect of homelessness is putting a "face" to the homeless crisis.

- 7. Do you believe the city allocates sufficient resources for infrastructure projects? How would you prioritize these projects and fund them?**

Affordable housing and drainage/flooding issues are the top infrastructure problems in the city. I would like to know of any city that allocates sufficient resources for infrastructure projects. Cities prioritized projects because of the lack of funding for all needs. Priority in reference to projects will be based on the critical need.

**8. What do you consider to be the number one infrastructure concern for the City of Pensacola going forward, and how do you propose to address that concern?**

The citizens, mayor, and city council must determine how to fund the city government. Prioritization of projects will be based on input from the citizens and the executive and legislative branches of government. Discussions in reference to LOST dollars as well as effective use of CRA dollars are essential in finding funding solutions. I would also target federal and state infrastructure dollars.

**9. What would you change about the relationship between the Mayor's Office and City Council (i.e. should the Mayor attend all city council meetings, etc.)?**

The relationship between the mayor and council depends on transparency and respect for the mayor-council form of government. Since I have served under both forms of government, I have the leadership and experience to develop a municipal team that will focus on the needs of the City of Pensacola.

**10. What would your Five Year Plan for the City of Pensacola look like?**

My five-year plan would include but not be limited to the following: 500 affordable housing units, one thousand rental units, stronger neighborhoods by connecting citizens to resources, and the development of a vocational-technical high school in order to support workforce education. There are many quality of life issues on my agenda as Mayor.

## **Economic Development Issues**

**11. What role should city government take in attracting new businesses to the area?**

I would like to see an increase role in attracting new business. A partnership with the city and county on a department that focuses on attracting new businesses. However, this partnership should include supporting small and minority businesses.

**12. Which industries should the City of Pensacola should concentrate its business development/growth efforts? Be specific.**

I would like to see more manufacturing jobs and an increased effort to support small and minority businesses.

**13. What should the city do with excess properties that it owns? Which properties should take priority? Do you believe certain city parks could be considered excess property?**

Parks make-up the largest portion of city own properties. According to a study that was completed by the University of West Florida, the City of Pensacola has too many parks. The issue is whether or not certain neighborhoods would be willing to give up a park/green space for

affordable housing for example. Currently, it is hard to keep up with the maintenance of our parks. After reviewing excess properties in the city and excluding parks, there are very few parcels. The city will need to get creative in the utilization of city-owned properties.

**14. Tourism is an integral part of Pensacola's economy. What are the top 3 ways that the city can add value for the Pensacola business community with respect to increasing tourism and nurturing a positive tourist experience while here in Pensacola?**

The city must first admit that it is a tourist destination. There should be a visitor's control center downtown. Efforts should be made to create more brick and mortar projects that will support businesses during the off-season and there should be more activities that focus on the family. I would like to take a look at the policies that govern the bed tax.

**15. What is your vision for Pensacola's waterfront from Three Mile Bridge to Joe Patti's? Feel free to incorporate the Port of Pensacola, Community Maritime Park, the Hashtag Project, and Bruce Beach.**

I would like the waterfront to be connected in some way from the Three Mile Bridge to Joe Patti's. This would include the Port of Pensacola, Community Maritime Park, the Hashtag Project, and Bruce Beach. Some of the connectors would bring you to the bay and others will provide a path along Main Street. As citizens are enjoying the area, they will have an opportunity to shop, eat, or get involved in some type of activity. The Bruce Beach area should have a building representative of the neighborhood. The facility would display the history of the beach, cafe area, restrooms, and a gathering space for parties, weddings, and educational opportunities. There is an old CRA Plan several years ago that is somewhat reflective of this idea. The Bruce Beach property should be a showpiece for the western corridor