

Sparker's Soapbox
2026 Naples City Council Election – Summary of Responses to Candidate Questionnaires – Part 2

Question	John Langley	Sally Petersen	Scott Schultz	Penny Taylor
1 - About You	Age: 66 Naples resident for 24 years (Seagate) Education: accounting Career: CPA firm owner; founder of medical transcription company Public service: none reported	Age: 61 Naples resident since 2022 (after years of visiting) Education: bachelor's degree; MBA Career: economic development, marketing, and city governance Public service: Ann Arbor City Council; economic development and environmental advisory boards	Age: 68 Naples resident since 2004 Education: bachelor's degree Career: senior executive in global asset management Public service: Naples Planning Advisory Board; chair, county coastal storm risk management advisory committee	Age: 76 Naples resident for 46 years Education: bachelor's degree; postgraduate training in photography Career: photography business owner; arts and cultural leadership Public service: Naples City Council (10 years), Collier County Commission (8 years), multiple regional and state boards
2 - What are the most important challenges facing Naples in the next four years, and how would you address them?	Culture of city government needs to be more resident centric. Create a Concierge Office to help residents navigate the bureaucracy.	Managing the consequences of previously approved overdevelopment which have caused congestion and threats to our resiliency. - Adopt and fund the Naples 2025 Draft Resilience Plan Ensuring that overdevelopment does not continue. - Better oversight of application of building codes and reevaluation of codes	Storm resiliency, flooding, aging infrastructure, management development responsibly. Costly and disruptive, but delaying action will be far more expensive in the long run. At the same time, redevelopment must be carefully managed to preserve Naples's character, quality of life, property rights.	Restore (rebuilding critical partnerships) - Work to restore essential partnerships. Resilience (addressing our infrastructure crisis) - Formalize a comprehensive infrastructure improvement plan that prioritizes climate-resilient infrastructure, protects our water quality, and updates outdated building codes. Leverage my experience and

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		themselves; incentives (i.e. lower property taxes) for homeowners to develop/re-develop with larger green space and more permeable surface		partnerships to secure state and federal funding, maximizing every available resource. Resources (maximizing funding through collaboration) - Strengthen partnerships with Collier County for shared projects; collaborate with surrounding communities on regional solutions.
3 - What principles or priorities will guide your decisions on matters that come before Council?	Provide conservative leadership to “get Naples back on track.” Divisive issues like airport, home rule, stormwater “should have been addressed years ago”.	Embrace the primacy of resident voices. Listen to diversity of perspectives. A fiscally sound budget, including increased funding of public safety, protecting our downtowns, and ensuring flood mitigation infrastructure improvements reach every neighborhood, especially River Park.	Residents come first. Follow adopted plans and codes consistently. Plan carefully before committing taxpayer dollars.	Fiscal responsibility and maximizing taxpayer value. Transparency and accountability. Collaboration over conflict.
4 - How do you plan to communicate with constituents and involve	Monthly newsletter. Their feedback will give them a voice in local government.	Establish a Resident-City Resiliency Task Force to ensure storm water infrastructure improvements	Regular community meetings, open digital communication, actively engage HOA leaders across the	Respond promptly to concerns. Proactively communicate with affected residents

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them in city government?		include neighborhood-specific priorities. Reestablish Neighborhood Priority Plans as part of the Naples 2045 Comprehensive Plan process. Keep regular office hours to encourage open dialog; attend HOA meetings as invited.	city. Listen to all Naples' neighborhoods.	before votes are taken on significant decisions through town halls, neighborhood briefings, and clear explanations of complex issues.
5 - How should the city plan for long-term financial sustainability given recurring storm-recovery costs and infrastructure needs?	"Bite the proverbial bullet by funding [stormwater needs] in-full now."	Seek federal FEMA, EPA, and NOAA grants "should they be restored in the next federal administration," and other federal, state, and local grant opportunities.	Streamline permitting, reduce inefficiencies, avoid shifting infrastructure costs onto existing residents. Private-sector discipline, transparency, accountability mustguide city finances.	Restore partnerships with key state, federal, local partners who could help with costs. Create a comprehensive infrastructure matrix that identifies: - infrastructure needs prioritized by urgency, risk, and impact on community resilience; - timeline for each project; - funding sources for each component; - cost-sharing opportunities
6 – What is your position on the future of the Naples Municipal	The airport has a huge impact on the local economy.	The Naples Airport should stay in the City of Naples.	The airport should remain where it is, but its growth	The airport is and should be recognized as an important infrastructure asset.

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Airport, including its continued operation, location, governance structure, and the relationship between its board and Naples City Council??	and should be left to manage itself. Renegotiate airport lease “so the airport contributes more than \$1 per year.”	City Council should defend its “constitutional right” to appoint the NAA Board Members. Propose that the City authorize the NAA to install air and noise monitors.	must be managed responsibly. Safety, noise impacts, traffic, and surrounding neighborhoods must be prioritized. Adopt a consistent long-term plan rather than reacting.	There is no place to move the airport in the county; that should be off the table. Will hold the airport accountable for continuing to reduce aircraft noise. Will discourage expansion of private aviation services (leasing, fractional ownership) by established aviation companies.
7 – Should the City of Naples continue to participate in litigation challenging recent state laws that limit local control over land-use and zoning decisions? Why or why not?	The city should never have imposed tougher zoning and land use ordinances in the middle of recovering from a hurricane, however, I do support the right of the city to make rules without state interference.	Yes. The decision by City Council to join the lawsuit was probably the best \$10K the City ever spent.	Home rule is essential. Litigation should remain an option, but coalition-building and collaboration with state and regional leaders should be the first approach.	No. The decision to join the lawsuit was reckless and demonstrates the kind of impulsive decision-making that has damaged Naples’ relationships with critical state partners.
8 – What overriding principles will you use in considering requests to approve permits for events that may attract protests or require added security? How would you balance public	The City of Naples should not be trying to curtail free-expression rights under the guise of security risks. We either need to boost security at all events or not, but security should not be the excuse to limit free speech or expression.	Public safety is paramount; this can be accomplished without compromising free speech. Security fees should be a function of crowd size and tax-exempt status of sponsoring organization.	Public spaces belong to residents, and free expression must be respected. At the same time, public safety, reasonable crowd size, cost control must guide permitting decisions.	Unwavering support for constitutional rights and absolute commitment to public safety. Permit fees and cost-recovery mechanisms should ensure that costs of police, fire safety, traffic management, and cleanup are

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safety costs and free-expression rights?		Invest in permanent security infrastructure; explore and invest in more fiscally prudent ways to secure downtowns and parks during popular events.		borne by even hosts, not taxpayers.
9 – The city has begun the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will continue through 2026 and may lead to revisions in the land-use, planning, and zoning codes. What changes, if any, do you believe are needed to maintain Naples’ character while accommodating appropriate redevelopment?	Use Comp Plan as a roadmap for the future. [But] there is not much the city can do about development in the county unless we collaborate with county officials on the impact it has on the city. Some county property taxes paid by city residents should “come back in the form of impact fees charged to new development in the county due to impact to the city.”	Stop granting code variances. Ensure existing codes are clearly written, internally consistent and not subject to multiple interpretations. Consider providing financial incentives to homeowners for voluntarily building or remodeling to larger setbacks allowing for greater pervious surface space. Reincorporate Neighborhood Specific Priority Plan in the new Comprehensive Planning process. Update Interlocal Agreements to rein in county hyper-development at our city borders.	The Comp Plan should be respected and followed. Public engagement for Naples 2045 should occur when residents are actually in town. This issue played a significant role in my decision to run for City Council.	Address outdated building codes, incorporate climate-resilient design standards, and ensure new development doesn't exacerbate flooding or stormwater challenges. As redevelopment occurs, prioritize preserving and expanding green space, protecting tree canopy, and maintaining the natural beauty that defines Naples. Tie development approvals to demonstrated infrastructure adequacy. Protect neighborhood character; ensure redevelopment is compatible with surrounding area. Update process must include robust public input

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				from all Naples neighborhoods.
10 – Do you support keeping, loosening, or tightening the city’s current 30-day minimum rental rule for residential properties? What outcomes are you aiming to achieve?	Keep.	Keep.	Short-term rentals must be regulated in a way that protects residents’ quality of life while respecting lawful property rights.	Keep.
11 – Was there a Council vote in the last four years in which you disagreed with the outcome? Why?	Vote to restrict building or having final say so for any new building at the airport. “The vote was taken only to appease the residents who complain about the noise, so it looks like the City Council is doing something about it. Now the issue has divided the city.”	Vote to remove fluoridation of city water supply, which removes scientifically-proven protection for at-risk or lower income families. Also, the vote was taken without adequate opportunity for community input.	Decision to override the Planning Advisory Board’s unanimous recommendation regarding the timing of Naples 2045 public engagement. Residents deserve a meaningful voice in decisions that shape the city’s future.	Vote on 6/5/24 to reject South Golf Drive Street Improvement Project. It was shortsighted, potentially dangerous, and fiscally irresponsible. The majority of Council allowed a small group to speak for everyone, denied a safer street design, rejected nearly \$3 million in state funding, and walked away from cost-effective infrastructure improvements that our city needs.