



**Candidate Questionnaire – Marco Island City Council
November 2024 Election**

1. Your name: Tamara Goehler
2. Your email address: tseretelit@gmail.com
3. Your phone number: (703)894-7807
4. Your campaign website: marcoisland2024elections.com
5. Your age: 58
6. Today's date: 08/27/2024
7. What year did you move to Marco Island and where did you live previously?

I moved to Marco Island in September, 2021. Previously I lived in Alexandria, VA.

8. Where did you go to high school, and if you received any post-secondary education, where did you go, what degree(s) did you receive, and when?

Graduated from 84th high school – Tbilisi, Georgia

BA – Russian Language and Literature/Linguistics – Pushkin Pedagogy Institute.
Tbilisi, Georgia

MA – Educational Leadership – Sulkhan Sabah Orbeliani Pedagogy Institute.

9. Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.

Between the years of 1998 – 2018 I Hired and trained over 1,000 language instructors and the cultural advisers from around the World;
Oversaw and evaluated approximately \$150 million worth of Government programs;

Trained over 7,500 US Service members and over 300 US Diplomats;
Received recognition of exemplary performance as a Program Manager for the language Special Operations Language Program;

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Please email your responses to sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com
no later than Friday, August 23, 2024*

10. Describe your Marco Island community activities, either in elective office or as a volunteer, in the last five years.

Collier County Republican Executive Committee Member
Former Volunteer Chair and current member of the Right Club of South Collier
Member of the Republican Women of South West Florida (SWFL)
Member of the American Legion and AmVets
Poll watcher for last Marco Island election
Poll Worker for Isles Of Capri

11. What is THE most important issue facing the Marco Island City Council today and how will you address it?

Water Quality - I recognize how important the quality of the water in our island waterways is to our residents. The majority of us live on or very close to our canals, bays, rivers and beaches. Over the last few years, our City has commissioned several scientific studies that provide a solid foundation for policy-making going forward. I am listening to all voices: the academic scientists, our Waterways Committee members, boaters, sports fishermen, and everyone who lives on and enjoys our waters. We are currently working on a number of proposals for science-based programs that can be implemented locally. I am committed to providing the leadership to implement those programs and policies in order to improve the quality of our waterways for our residents in a most cost-effective manner.

Short Term Rentals – My goal is to balance all property owners' rights while prioritizing residents' right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. My goal is to implement reasonable and equitable rules and limits with a focus on suspending licenses for chronic offenders to eliminate problem STRs on the island. Alongside oversight, it is essential to enhance enforcement efforts. I recommend that code enforcement officers be the primary responders to violations of noise, parking, and trash ordinances. They would assess, document, and issue violations, involving the police only when necessary for addressing disruptive parties. This approach is fair and reasonable, and it should prove effective in protecting the quality of life for Marco Island residents.

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12. Name one past policy decision of the Marco Island City Council that you disagree with that you would like to change if elected. Why?

Approving the 80% reduction in a variance without a hardship presented by the applicant was a violation of the Marco Island Comprehensive plan. Variances are not supposed to be given except when there is a serious hardship on the property owner that was not of his doing. Further, if a variance will somehow harm the community, and there is no hardship, then I don't agree with the variance. I do not agree with Council's decision to approve this variance. I would have encouraged the petitioner to develop a plan that does not require a variance and which is respectful of preserving the peace of the historic

13. What are your views about the role of government as they relate to the policies and actions of the Marco Island City Council? How would these views influence your actions and decisions as a City Councilor?

Local governments has an awesome responsibility to provide the most essential of public services to their residents.

I will be working closely with the city employees to guarantee all the services are up to date and in top quality shape.

I am fiscally conservative, properly allocating residents' money is my top priority.

14. Why should voters vote for you? What is the most important thing that differentiates you as a City Council candidate?

I am committed to personally making a positive impact on this beautiful island I call home. I treasure my Marco neighbors and I am determined to leave Marco Island in better shape than I found it. I understand the importance of learning from one another, even those with whom we may disagree. I believe the City Council must listen more to residents, and must demonstrate respect for their concerns by taking effective action. In order to unify the Island and win back the trust of the community, I believe Council must prioritize transparency in decision-making. Over the past three years, I've seen too much division. I am determined to restore unity and create an environment of peace and harmony. Seeing neighbors smile and care for each other brings me great joy. With no personal agenda or business ownership on the island, my commitment is solely to making Marco Island a better place to live. As a highly effective problem solver, I believe we need to move beyond just talking about the issues; we need to take focused action to achieve tangible results. I won't rest until all pertinent issues brought before the Council are adequately addressed and until any problems brought before us are properly remedied. I am dedicated to improving the quality of life on the island so that everyone feels comfortable and safe in their own homes and throughout our community. I am financially conservative, and I am determined to keep Marco a wonderful place to live for all.

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