



**Candidate Questionnaire – Marco Island City Council
November 2026 General Election**

Deadline: Sept. 21, 2026

Return to: sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com

1. Full name as you'd like it to appear, and age. (25 words)

Chris Ricci, age 61.

2. Where were you born or raised, and how long have you lived on Marco Island? (50 words)

I was raised in the Boston area. I moved to Marco Island full-time from Silicon Valley, California, in 2021 and have lived here year-round since then.

3. Education: institution(s) attended and field of study. (25 words)

Formal education in law (NESL) and electrical engineering (UMass Amherst), and business (Wharton and Stanford).

4. Current occupation and employer, and a brief summary of relevant work experience. (75 words)

I am CEO of AutoConnect Holdings, LLC, a technology company focused on automotive connectivity and intellectual property. I have more than 35 years of experience as an entrepreneur and senior executive, including senior roles at Fortune 500 companies NCR, Flex, NIO, and Avaya, and experience building and leading companies in the automotive, technology, and insurance industries. I also hold more than 150 U.S. patents.

5. Any prior public service, elected or appointed positions, board memberships, or civic/volunteer work relevant to this race. (75 words)

I currently chair Marco Island's Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee and previously served on the City's Audit Advisory Committee. I was elected to office in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1990. I am also a former Commander of the Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron and a Coastal Breeze columnist. These roles have given me firsthand experience with City finances, governance, environmental priorities, and community service.

6. What are your top three or four priorities if elected, and why? (200 words)

My priorities are fiscal discipline and infrastructure, water quality, responsible redevelopment, while protecting Marco's quality of life. Years of millage reductions have kept taxes low, but they have also reduced budget flexibility while major infrastructure needs remain. We need a long-range capital plan, disciplined spending, and aggressive pursuit of grants and alternative funding before asking taxpayers for more. Water quality is equally important. Advanced Wastewater Treatment is a worthwhile start, but our canals also face sediment, circulation, and other nutrient sources; solutions should be science-driven, tested, and measured. Marco is also moving from development to redevelopment. Aging hotels, marinas, and commercial properties will need reinvestment, but projects should be judged by their actual impacts on traffic, scale, parking, infrastructure, the environment, and neighboring properties. Finally, everyday quality-of-life issues matter. Residents deserve predictable rules, consistent enforcement, and a City government that listens, explains its decisions, and focuses on measurable results rather than slogans.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.
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no later than Sept. 21, 2026.

7. Name one decision or action by the City Council in the last four years that you disagreed with, and explain why. (125 words)

I disagreed with continuing annual millage-rate reductions without pairing them with a sufficiently clear long-term capital and infrastructure funding plan. Keeping taxes low is important, and I support fiscal discipline, but repeatedly reducing recurring revenue while major infrastructure needs continue, leaves the City with less flexibility and greater reliance on borrowing. I would rather begin with a ten-year view: identify what infrastructure we own, what it will cost to maintain or replace, what grants and alternative revenues are available, and what can responsibly be deferred. Then Council can make tax and spending decisions with residents seeing the full tradeoffs instead of addressing one budget year at a time.

8. Name one decision or action by the City Council in the last four years that you supported and would want to see continued. (125 words)

I supported the Council's 2026 decision to move forward with Advanced Wastewater Treatment at the City's wastewater treatment facility. Improving the quality of reclaimed water by reducing nitrogen and phosphorus is a concrete step toward protecting Marco's waterways. I also support the Council's decision to proceed with preliminary design, permitting, and regulatory coordination while the City develops a broader funding strategy. I would continue that work, but I would also insist on measuring results. AWT should be part of a larger, science-driven canal strategy that evaluates sediment, circulation, and other nutrient sources so future investments are directed toward solutions that produce measurable improvements in water quality.

9. Any endorsements you'd like listed. (list format, no limit)

Rene Champaigne, Vice Chairman, City Council

Deb Henry, City Council

Chris Scherzinger, Former CEO, Webber

10. Campaign website and any active social media accounts.

Campaign website: RicciForMarco.com

Facebook: facebook.com/RicciForMarco

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