

DARRIN PALUMBO'S RESPONSES

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

1. **Full Name and age:** (25 words)

Darrin Palumbo, 57 years old.

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

I was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, and raised in South Plainfield, New Jersey. I moved to Marco Island in 1998 and have lived here for 28 years now.

3. **Education: Institutions attended and field of study.** (25 words)

Studied at Middlesex County College and Rutgers University
NJ Realty Institute, Bert Rogers Real Estate School
Formerly licensed—SEC security broker, mortgage broker, insurance broker

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

Small business owner—Sweet Annie's Ice Cream Parlour
Real Estate Agent (36 years), currently with Sun Realty
Chairman, Marco Island City Council

- Former licensed Florida mortgage broker/mortgage company owner
- Former developer of residential Marco Island homes
- Former SEC security broker (bonds, annuities, and mutual funds)
- Former licensed insurance agent for property and casualty, life, individual health, and group health plans

I have an extensive background in real estate, development, finance, and small business ownership.

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

- Marco Island City Council – 2022 to present, current Chairman
- Collier County Tourist Development Council Member
- Previous Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee Member
- 4 years Marco Island Academy Girls Soccer Coach
- 10 years Optimist Club Soccer Coach
- Raised over \$200,000.00 for Marco Island Academy sports/academic programs.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor (24 years)
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach
- St. Jude's & March of Dimes Fundraiser Volunteer
- Little Pink Houses, Rotary Club, and Our Daily Bread Sponsor
- Beach Clean-Up Volunteer

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

1. The hardening of our community against hurricanes, tidal surges, and king tides. Using the dome homes as a notable example, if you do not maintain and fortify your community, the gulf will reclaim it.
2. Infrastructure needs such as the implementation of Advanced Wastewater Treatment and the hardening of our electric grid.
3. The rezoning of Marco Island into Florida's 22nd Congressional District. This topic, although it has not gained much attention, should be one of the most important conversations to have during our election season. Marco Island now sits in what I believe is the second largest agricultural district east of the Mississippi. We are the only beach coastal community in the district that we now share with Everglades City, farmland, Lake Okeechobee, and the inland portion of the east coast of Florida. To say we are a unique district would be a monumental understatement. Because of this, I have already started to reach out to our congressional candidates to get to know them and to make sure that Marco Island and our beach and coastal needs are not forgotten within Florida's newly rezoned district.
4. Maintaining our quality of life through the balance of residential neighborhoods and a strong business economy. We can only accomplish this through a united community.

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

The passing of the short-term rental ordinance. I was 100% in support of an ordinance and strongly advocated for a legally defensible and enforceable version. However, the version that was passed did not meet legal muster (which is why I voted against it) and ended up costing our residents approximately \$750,000 of wasted taxpayer dollars with nothing to show for it. Be assured, to help protect our neighborhoods, when the moratorium on short-term rentals is lifted, I will absolutely champion and support a legally defensible and enforceable version. Sadly, this is one issue that divided our community and continues to do so today. I would like to bring this to a united resolution that benefits residents' needs while working within the scope of the law.

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)

With so many positive impacts on our community over the last 4 years, it is hard to choose one. My top three includes the approval of Advanced Wastewater Treatment, returning land back to nature through Conservation Collier, and banning of rodenticides on all municipal properties. However, when given the choice to help ensure the survival of one of God's species, the choice becomes easy. The banning of rat poison (rodenticide) on all municipal properties was done in an effort to save our burrowing owls and to help ensure their survival on our island. As Chairman of the council, it was my honor to have worked with the Audubon Society to bring this initiative to my co-councilors for a unanimous vote to help save the burrowing owls.

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

Yvette Benarroch – Florida House District 81
John E. Dailey – Mayor of Tallahassee
Sara Baxter – Mayor of Palm Beach County
Rene Champagne - Marco Island City Council Vice Chair
Greg Folley – Former Marco Island City Councilor and Chairman
Joe Batte – Former Marco Island City Councilor and Chairman
Terri Ballo - Former Marco Island City Councilor and Chairwoman
Bill “Coach” Kramer – Naples City Council Member
Beckie Irwin – Former Marco Island City Councilor
Al Palacio – Second Vice President, Florida State Fraternal Order of Police
Chris Lewandowski - Chairman, Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee
Mike Green – Former Beach and Coastal Advisory Committee Member
Robert Benson – Community Leader & Small Business Owner
Melodee James – Marco Island Resident

10. **Campaign website and any active social media accounts.**

Campaign Website: www.darrinpalumbo.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ReElectDarrinPalumboForMarcoIslandCityCouncil
Instagram: @PalumboDarrin