

Sparker's Soapbox Candidate Questionnaire

Rick Woodworth, Candidate for Marco Island City Council

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

Rick Woodworth, 74, soon to be 75.

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

I spent most of my working life in the Chicago area. Grew up and lived in both Glenview, IL, and most recently in Northbrook IL, before purchasing my home on Marco Island in 2016 and have lived here full time since 2017.

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

Illinois Wesleyan University. Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History with a minor in pre-law.

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

I'm retired. I spent 33 years with The Habitat Company in Chicago, the last seven as President and partner, helping grow the firm from 3,000 managed units to a portfolio of over 32,000 residential units across six cities, with combined assets exceeding \$5 billion. My work spanned development, financing, management, and property repositioning. On Marco Island, I am a founding partner of Clean Marco Waters, LLC, a citizens' group advocating for clean water in our canals and waterways.

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

I've never run for elected office before. I served on Marco Island's Waterways Advisory Committee in 2018, including as Chairman from February 2019 to November 2020, and was reappointed in 2025. I served on the City's Audit Advisory Committee starting in February 2020. I am also a longtime pension fund trustee for the SEIU Local 1 Health and Pension Funds, a nearly \$500 million, fully funded plan, a role I have held for more than 40 years.

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

My first priority is restoring strong financial management, so Marco Island has a workable budget and clear, accurate accounting and reporting. I will work to ensure the Finance Department has the staffing, systems, and outside expertise needed to resolve audit issues, strengthen monthly financial reporting, and prepare for new state accountability requirements.

My second priority is protecting residents' quality of life through a prioritized, financially responsible Asset Management Plan for our bridges, roads, parks, and stormwater systems, so essential infrastructure is maintained on a schedule rather than deferred until it fails. We must also hold the line on development proposals, including the Hilton expansion and Rose Marina, that do not comply with our Comprehensive Plan or have not been adequately studied. Growth should serve residents and enhance the island as a whole rather than further straining our roads, water quality and general well-being primarily for the benefit of that particular business.

My third priority is making sure Advanced Wastewater Treatment moves forward to improve water quality in our canals. Council voted for an AWT facility in May 2026, and funding it responsibly, through cash reserves, a rate-structure study, and a dedicated bond issue rather than a blank check, is essential to following through on that commitment.

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 Council's approach to the \$23 million bond which passed by a single vote. I agreed the City needed the funding the bond would provide for deferred infrastructure needs, but I did not believe City staff or the sitting Council would spend it wisely, so I opposed it. Borrowing to solve real problems only works if residents can trust the process behind how the money is spent, and I did not have that confidence at the time. I also disagreed with the single source purchasing process for the \$11 million new potable water meters.

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 Council's May 2026 vote to move forward with an Advanced Wastewater Treatment facility to clean up the water flowing into Marco Island's canals. I have advocated for AWT for years as a founding partner of Clean Marco Waters, and this vote finally commits the City to the process to get it done. I want to see this decision followed through, not revisited or delayed, with funding built from a responsible mix of cash reserves, a rate-structure study, and a dedicated bond issue rather than left to drift. Water quality is one of the top concerns residents raised in the MICA survey, and this is the single most consequential water quality decision Council has made in years.

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

David Rasmussen, Bod Roth, Anita Sargese, Ralph Rohena, Chris Brenner, Victoria Meyers, Julia Brenner

Campaign website and any active social media accounts.

<https://rickformarco.com/>

Facebook.com Rick for Marco.