

# Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



*Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet*



## Citizens for Ponce Inlet (C4Pi)

For over 35 years, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Organization has provided information about Town Council candidates to the CFPI/C4Pi membership and Ponce Inlet voters through a printed Quarterly Newsletter and an annual Candidates Forum at the Ponce Inlet Community Center prior to the election.

By going digital in 2020 and launching the C4Pi website, CFPI was able to increase the quality and quantity of information shared by linking to additional voter information portals.

This year, in addition to distributing our usual Summer 2022 Newsletter and offering candidate information on the C4Pi website, the CFPI/C4Pi Board decided to strengthen our service to our current members by producing a Special Election Edition and mailing a print copy.

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Editor's Note: All of the information and answers to the questions were printed exactly as submitted by the candidates.

# Ponce Inlet 2022 Candidates Forum

There is one contested seat in the Town's 2022 election:

## **Seat 4 - David Israel and Joe Villanella**

Candidates for Seat 4 and the **uncontested Seat 2 candidate, Bill Milano**, will give a three-minute introduction and overview of what they believe is important for voters to consider.

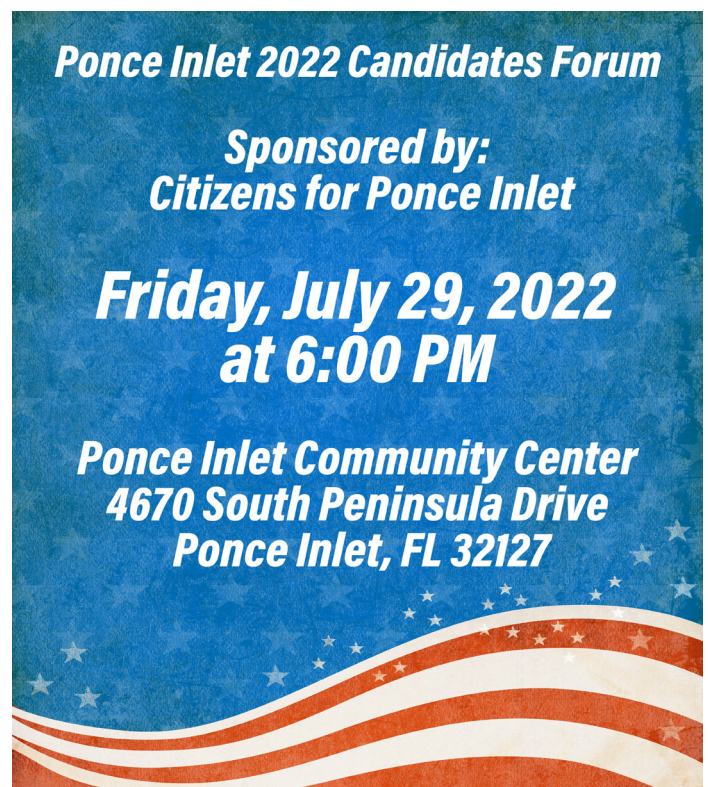
Candidates for Seat 4 will each be given three minutes to answer the following questions:

**1. What are the two greatest challenges you see facing the town of Ponce Inlet in the next one to three years that you will address if elected?**

Please include why they are important and how you plan to address them.

**2. If you are elected and you disagree with a majority of your fellow Councilmembers on a final vote will you be able to respectfully accept the majority vote for the betterment of the town?**

Audience questions will then be asked of the candidates for Seat 4. They will be given two minutes to respond. Audience questions shall be submitted at the door before the start of the event (forms will be provided) and are required to be signed by the individual submitting the question. Questions will be directed to the candidates as requested. Candidates will then be given two minutes for closing remarks.



At the conclusion of the formal session light refreshments will be served and citizens may introduce themselves to the candidates and ask questions.



# Live Streaming of the Candidates Forum

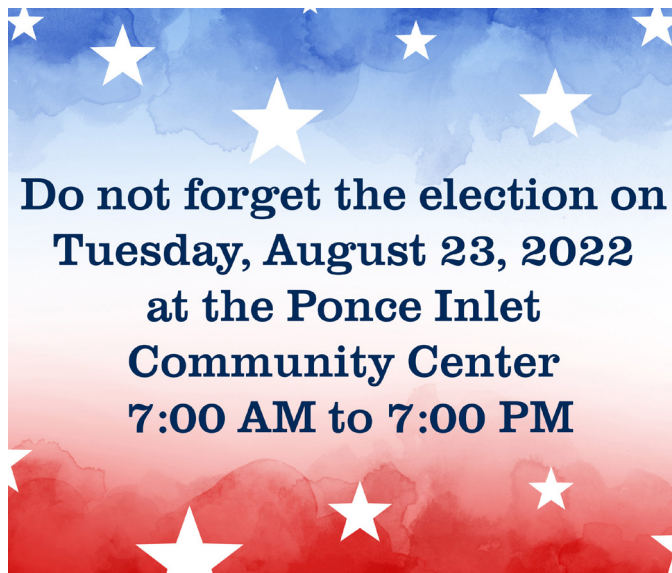
Citizens for Ponce Inlet will be live streaming the Candidates Forum.

You must be a C4PI member to view the live stream. Please sign up and complete the registration form to join.

Live streaming will begin a few minutes prior to the start of the forum.

Be sure to tune in on:

**Friday, July 29, 2022 at 6:00 PM**



Vote By Mail Requests are available by calling the Supervisor of Elections Office at (386)-736-5930 or send your request by email to [VoteByMail@volusia.org](mailto:VoteByMail@volusia.org)

## PONCE INLET ELECTION 2022

Each of the candidates was invited to provide a photo and resume. They will be presented in alphabetical order by seat number. In addition, the candidates in contested seat 4 were given the opportunity to respond to four questions for the newsletter as follows:

1. Why are you running for Town Council? How would you describe the responsibilities of a Town Council member? What skills and leadership qualities do you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position?
2. Residents and visitors love and appreciate Ponce Inlet for its small-town charm and beauty. What can be done to preserve our community's character while proactively addressing our needs and enhancing our quality of life?
3. The final outcomes of the Ponce Inlet Resiliency sessions conducted over the past few years have been presented and reviewed at Town Council meetings. What should our long-term strategy be to address these issues?
4. Our Council members are often asked to represent Ponce Inlet interests at the County and State levels. Are you willing to assume those roles and additional responsibilities? If so, why would you be a better representative of our community than your opponent?

# Meet the Candidates

## *Seat 2 - Bill Milano*

### **Bill Milano**

4779 S. Atlantic Avenue C-1  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

### **Phone Number:**

(386) 795-2452

### **Email Address:**

bradyspa@yahoo.com



Since 2012 I have been a member of the Ponce Inlet Town Council. Prior to being on the council I served on the Planning Board for 2 years. I have been on the board and president of the Lighthouse Village Homeowners Association for the last 18 years and counting.

I was employed by the Broward County Public School system for 38 years as a Mathematics teacher, guidance counselor, guidance director, school assistant principal and 16 years as a high school principal. I worked part time in the Human Resource Department recruiting educators for the school system. I developed and presented at the Broward County College Night "The College Bound Athlete and National Collegiate Athletic Association Scholarship Program." I, also, developed for Broward County a program called "At -Risk & the Invisible Student." Students that dropped out of school because of family situations were given the opportunity to participate in their home school senior activates including graduation at the completion of the program.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics Education, A Masters in Guidance and Counseling, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration Leadership and Guidance and Counseling.

The Florida Thespian Association honored me as the Florida Principal of the year. The North American Thespian Association selected me as Principal of the Year in the United States. I was selected by Broward State College as the Alumnus of the Year for my community service.

I was a Certified United States Swim official for 22 years. Three separate occasions I was selected as the meet referee for the Florida High School Swimming Championships. I was a member of the Broward County International Exchange Service organization. Became their secretary/treasurer and was selected as the secretary/treasurer of the year by the national organization.

I am currently a board member of the First Step Shelter for the homeless and have been the treasurer for past 3 years.

Patty and I moved from Broward County, Florida to Ponce Inlet full-time in 2002. We are going on 55 years of Marriage. Patty was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale. My family moved to Broward County the day I turned 11 and Florida has been my home for the last 67 years. Patty and I enjoy our visits with our 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

# Meet the Candidates

## *Seat 4 - David Israel*

### **David Israel**

87 Calumet Avenue  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

### **Phone Number:**

(904) 229-6607

### **Email Address:**

VoteDavidIsraelSeat4@outlook.com



I am married to be my beautiful wife, Cindy, and we have lived in Florida for over 25 years and have lived in Ponce Inlet over 6 years.

I have 3 adopted children.

I am a veteran and obtained the rank of staff sergeant.

I am a retired detective from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C., where I served for 20 years.

I was the coordinator for the Citizen's Watch program for Ponce Inlet for over 2 years and am currently the Vice President of the Ponce Inlet Veteran's Memorial Association.

I am an active member of the American Legion, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Eagles and the Moose.

I am highly trained in security management, experienced in budgeting and pay negotiations.

I handled the 9/11 emergency disaster while I was the security director at the Union Station train station in Washington, D.C., which is one of the largest train stations in the United States.

I am a former small business owner of 10 years and I support our local businesses.

I have training in the following: law enforcement, investigation, police science, retail security management, and resiliency training. I am a graduate of the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials put on by the Florida League of Cities.

I was a board member of a neighborhood home association.

I attended college for Police Science.

I am an avid gardener and believe in protecting the environment.

I am an experienced Councilmember, currently Seat 4, and I believe in open communication with all the residents of Ponce Inlet.

I have dedicated my life to public service.

# PONCE INLET CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

## DAVID ISRAEL - SEAT 4

**- Why are you running for Town Council? How would you describe the responsibilities of a Town Council member? What skills and leadership qualities do you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position?**

My vision is to keep communicating with the residents of Ponce Inlet and being the Voice of the People and obtain their opinions before we vote on important matters. With my experience, I am qualified to make educated and considerate decisions regarding residents of the Town. I promoted sending out surveys to the residents regarding issues that were to be voted on. I will always be available for the residents at any time and as most of you know, I cruise the streets of this Town meeting people and communicating my vision for the future, which definitely includes all the residents of Ponce Inlet. When I am re-elected, I will continue to be the voice of the residents of Ponce Inlet. You will be my guiding factor in all the decisions I make. I held town meetings to gather the opinions of the residents of Ponce Inlet and consequently the Council is now holding Town Hall meetings. I also recommended that a Welcome Package be implemented for new residents and the Council voted to have that done. I will work to get the Council meetings more streamlined so that more residents will be willing to attend the meetings. I will encourage more people to run for Council to bring new ideas to the dais, and will work with the local newspapers to include more Ponce Inlet activities in their reporting. We also need our town website to be more user-friendly so I will work with the Town staff to make it more simple, if possible. I will never forget where I came from.

**-Residents and visitors love and appreciate Ponce Inlet for its small-town charm and beauty. What can be done to preserve our community's character while proactively addressing our needs and enhancing our quality of life?**

I deeply believe in our Town and will continue to ensure that it has the small town appeal to include no major construction, that our preserves are not disturbed, and that we have an enjoyable, quiet and serene living experience. This can be done by community education and ensuring that our Town rules and regulations are adhered to by our residents and visitors alike. Also, I will work with Volusia County to specifically help us keep Ponce Inlet a safe, clean, quiet island and that all rules will be followed also by Volusia County. Since we pay taxes to Volusia County, it is their responsibility to make improvements to the Atlantic Avenue area as needed to include traffic congestion and parking of beachgoers who do not live here which causes traffic problems on our streets. We also need to curtail run-off of fertilizers and insecticides that pollute our waterways and kill our vegetation. Education and enforcement is the answer to this issue.

**- The final outcomes of the Ponce Inlet Resiliency sessions conducted over the past few years have been presented and reviewed at Town Council meetings. What should our long-term strategy be to address these issues?**

The Town of Ponce Inlet may experience impacts from flooding, rising tides and storm surge by or before 2040. Some of this flooding could include natural disasters, disease outbreaks, infrastructure failures such as water and sewer being disrupted, major power failures, public service buildings, ie. police department, fire department, town hall, being destroyed, as well as homelessness and poverty caused by flooding. My strategy would be site development techniques that would reduce losses and claims, such as reducing the amount of concrete non-permeable materials used in construction, using more grass swales in lieu of concrete swales, and allow for more Florida user-friendly yards. Also retrofitting adaptations to existing structures and features to accommodate water flow and retreat. Work with Volusia County to ensure the beach dunes are kept at proper height with vegetation to assist in the non-erosion of the dunes. Also work with the county to ensure the Atlantic Avenue corridor is structurally ready for flooding. Seawalls should be allowed only when nature-based solutions are found not to be sufficient. Continue working on septic-to-sewer conversions which will eliminate septic run-off in flooded areas. Also we need to ensure our public service buildings have back-up generators to assist in communications during any flooding disasters. Ensure that Volusia County has a plan to protect the bridges so that our residents are not trapped on the island. In closing, the Town should allocate funding to address the vulnerability of existing roadways and other public infrastructure from flood conditions, the Town shall seek federal and state funding to aid in the protection of private property from current and future flood sea level rise conditions. The Town should invest in pumps for high flood events to remove water in high flood prone areas.

**- Our Council members are often asked to represent Ponce Inlet interests at the County and State levels. Are you willing to assume those roles and additional responsibilities? If so, why would you be a better representative of our community than your opponent?**

Yes I am willing to assume the role and additional responsibility. I feel I would be a better representative for the following reasons: I lived and worked in Washington, DC, and as an elected union representative for a major police department and had interactions with senators and congress people and city officials and am confident I can represent our Town in a professional manner and bring back information that is crucial for the running of our Town. Further, I was on a negotiation committee that won a substantial pay raise for our police force after negotiating with the top city officials. I am the better representative for our Town because I have been a Councilmember for almost 2 years and know the workings of our Town and am aware of how to move our Town to the next level.



# Meet the Candidates

## *Seat 4 - Joe Villanella*

**Joe Villanella**

46 Jana Drive  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

**Phone Number:**

(386) 788-4617

**Email Address:**

rightman@joev22.com

**Website:** joev22.com

**My personal story:**

Married to my beloved wife Diana, we are the parents of one daughter and one son. I am a 'Car-Guy' having owned 300+ cars in my life. My family used to say my pacifier as an infant was the steering wheel. We have been blessed with four wonderful grandchildren. I attended college in New York and majored in Business Administration, with Business Law and Psychology.

**My professional career:**

I enjoyed a long and successful career with a public, multinational Office Products Corporation. During my long tenure with the company, I managed a \$37,000,000 and almost 300 employees. I also had a personal interest in wealth building and real estate, so I became a licensed Realtor agent in New Jersey for 27 years, primarily in residential property transactions. I learned a great deal about residential building processes, methods, materials, sourcing, financing, and partnerships.

**Transforming Seagull Landing:**

In 2006, I was persuaded by several owners to run for a seat on our Homeowners Association



(HOA) Board of Directors. At our first meeting I was selected to be President of the Sea Gull Landing HOA, a position I held for 13 years. I am still involved with the HOA and provide advice and assistance as needed, in the role of President Emeritus.

**Joining Code Enforcement:**

Out of a desire to become more involved with the future of our community, I joined the Code Enforcement Board sometime in 2010. I was voted to Chair the Board in 2011.

**Representing our residents outside Ponce Inlet:**

I was appointed to represent Ponce Inlet on the River To Sea Transportation Planning Organization in 2015, and have continued on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**I am active in my church:**

I have been involved with Epiphany Catholic Church in Port Orange. I volunteer and serve on several ministries in our Parish and have chaired several of them. Working with other volunteers and salaried employees, along with the Catholic Diocese of Orlando, we were able to implement positive changes. We increased our funding to the Outreach Ministries we serve. I remain active in our daily, Sunday, and special services in various ministries within Epiphany.

**My passion for Ponce Inlet:**

When I first came to Ponce Inlet, it was love at first sight for me. We are so fortunate to live in this hamlet town, with a great climate, surrounded by pristine waters, and residents who share common goals of peace, tranquility and personal safety while living the good and simple life by the sea.

# PONCE INLET CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

## JOE VILLANELLA - SEAT 4

**- Why are you running for Town Council? How would you describe the responsibilities of a Town Council member? What skills and leadership qualities do you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position?**

Our residents expect and deserve Councilmembers who will adhere to a set of core fundamental principles. Among them are following the charter, acting in the best interests of our community (as opposed to themselves), respecting our visioning statement, properly preparing for meetings and engaging respectfully with the Town Manager and their fellow Councilmembers. For over 11 years, I have served as the Chairman of the Ponce Inlet Code Enforcement Board. As the Mayor chairs our Council meetings, it is my job to chair the Code Enforcement proceedings. I work at the intersection of where our residents, businesses and property owners interact with our Town Government. I see every Code Enforcement hearing as an opportunity to learn what is important to all the concerned parties. I have always worked toward implementing solutions that consider the unique circumstances of each case. I believe my experience at this level of Town Government has prepared me well for a seat on Council. My opponent claims to be “The Voice of the People” but a check of his voting record reveals that he consistently votes to suppress resident input. He cast the only Council vote against the upcoming August 3rd Town Hall. He cast the only vote against allowing our residents to speak at the end of Council meetings. He also cast the only vote against the Essential Services Board, a body which was specifically created to give our residents a voice and a seat at the table on Public Safety issues. His campaign slogan is “Let’s Communicate” but his actions on Council are the polar opposite. A Councilmember’s ability to work collaboratively with others is important as well. My opponent referred to his fellow Councilmembers as a “Kangaroo Court” on the public record.

**-Residents and visitors love and appreciate Ponce Inlet for its small-town charm and beauty. What can be done to preserve our community’s character while proactively addressing our needs and enhancing our quality of life?**

In the entire history of our Town, this question has never been more relevant. More people are living in and visiting Ponce Inlet than ever before. With overcrowding becoming a concern throughout Volusia County, we must be careful to ensure that our community does not follow a similar path. The answer to this question can be found in the balancing of interests amongst all the concerned parties. Our businesses and property owners have rights afforded them within their deeds as well as our codes and ordinances. At the same time, our residents have the expectation that Council will adhere to the Town’s Visioning Statement which sets forth that “Ponce Inlet is and will be a residential haven for those persons who value nature, quiet, privacy”. (A direct quote.) More than ever before, we need Councilmembers who are extremely well versed in our Land Use and Development Codes (LUDC). When these codes are applied too strictly, the rights of our business and property owners can be infringed. When they are applied too liberally, we could run into conflict with our visioning statement. I am also very concerned with the fact that my opponent accepted campaign money from a commercial developer with a large, pending project in Town. Councilmembers are supposed to represent the residents, not special interests. The donation was cloaked under the name of an LLC, which is not what many would consider to be in keeping with his claims about “transparency”. Protecting and preserving the Ponce Inlet we love will not be accomplished with words, slogans or catch-phrases. It will require Councilmembers who know how to apply the LUDC on a case-by-case basis. The impact of any development must take into consideration the additional loads on our infrastructure and essential services.

**- The final outcomes of the Ponce Inlet Resiliency sessions conducted over the past few years have been presented and reviewed at Town Council meetings. What should our long-term strategy be to address these issues?**

If you look at my website ([www.joeV22.com](http://www.joeV22.com)) I listed resiliency at the top of the list of my 21 campaign platform topics. If we fail to act on this one important item, everything else we are working on will get washed away (literally.) Surrounded on 3 sides by water and at an average of 9FT above sea level, Ponce Inlet is extremely vulnerable to the hazards of storm surge and catastrophic flooding. I often raise the comparison of Port St. Joe Florida, a coastal town of similar size and population which was devastated by Hurricane Michael in October of 2018. With an annual budget of approximately \$7 million, there is simply not enough funding for us to tackle this enormous problem entirely on our own. Our strategy must consist of a two-pronged approach. Adopting resilient building techniques, materials and methods are very important, but not enough to achieve our goal. We are going to need a great deal of financial help. Fortunately, there is good news on that aspect. As divided as our government in Washington DC is, flooding has emerged as a truly bipartisan issue. It is not difficult to convince legislators that it will cost less to fortify our existing infrastructure than to replace it. Grant money for resilient projects is beginning to flow, but you need to know how to access it. If elected, I would strongly support retaining grant writers who specialize in this area. Money has been earmarked to help municipalities like Ponce Inlet, but we will need help to access it. There are a number of prerequisites and formalities. Let's get that process started as soon as possible. The fees that these grant writers charge are a very small percentage of the inflow of funds we can receive for qualified projects. Let's get going.

**- Our Council members are often asked to represent Ponce Inlet interests at the County and State levels. Are you willing to assume those roles and additional responsibilities? If so, why would you be a better representative of our community than your opponent?**

For starters, you need to show up. In November of 2020, my opponent was appointed as your representative on the River-To-Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). In what can only be described as a gross dereliction of his duties, he failed to show up for more than half of the meetings he was assigned to cover. During the period of time he was supposed to be participating at TPO meetings and advocating for our residents, a consulting firm retained by the County recommended that Votran Service along Route #17A (Ponce Inlet) be discontinued. He never voiced any objection to the TPO and never brought the matter back to Council. Fortunately for our residents, then Vice Mayor Lois Paritsky was alerted to the issue and placed it on the October 2021 Agenda as Item #13C. At the October 21, 2021 Council meeting, my opponent stated on the record that we "need to fight this tooth and nail". Three days later, he quit the TPO. A copy of his resignation letter is posted on my website. He stated that he had "other obligations that interfere". Is quitting his idea of fighting "tooth and nail"?

Our interlocal relationships (County, State) are so critical for our residents. My opponent, by his own choice, is the only Councilmember that has no interlocal assignments or responsibilities. We can't even trust him to show up at meetings, pay attention to the proceedings, speak up for us and bring back important items that could adversely impact us.

I currently sit on the TPO Citizens Action Committee. I enjoy participating in these meetings and learning about important issues that impact our community. If elected to Council, I give you my solemn promise that I will show up and speak up (loudly) whenever any policy adverse to your interests is proposed.

Citizens for Ponce Inlet, Inc.  
4670 S. Peninsula Drive  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127



*Join  
Today!*

### *"Our Mission is to Educate and Preserve"*

The Citizens For Ponce Inlet Website compiles and organizes all of the relevant and critical information you need into one single, easy to navigate information portal. It's like having the entire town at your fingertips. With just 1-2 clicks on your smartphone or desktop, you can access:

- Monthly Police & Fire Activity Reports
- How Your Council & Board Members Voted
- Agendas & Minutes for All Meetings
- Extensive Library of Past Meetings
- Participate in our Surveys
- Live Streaming
- News Alerts
- Town News & Events
- Campaign Reports
- Quarterly Newsletters

Ponce Inlet's most informed citizens turn to C4Pi.org to obtain the information they need to be informed on town business, town events and town department activity.

Membership is free. Get informed. Join today.

***Promoting and Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet***

**info@C4Pi.org**

**www.C4Pi.org**

We are a non-profit, all volunteer organization that has been serving the community since 1980.

If you have found this printed Election Edition helpful, please consider supporting our efforts by making a donation.

Donations may be made directly on the C4Pi.org website or by mailing a check made payable to:

**Citizens for Ponce Inlet, Inc.  
4670 S. Peninsula Drive  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127**

If you are not already a member, please join us so that you will receive all future information. It's free.