

Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet

Vote on
Tuesday
August 22nd

Citizens for Ponce Inlet (C4Pi)

For over 35 years, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Organization (C4Pi) has provided information about Town Council candidates to the 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, we were 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 2023 Newsletter, the C4Pi Board decided to strengthen our service to our current members by once again producing a Special Election Edition.

Inside this issue



Candidate Forum

A live venue for candidates to state their views and answer questions.....Pg. 3-4



Voting Information

Your vote, your voice. What you need to know.....Pg. 4



Meet the Candidates

Be informed about your choices for Town Council.....Pgs. 5-12



Table of Contents

CITIZENS FOR PONCE INLET (C4PI).....	COVER
CANDIDATES FORUM.....	PAGE 3-4
PONCE INLET ELECTION 2023.....	PAGE 4
MEET THE CANDIDATES - SEAT 1 - LOIS PARITSKY.....	PAGE 5
MEET THE CANDIDATES - SEAT 3 - ARUN IYAMPILLAI....	PAGE 6
MEET THE CANDIDATES - SEAT 3 - HENRY SKIP WHITE..	PAGE 9
MEET THE CANDIDATES - SEAT 5 - GARY SMITH.....	PAGE 12

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

Ponce Inlet 2023 Candidates Forum

There is one contested seat in the Town's 2023 election.

Seat 3 Candidates:

Arun Iyampillai & Henry Skip White

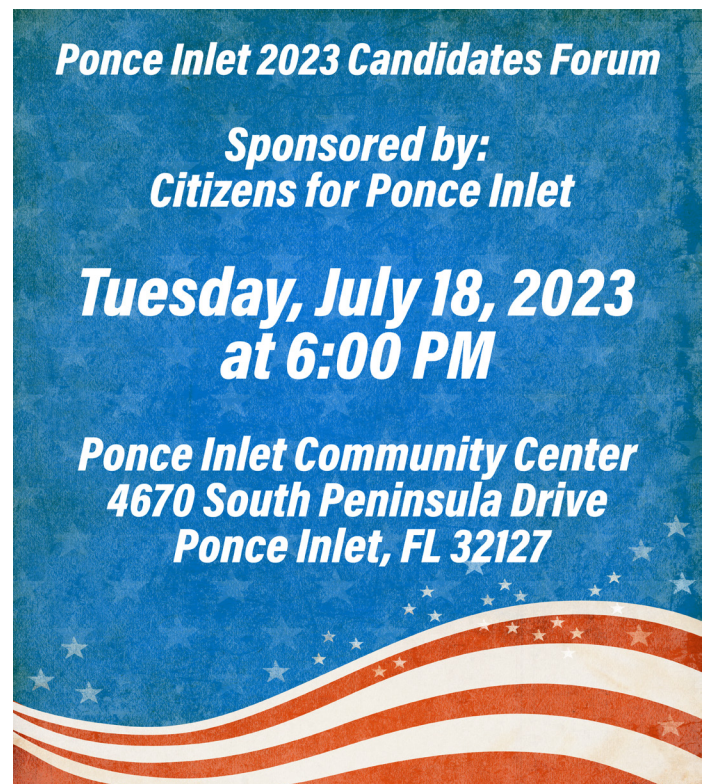
Lois Paritsky, Seat 1 unopposed, will give welcoming remarks. Then, in alphabetical order, the candidates for Seat 3 will each provide a three-minute introduction and summary of the issues they think voters should take into consideration.

Next, candidates for Seat 3 will be given three minutes to respond to each of 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. In late 2022 two hurricanes inflicted major damage to the dunes, beaches, jetty and several beachfront residences. What initiatives would you look to pursue, both short term and long term, in connection with beach restoration and maintenance?

Finally, the contenders for Seat 3 will answer questions from the audience. Two minutes will be provided for each candidate to answer. Audience questions must be submitted at the door using the forms provided before the event begins. Each question must be signed by the person submitting it. Questions will be directed to the candidates as requested. Candidates will then be given two minutes for closing remarks.



Following the formal session, voters will have the chance to meet the candidates and ask them questions while also enjoying some light refreshments.

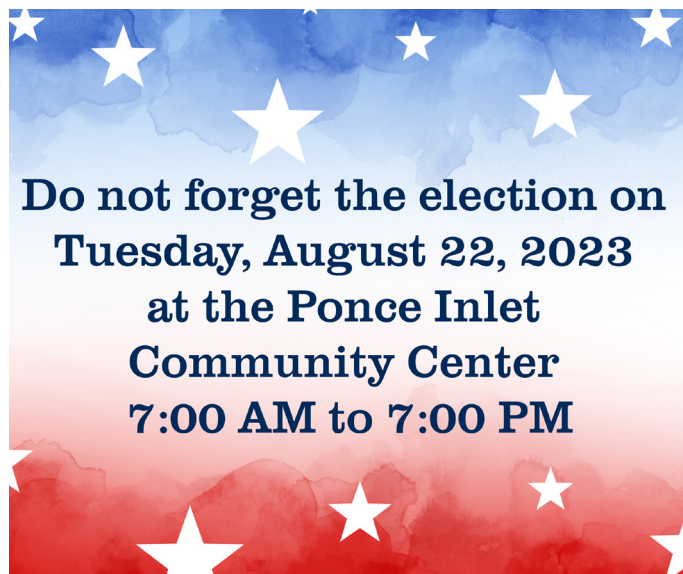
Live Streaming of the Candidates Forum

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

If you are unable to attend in person live streaming will begin a few minutes prior to the forum.

Be sure to tune in on the website at www.c4pi.org on

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 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

PONCE INLET ELECTION 2023

Each of the candidates was invited to provide a photo and statement. They will be presented in alphabetical order by seat number. In addition, the candidates in contested seat 3 were given the opportunity to respond to three questions for the newsletter as follows:

1. Discuss the skills and leadership qualities that you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position.
2. The budget process for 2023-2024 has been initiated with the scheduling of the preliminary budget workshop. Please comment on the Capital Improvements and Level of Service proposals and the budgeting challenges the Town faces for the upcoming fiscal year.
3. Effectively controlling storm water runoff is one of the pieces of the resilience challenge that can be undertaken locally. The town has recently started to address this issue. What elements of this effort do you consider imperative to insure a successful outcome?

Meet the Candidates

Seat 1 - Lois Paritsky

Lois Paritsky

4757 S. Atlantic Avenue #704
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Phone Number:

(386)-310-4320

Email Address:

lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org



It is an honor to serve the Town of Ponce Inlet as our 17th Mayor and I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunity of serving a second two-year term.

Together, we emerged from the back-to-back hurricanes of 2022 with a renewed determination and focus on resiliency and infrastructure. The Council and our dedicated staff will continue to concentrate our efforts on these important goals and build upon all that has already been accomplished. Town Manager Mike Disher is well prepared to facilitate the work in these key areas, given his experience working in and leading our Town's Planning and Development Department.

Maintaining and enhancing the high quality of our public safety and administrative services are top priorities. Our Police Officers continue their 24/7 patrols and remain an ever present, reassuring and professional presence in our community. The dedicated men and women of our

Fire Department have reached key milestones on their path toward accreditation. For the first time in over 20

years, the Town has entered into a contract with Local 4140, the Union representing our Firefighters. Public Works projects are well underway to include maintenance of the drains, pipes, pumps, and valves.

As stewards of our environment, we are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that our actions consistently promote the public health, safety and welfare of all our residents, including wildlife. We are proud of our ongoing designation as a Tree City, a Bird Sanctuary and a Monarch Butterfly City as well as our ordinances protecting gopher tortoises.

I will continue to work to ensure that our policies align with our visioning statement and that our level of services are compatible with the expectations of our community. Our Town's administrative staff in Finance, Human Resources, Town Clerk, Cultural Services, IT and Planning and Development, in addition to public safety and public works personnel, work diligently each day ensuring that level of service.

We continue to explore grant opportunities and appropriations at the state and federal levels to help fund key projects, one of which may culminate in a new home for our firefighters to replace our 1970 vintage station. Our partnerships and collaboration with key leaders at the local, county, state, and federal levels, have never been stronger.

I am always available to take your call and respond to any inquiry or concern you may have. My email address is: lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org and my phone number is: 386-310-4320. If you have a question, concern, or suggestion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Meet the Candidates

Seat 3 - Arun Iyampillai

Arun Iyampillai

1 Mar Azul North
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Phone Number:

(561) 531-2315

Email Address:

BestPetDoctor@gmail.com



Meet Arun/ Dr. Arun Iyampillai:

Dr. Arun Iyampillai is a patriot and proud American. He is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with over 45 years of practice experience. He was an Instructor in the Department of Clinical Sciences with the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He moved to Florida in 1986 to escape from harsh winters. He established an American Animal Hospital Accredited Animal Hospital, Advanced Pet Dental, Oral and Laser Surgery Center, Florida Animal Reproductive Center & Frozen Semen Bank in West Palm Beach, Florida to serve the local community and his pet patients. He also established a commercial real estate company in Florida.

Dr. Arun Iyampillai is a published author of numerous articles on pet health care in addition to scientific research articles.

Dr. Arun Iyampillai is married to his lovely wife Debra for 35 years, and he is blessed with five children and six grandchildren.

Since his retirement in 2021, he moved to Ponce Inlet after searching all over the United States for a place to retire. With his desire to help his community, he is currently serving as a board member of the Town of Ponce Inlet Planning Board, and Ponce Inlet Las Olas Homeowner Association. Previously he served on the Board of Land Development for the Village of Palm Springs, Florida, Board of Palm Beach County - Center for Information and Crisis Services (Suicide Prevention Group). He was one of the founding members of the Palm Beach County chapter of Amnesty International (Human Rights Group).

Dr. Arun Iyampillai actively supports and helps to treat abused and abandoned animals working with animal rescue groups including the Everglades Angels Dog Rescue (Animal Rights Group) to end suffering of abused and abandoned animals.

Dr. Arun Iyampillai seeks your support and your vote for him on August 22, 2023, for the Town of Ponce Inlet Council Seat # 3.



PONCE INLET CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Arun Iyampillai - SEAT 3

Discuss the skills and leadership qualities that you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position.

1. Knowledge:

As a Veterinarian I could not ask my patient what is wrong with him/her. I had to figure out what was wrong and design a treatment plan. As an elected representative I would use the same skill of problem solving those faces the citizens of Ponce Inlet.

2. Experience:

As an owner operator of multiple business enterprises in the State of Florida I performed my fiduciary responsibilities for my clients, employees, and my family. I have experience in budgeting, avoiding wasteful expenses and making my businesses successful. I will bring the same skills I learned conducting my businesses to the benefit of the citizens of Ponce Inlet.

3. Avoid Litigation:

As a business owner I would avoid the risk, expense and uncertainty associated with costly lawsuits against the taxpayers of Town of Ponce Inlet and will seek compromise to resolve any disputes.

4. In addition to the above mentioned knowledge and experiences, the skills I learned with my life experiences as a faculty member of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, published author of scientific research articles, as a Veterinarian for fighting to save lives, protecting and treating abused and abandoned animals, as a board member of Crisis line and Referral services trying to save human lives preventing suicides, being a founding member of Palm Beach County Chapter of Amnesty International, fighting for human rights, as a successful business owner and as a board member of Land Development for the Village of Palm Springs, Florida, Board of Palm Beach County, and board of Planning in Ponce Inlet makes me a better candidate for Ponce Inlet Town Council.

5. My platform

Limited government with checks on governmental authority,

Limiting/stopping wasteful and unnecessary spending,

Anti-corruption and open government,

Be independent and prevent unholy alliances,

Limit or prevent unchecked development upending green space and open space, Work to preserve and protect animals, plants, and their habitats,

Support first responders/law enforcement officers,

Bring people together to fight against loneliness and promote a caring community,

Wouldn't endorse questionable ordinances that may result in costly litigation at taxpayers expense,

Protect and defend the US and Florida constitution and not infringe on the bill of Rights.

The budget process for 2023-2024 has been initiated with the scheduling of the preliminary budget workshop. Please comment on the Capital Improvements and Level of Service proposals and the budgeting challenges the Town faces for the upcoming fiscal year.

Regarding the preliminary budget work shop I am still gathering more information from the town staff prior to providing any comments.

Effectively controlling storm water runoff is one of the pieces of the resilience challenge that can be undertaken locally. The town has recently started to address this issue. What elements of this effort do you consider imperative to insure a successful outcome?

How to control Stormwater runoff:

1. Preventing soil erosion
2. Landscaping
3. Providing proper roof drainage
4. Minimize paved surfaces by controlling/limiting building size and paved parking spaces

Meet the Candidates

Seat 3 - Henry Skip White

Skip White

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Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

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Life in Ponce Inlet is very much about the simple pleasures that make living here so special. As I have for the last 18 years, I begin my day with a long walk on our beach with my beloved wife of 30 years, Jane.

There are so many things I love about Ponce Inlet. I care deeply about this community and all of the residents who call it home. My passion for our town is the driving force behind my candidacy and the active role I have played for a very long time. My fellow board members elected me to serve as the current Vice-Chair of the Planning Board, which has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of our land use and development codes.

For the last several years, I have attended and participated in our own Council meetings, budget meetings, as well as County Council meetings and other Volusia County functions. Through this activity, I have established a wide range of contacts at the County and State Level.

Before I can ask for your vote, you need to know where I stand on the important issues in our community. At the top of the list are the services that our Town provides. Not only do our residents expect a very high level of service from our dedicated Town staff, but it is also the very reason why many of us choose to live here. Our Police Officers and Firefighters are so important to all of us, and I promise you, I will support them every single day. We need to make sure they have everything they need to continue delivering the fast response times, high levels of skill and dedication we all rely upon.

You can also count on me to work with my fellow Councilmembers and help us achieve our resiliency and infrastructure goals. I want us to be ready for anything that mother nature has in store for us. Much of our infrastructure is 1960s and 1970s vintage. Modernization of this equipment will come at a cost, but I will work to make sure that we are taking advantage of any and all grant money that may be available for these projects.

My decades of experience as a Regional President of a major foodservice distribution company taught me the importance of teamwork, the value of preparation and how to accomplish complex goals. I take a collaborative approach to problem solving and I am always interested in learning all I can about the issues we face. There is always something to learn if you just stop and listen.

I would love to hear your concerns, suggestions and ideas about our shared life in Ponce Inlet.

PONCE INLET CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Henry Skip White - SEAT 3

Discuss the skills and leadership qualities that you bring to the table that would make you the better candidate for this position.

An effective leader does three things: Knows the way, shows the way and goes the way. Knowing the right direction for Ponce Inlet is derived from the knowledge you obtain by being involved, asking questions, and interacting with our residents and our elected officials at the County and State level. I have made it a point to not only attend but participate in almost every Council meeting for the last several years in addition to the budget workshops and special meetings that are called from time to time.

Showing the way comes from being involved, often hands on and side by side with neighbors and friends. One example is the work I did to initiate and promote the installation of sand fences on our beach. This effort helped in the accumulation of thousands of cubic feet of sand to protect our precious dunes. I am very passionate about Ponce Inlet and my work on the sand fences is just one example of how deeply I care. I also enjoy my work as the Vice-Chair of our Planning Board where I help my fellow residents that are seeking land use variances.

My track record for “going the way” earned me a position as the Regional President of the second largest Foodservice company in the US. With my strong leadership skills, I helped my southeast region grow to \$8 billion dollar in sales, the largest region within USFoodservice. I know how to set goals and achieve them via hard work, and careful attention to details. Challenges are inevitable and I believe that a positive, can-do attitude inspires others. When decisions are needed, I make them. When mistakes are made, I learn from them and formulate a new plan.

My opponent has not attended any budget meetings and only one council meeting.

The budget process for 2023-2024 has been initiated with the scheduling of the preliminary budget workshop. Please comment on the Capital Improvements and Level of Service proposals and the budgeting challenges the Town faces for the upcoming fiscal year.

I made it a point to attend the June 23, 2023 Budget Meeting. This was an important meeting which provided insight into individual line items so that Council could prioritize them. I am happy to share a few important takeaways:

First, I would like our voters to understand that I place a very high priority on the quality of the services that our residents have come to expect. As such, I evaluate every budget line item to determine its impact on service quality.

That being said, my review of the budget started with the Capital Expenditure (CAPX) items. I gave a greater weight and importance to equipment and supplies that directly impact services.

In terms of staffing expenditure, our residents should know that our Fire and Police Departments account for close to 45% of our total budget. For Fiscal-Year 2023-24, our Police Department is requesting two additional officers.

Given the post-Covid increase in traffic (nearly 1.5 million vehicles per year) coming into town, this is an important public safety issue that I place a high priority on. Whenever one of our officers is out for training, injury, vacation or when one retires, we are too often short staffed. This places a strain on them that I feel we need to alleviate.

I would urge our residents to read the recent Standard of Cover (SOC) document that was prepared by our Fire Department as part of their accreditation process. This critical safety study determined that we need to add one more Firefighter per shift. This is a life safety issue that I fully support.

Also contained in the proposed budget is the Public Works Storm Pipe Cleaning and Retention Pond Excavation project, an important part of the Ponce Inlet Resilience Program. I participated in all of the resilience meetings we held going back to 2020. We need to be ready for anything mother nature has in store for us. I fully support this line item as well.

Effectively controlling storm water runoff is one of the pieces of the resilience challenge that can be undertaken locally. The town has recently started to address this issue. What elements of this effort do you consider imperative to insure a successful outcome?

This is such an important issue for Ponce Inlet. Knowing how serious the challenges are, I made a point to attend the Vulnerability Assessment Study requested by Council in 2020. Upon completion, the findings were presented on January 20, 2022 and gave rise to our Ponce Inlet Resilience Program.

I would encourage all our residents who are interested in this topic to read the report. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact me and I will provide a link.

The program encouraged changes in our Town's Comprehensive Plan and were approved by our Town Council in June 2023. Once the State approves it, our Town will be able to amend our Land Use and Development Codes (or LUDC) and other Town Codes in support of our resiliency goals.

In answer to the question, here are some specific elements that should be addressed:

Storm water Pipe Clean out – A line item for this has been proposed for the 2023-24 budget. Whenever these pipes are clogged from debris (even partially) it reduces their capacity.

Retention Area Excavation: Six key retention areas have been identified which require evaluation and possible removal of excessive organic buildup from the sides and bottoms, which reduce their retention capacity. These areas are in the vicinity of Oceanside Village (Michael Lane), Bay Harbour, Beach Street, Inlet Point (north), (Jennifer Circle – south) Inlet Point (south) to Kelley Bea Circle (new area).

One more important aspect involved changes to our Comprehensive Plan and LUDC that would encourage resilient construction. I am aware of several very good examples of resilient homes, and I encourage anyone considering building here to study this issue and adopt the best practices.

There is much more to say on this, but I am limited to 300 words. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further!

Meet the Candidates

Seat 5 - Gary Smith

Gary Smith

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Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

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(386) 233-9376

Email Address:

GSmith@yahoo.com



It has been an honor to serve on the Town of Ponce Inlet Council since 2011 and I am excited to be able to continue to serve for the next two years.

As your elected, it is always my highest priority to ensure that we maintain excellence in Town services and continue to provide our citizens with access to a beautiful, sustainable environment.

I always welcome citizens' comments and questions. Please contact me by phone (386-233-9376) or email (gsmith39@yahoo.com).



*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.