

1. What are your top three goals for the city in the next four years (term of office)?

Top three goals—Civility—5 Year Plan—Train to Bay St. Louis

Civility is essential to the foundation of a successful society. It is the critical ingredient that provides suitable alternatives to extreme reactions in social stress and crises. There is also a robust connection between civility and ethics. Doing the decent thing promotes positive interrelationships and helps any type of work life flow more effectively. Civility also holds moral implications and helps us refrain from an eye for an eye retaliatory type of behavior.

Does the city still have a 5 year plan? If so, lets look at it, evaluate it and update it. If not, lets develop one so that we can plan the future of Bay St. Louis. We need to continue the growth of the city with a smart plan for advancement that is beneficial for residents and tourists and makes the city financially viable.

Work with local, state and federal representatives to bring the train system back to Bay St. Louis. This would be a wining proposition for the city as it encourages tourism which brings financial gain to the city. Once people see our town, it inspires them to investigate the second home market. That supports our real estate market and grows our tax base. Second home buyers cannot apply for homestead exemptions and their children do not go to our schools. These are all positive events that will increase our financial viability as a city.

2. How would you foster cooperation between the City Council and Mayor?

I would reach out to my colleagues in a civil manner, committing to a dialogue of mutual respect and reasoned discussion. I will demonstrate my obligation to represent my constituents in a fair, honest, and transparent way. We must work together to ensure the most beneficial future of Bay St. Louis. That is the only way forward.

3. What measures would you support to increase the city's revenue?

I will work with Tourism, the Chamber and Port and Harbor and the Harbor Commission to encourage economic growth of the city either in the tourist market, real estate, or in business development. The 5 Year plan would also help us to chart a positive financial course for our city. I would like to explore the steps we need to take to attract economic growth to our town. I also

would like to explore the feasibility of hiring an economic developer whose sole purpose is to bring business to Bay St. Louis.

4. List three ways you would foster support of and communication with the city's appointed commissions (Planning and Zoning, Harbor and Historic Preservation).

People are appointed to commissions that demonstrate a desire and have the expertise to fulfill those job requirements. Give them any tools needed to do those jobs. If training is available through an appropriate entity, make it a requirement of the job, like MDAH. If citizens do not agree with the findings of a commissions, appeals to the City Council should be minimized & only changed under strict criteria.

5. What are your ideas for preserving our community's unique character while supporting residential and business growth?

We must balance our future growth without losing the heritage and culture of the past. We must support historic preservation, while encouraging growth. Historic preservation is an important tool aiding the protection and enhancement of a community's special attributes. We must protect our cultural resources when evaluating land use, housing, economic development, recreation and public facilities and services. Public participation is a key component in our efforts to identify, evaluate and preserve cultural resources to maintain thriving communities. Historic preservation projects a positive image of a community, and is most effective for retaining existing and attracting new economic activity. Today, businesses and individuals place value on quality of life when making relocation decisions. Communities are measured for livability, by the availability of attractive housing; a vibrant downtown; stable neighborhoods; diverse cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities. Re-invigorated historic downtowns and neighborhoods have stimulated local economies, sparked new businesses, generated additional tax revenues, created new jobs, and conserved scarce financial and material resources.

Additionally, the arts not only benefit from growth, but help bring people, jobs and investments to the city. We should create an arts commission of approximately 10 people appointed by the City Council, who would be charged with developing and guiding the policies surrounding the city's investment in the arts and promoting and encouraging artists to bring their talents to the city.

6. What actions can the city take now to maximize benefits when it becomes a stop on the future Amtrak route?

Amtrak--The city should begin plans to ensure that tourists have a positive experience when they arrive in the city? Bring the Depot into compliance with ADA standards. Work with businesses in Depot District to see how to promote their offerings to tourists. How will people get from the station to their destination? Taxis, busses, bicycle taxis, golf carts. Have an information desk at the depot with brochures for events, restaurants, shops, art exhibits, fishing charters, maps, and real estate listings. Have a free phone so people can call for information not readily available. Plan specific events with the arrivals in mind. Have guided tours of interesting and historic sites. Have a reenacted historic event like the canon shot over the Bay with a ride on the boat and a snack. Have bicycles and golf carts at the Depot for rentals. Show the movie, This Property is Condemned at the BSL Theater.

7. Should the city provide financial support to economic development organizations like the Hancock Chamber and Hancock County Tourism? Support your answer.

Chambers of Commerce in the U.S. operate almost exclusively as non-profit entities known as 501(c)(6) corporations with local businesses as voluntary paying members.

They collect dues at tier levels providing benefits for a specific dues amount. Some use the fair share model which charges memberships according to numbers of employees or revenues of the company. The Chamber, Tourism, and Harbor Commission are like spokes in a wheel. Without them, the growth of the city would suffer. They all support the future growth of the city. I believe it is important for the city to assist them financially as their primary purpose is to assist the business community.

8. What importance do you place on proposed community amenities such as a swimming pool, additional bicycle paths and dog parks?

Community amenities are very important to the residents, second home buyers and tourists. A variety of factors determine where people choose to live and play. They are: location near a job, quality schools, good shopping, dog parks, swimming facilities, bike trails, walking tours, cooking classes at a local community center are all considered when calculating the livability of a community. I support all these efforts to create a livable city. You can buy a house anywhere, but you cant buy a lifestyle just anywhere. Our city

offers a lifestyle and we should constantly evaluate what we offer and continue to improve it for future generations.

9. What is your position on the possibility of the Hancock County Sheriff's Department managing the BSL Police Department. State the advantages and/or disadvantages you foresee.

I think we need to give the new police chief time to reorganize and improve the police department. I am not in favor of giving our town policing needs to the County Sheriff. However, we must perform our due diligence as council members and here are the questions that I have:

- How much do we really save?
- What will the response time be?
- What are the hiring requirements of the county officers?
- Would we see constant rotation of personnel in and out of the community?
- How well do the officers know our community?
- How visible would they be?
- Style of policing, impersonal, strangers?
- What services would we lose?
- For what costs, would we still be responsible?
- What equipment would we still need to supply?
- How will they accommodate a growing city? An increase in tourism brings more people, traffic, and need for policing.
- Does the community have reliable data about the actual level of services provided, crime, and crime trends?
- Will policing services provided by an elected sheriff change after a new election?
- Could we contract with the Sheriff for a specific number of officers to be assigned to our community for a stated number of hours? This could provide a greater police presence for crime prevention and better response times for emergency calls. The drawback is that local government has little control over the assigned officers.

10. The number of golf carts on city streets continues to grow. How should golf cart use be regulated?

Golf carts on the street are part of the lifestyle we offer in the Bay. We have a fun and relaxed atmosphere and with proper safety precautions, we can maintain safe streets in our town. We should require lights, turn signals, break lights, seat belts, and mirrors.

11. As the city grows do you think it should consider changing its present form of government? Explain your answer. *Note: [The page on our Serve BSL website](#) contains information and resources that might be helpful in answering this question.*

In most forms of government known as the strong mayor form, the mayor is the chief executive, who formulates budgets, oversees day-to-day operations, and appoints and removes department heads. The council is more a legislative body. However, the council must approve the mayors budget, programs and appointments. The council elects its own presiding officer, sets its own agenda and approves the city budget. Our form seems more adversarial with the council developing the budget and the mayor administering it with no involvement in its creation. Council actions can be vetoed by the mayor with a 2/3 majority of the council to override the veto. These changes could help decrease the amount of divisiveness between the mayor and the council. Additionally, new members on the council could bring new ideas and goals and work more closely with the mayor. We must understand that our main purpose is to provide services to our community by guiding Bay St Louis to financial stability, a place where people are eager to move and where our residents and tourists are proud to say Bay St. Louis is a place apart. These changes could assist our city in growth to accommodate our future needs.

I also think it is should be required that all council members attend training at the Mississippi Municipal League for training for elected municipal officials.