

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

In the next four years, my top 3 goals are: streets, drainage, and public safety. I plan to ensure the tax payers have the very best while holding property taxes to a minimum. The Bay St. Louis portion of your property taxes are among the lowest in the state; however, when you factor in the revenue we get from the casino, it puts us very close to average. We have millions of dollars in construction projects privately funded all over the city. These projects range from beach homes, speck houses, restaurants, hotels, condos, a tractor supply and many others. Smart investors factor in the cost of ownership; therefore, I feel low taxes is an attraction in combination with everything else we have to offer.

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

Good question. It sounds easy from the outside looking in. It really isn't as bad as the media makes it out to be. I feel all the elected officials get along fine. I don't have any personal feelings against anyone. Sometimes we disagree and it may sound harsh to a newcomer. The best practice for cooperation I have found is to call for a vote if there is a disagreement. With the voting strategy, the majority rules. This allows us to come to a decision and then move on. I like George Patton's quote "If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."

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

I'm always looking for ways to increase the city's revenue and control cost. Two of the city's top revenue sources are sales tax and property tax. Reverting back to question #1, encouraging growth increases both without raising the tax rate. The state sends Bay St. Louis 18% of 7% sales tax collected in our city; therefore, new business is new money, and new construction means more property tax for that parcel of land.

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

This is an area I don't see much need for improvement. I've spoken to representatives on these boards numerous times about issues. We do value the recommendations from each. More often than not, we accept the recommendations from the committees; however,

there will be times the council feels a need to disagree. The council is elected and the members are appointed. The elected officials in my opinion, are pressured more by constituents than committee members are.

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

Ensuring our zoning laws are consistent, up-to-date, and being enforced regularly.

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

I feel we are way ahead of other cities in anticipation of Amtrak. We already have a train depo and we are allocating the money for recommended improvements.

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

Absolutely! We have in the past and continue to provide financial support to some. Keep in mind it is the tax payer's money. It is not ours to give as we please. Any organization receiving city money, that wants my vote, has to offer a service that the city needs. It also must be transparent to the taxpayers and it cannot discriminate against non-members. They must provide the city unfettered access to its financial statements, and the city must get a measurable return on its investment. That return needs to be able to be quantified beyond any doubt. In God we trust and all others we audit.

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

I feel they are very important and I believe they are a draw. As city leaders, we have to decide how big of an attraction and what cost will be involved to maintain them. Pools are expensive – I have one. Public pools would be extremely costly. I don't think the tax

payers want to pay for swimming pools. Amenities such as dog parks and bike paths I can support; however, we need to ensure grants and donations along with volunteers to help with costs and maintenance. They also would need to be constructed on existing public property.

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.

It is no secret that our Police Department has been riddled with problems due to lack of proper management. It has had scores of illegal activities that are still under investigation and were reported nationwide. This is not a good image to portray, nor does it ensure proper public safety. The maintenance on the police facility had been neglected to the point it was necessary to be evacuated. If the administration cannot manage the police department properly, I feel it is the council's obligation to contract management out. I do like having our own police department, and will work with the administration to keep it; however the problems it has had the past few years must be corrected.

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

As of now they are illegal by state statute and the city does not have the authority to allow someone to violate a state law. We are trying to get legislation from the state that would allow them to operate. Only then would we be able to permit, inspect, and regulate them.

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.

No. Mississippi has about 300 cities and only about ten have chosen our form of government. It seems to be the choice for larger cities such as Biloxi, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, etc. Our form, like the other 3 forms, has its own pros and cons; however, as we continue to grow and become larger it will be more suitable for Bay St. Louis. The hundreds of city ordinances that we have constructed over the past several years are tailored for our present form.

Joey Boudin
Ward Five Council Candidate

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To change years of legislation to another form would be cost prohibited. No matter what form of government we use, it is only as effective as the individuals elected to serve.

If anyone needs more clarification on any issues, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thanks,

Joey Boudin

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