

Cunilio: We must support traditional marriage.

Krames: Yes.

Editor: I think we can ascertain support for the idea from Tom Cunilio, although he spent his answer praising a black church he visited recently for teaching the importance of marriage and family values. He seems to be happy with the job they are doing.

Should we go to fall elections for the city?

Selwach: Yes

Schlachta: Yes

Cunilio: No. I think the problems are uninspiring leaders, sexual politics, etc.

Krames: Yes. It's more convenient for the citizens.

Mastrodicasa: No. City issues get lost in the fall elections.

END

For more information about candidates and items that are on the March 24 ballot, please go to AlachuaVoterGuide.Com

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Alachua Voter Guide

City Commission Candidates for At-Large District 1

These are the questions and answers from the March 3rd League of Women Voters candidate forum, as recorded by the editor of AlachuaVoterGuide.Com

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The candidates for At-large District I are:

- Tom Cunilio
- Robert Krames
- Jeanna Mastrodicasa
- James Schlachta
- Richard Selwach

The questions are paraphrased for clarity.

How to prioritize the budget?

Krames: Cut back on low priority services and duplicated county services. More business to make money and pay taxes. Stop excessive taxes.

Mastrodicasa: Delay new projects and trim services.

Selwach: Renegotiate union contracts. Cut departments like mosquito control in urban areas. Sell golf course.

Schlachta: Make appropriate cuts, but did not identify.

Cunilio: The spending by the city is profligate. Go to University to tell freshman to leave cars at home and have a lottery for sophomores to have cars. Synchronizing traffic lights a waste. We're never going to be happy with that. \$70,000 to come up with a slogan for Gainesville? "Give me a break!"

Editor: Cunilio and Selwach were most specific. Kudos for actual answers.

Your position on Charter One?

Krames: Yes.

Mastrodicasa: No. It's stops home rule. It lets smaller businesses off the hook because the state levels are only apply to businesses with at least 15 employees instead of 5 at the city level.

Selwach: Yes. Women do not want men in the ladies room.

Schlachta: Yes. The present ordinance is bad

enough to take these measures. If it doesn't pass, we must change the ordinance.

Cunilio: Yes. He doesn't want us to be pariahs to the rest of the state, and the Tallahassee government.

Mom's Kitchen purchase?

Mastrodicasa: Ironwood is used by the citizens. We should not be treating it as a business. It is a recreation opportunity, like our pools and parks. Mom's Kitchen is an opportunity for the city to redevelop part of the city.

Selwach: Ironwood was built on a flood plain, and it's bottomless (money) pit. Against Mom's Kitchen purchase because a private person could have bought it for less.

Schlachta: Ironwood has not been managed well. We should improve it, but also look to the developer next door to help out. Mom's Kitchen is bad timing for this economic climate.

Cunilio: We already have a public golf course at the University. Recategorizing Ironwood does not elevate its value.

Krames: Mastrodicasa called it an asset. An asset does not lose money. When we are looking at shortfalls, should you be looking for ways to spend more money?

Should new developments have to include affordable housing?

Selwach: Yes

Schlachta: No, not for every development.

Cunilio: Yes.

Krames: No. We need fewer burdens on developers. Higher fees and regulations force builders to build the most expensive homes to get their money back.

Mastrodicasa: Yes, it's part of mixed use.

Editor: The tanking housing market is creating more affordable housing every day. It's a buyers' market. Does the government really need to enforce this?

What qualifies you to be on the board of GRU, and how can you reduce the cost of electricity?

Schlachta: Spread out sources of fuel.

Cunilio: Energy is my area of expertise. I have been part of getting away from coal for years. Mastrodicasa is trying to take credit for what I have done.

Krames: Wood is good, but we need to diversify into green tech. Coal is cheaper and cleaner than it used to be. Green is too expensive to cast our lot with too soon.

Mastrodicasa: I have been serving for 3 years, and have a law degree and PhD. Conservation is the way to reduce costs.

Selwach: Conservation is good, but solar is too vulnerable to hurricanes. Coal and biomass are both dirty. Biomass might eventually turn into municipal trash burning. Nuclear is the way to go.

Would it be good to consolidate city and county police and fire services?

Editor: This question is asked at every forum since the early 1990s. Everyone is for it, but it will never happen because there are important political interests that carry more weight than the tax payers. End of rant....

Should we duplicate the Reichert house for boys with a program for at risk girls?

Mastrodicasa: Yes.

Selwach: Yes

Schlachta: Yes

(continued on back)