

Pat O'Neil Interview 8:30 am Thursday May 3rd

1). Best qualified? My career was 35 years with highway patrol. Enjoyed it, but with state retirement system was lucrative to leave not stay. 20 year rockledge planning commission, and more experience on other rockledge boards. Have done hurricane preparedness, budget process, retire as district lieutenant. For a few years, had to commute to Miami, family stayed here. Have served city council since 2011. Unopposed in that election. Reelected unopposed. 4 of 6 those years served as deputy mayor. On budget cmte. Representative to transportation planning councils, space coast and regional orgs. Involved with League of cities, space coast and Florida. Was on their advocacy team, meet with legislators. Approached by Tom Goodson to consider running for his seat. Recognized as home rule hero award in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and 2017. Recognized as Volunteer of the year in rockledge.

Experience in law enforcement, and now teach trainings for health first emergency responding. I have the passion and energy, and I see benefit to what I can do for our community.

2). Pro Business? Business drives Florida. Many jobs related to business. farming, construction healthcare are all businesses. I fully understand that and without business a giant fail.

3). Healthcare. Can it be done better, always. Streamlining. Resolves insurance and medicare/medicaid issues. Support veterans care. Vets he knows are elated to have the service of local clinic. Rockledge has a clinic, cooperative with 3 other cities, because we have this clinic free to employees, proactive screenings, and saved the city considerable money. Seeing decrees in health care costs. I had pushed for this for years. Any innovative way to provide care and reduce cost is good.

4) Education. Never enough money, ever. There never will be. Both my Kids went to public and private schools. Spoken to Lynda Weatherman re. Economy and big need is trained workforce. Not all kids are into college. I had one son that only did one semester. We need a more diversified non-college based program. Law enforcement academy, medical arts, seamanship, culinary arts, etc. I think we could do more. Run in parallel with post graduation technical trainings. Look at education system as a whole, not segmented and get HS students ready to live and enter work force. With certificates etc?

- Unfunded mandates was #1 priority of Space coast league of cities. Fighting unfunded mandates impacts local government and school boards. Not a fan of state mandates or changes that have negative impact on local government. The upcoming ballot initiative (amend 1) will cost my city \$1million dollars. If state wants to boast tax cuts, Take it out of their budget.

5) transportation. We get a pretty good share. My years on space coast planning org and advisory cmte. We could do better, Have issue with beautification mandate - requires % of trees/landscaping all around project. That 1% could be cut in half and spent more wisely. NPO's and TPO's very valid. Prioritize at local level. But a lot of times squeaky wheel gets the grease.

6) private property/Save our lagoon. Save our Lagoon was huge for my city. We took houses right on the river and immediately were able to convert them off septic to sewer with matching funds from that tax. Rockledge imposed stricter fertilization regulations, and I don't have a problem with that, as private owners have to balance with the lagoon health. Good there outweighs the bad.

7) Home rule. Strong belief in home rule. State has certain responsibilities to mandate. I don't believe it extends into the cities to dictate land development regulations, trees or local requirements. Business regulations through Tallahassee. If zoning, how would that work? Go to legislature? That would never work. Local is the only way to go because representatives from across the state don't understand needs of communities here.

8) TDT - No I did not support change legislature made in 2017. I've attended their meetings (TDC) for last year, and they are hawks, spend money wisely. Tourist sales tax will total 120million they get 14 million of that. Our original plan with 1/2 cent sales tax (lagoon?). is increasing estimates of revenue. We are getting tourists, and there is defined need. They needs beds to eat buy gas etc.

9) Did I do what you asked me to do for you?

10) leadership. Mixed. I am not going to fall in line just because they say march. If I have a conflict with my district with what is proposed, I serve the people of district 51 first, and that is how decision will be made. Not what is best for anyone else.

11) opposition research. Last ticket in the 70's. Have been recognized for valor, and life saving awards for rescues on highway patrol. That is what is in my personnel file.

12) path to victory: My life, public service. I don't mentor in boycotts because it is politically motivating, I do it because its personal and what I do. I have mentored 27 eagle scouts. ...On and on about supporting eagle scouts. (?)

Travis - on survey you note you fundraising goal is only \$15k, that seems low. How do plan to get your message out? "I haven't asked for a dime from anyone". I attend every public event I can. What I do for community speaks for myself. Hopefully word of mouth. I have never had to campaign, never had opponent. Looking for guidance but I am my own campaign manager.