



The Eastern Shore Chamber of  
Commerce's

# FAIRHOPE COUNCIL VOTER GUIDE ELECTION 2008

[www.eschamber.com](http://www.eschamber.com)

## *The Candidates*

### **Council Place 1**

John H. Meyer  
Debbie Quinn

### **Council Place 3**

Newton E. Delchamps  
Lonnie L. Mixon

### **Council Place 2**

Danny Corte  
Daniel R. Stankoski  
Douglas Taylor

### **Council Place 4**

Phil Brady  
Michael A. (Mike) Ford

### **Council Place 5**

Alan T. Hall  
Rick Kingrea



Another service of the Eastern Shore  
Chamber of Commerce

## Question #1: What is your previous experience or involvement with business?

### Council Place 1

John H. Meyer	As a school administrator it was important to know business expectations regarding the educational program. As a past Kiwanis President I would work with business leaders to understand their employment issues and share what the school system was doing to meet student's educational needs. Businesses would be invited into the schools to share their career expectations with students. Other school officials served on the local Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Quinn	I started participating with the Chamber of Commerce after I was appointed to the Fairhope City Council in 1997. I was elected to the position of Chairman of the Chambers Governmental Affairs committee from 1998-2002. I have participated in many activities that the chamber has held including Leadership Trips. I am also city liaison to the Fairhope Business Association. My husband is in private medical practice.

### Council Place 2

Danny Corte	My business experience spans both the private and public sector. My private experience: I'm currently in the mortgage loan business with HMC in Fairhope. I also have over 17 years of financial consultant experience working for various investment firms in the Mobile/Baldwin County areas. I've also worked as a realtor on the Eastern Shore. My public sector experience: Former President of the Mobile Area Sports Commission for 6 years at which I worked closely with both the Mobile County Commission and City of Mobile (under the strong council, weak mayor system we now have in Fairhope) in bringing sporting events to the Mobile/Baldwin County areas.
Daniel R. Stankoski	For the last four years, as current Council Member Fairhope City Council, I have been involved in all areas of city business including financial matters regarding city functions and the budgeting process. While employed as an FBI Supervisory Special Agent in Mobile, I had the responsibility for planning, justifying, equipping and staffing the people involved in various programs. This included setting forth strategic short term and long term goals and objectives for administration as well as investigative operations.
Douglas Taylor	No Response Received

### Council Place 3

Newton E. Delchamps	No Response Received
Lonnie L. Mixon	No Response Received

### Council Place 4

Phil Brady	1. Alabama State Docks & Terminals, Mobile, AL, Assistant Director of Public Relations and Advertising. 2. Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, New Orleans, LA, (C&VB) Tourist Promotion Director. 3. Michigan Tourist Council, an agency of the State of Michigan, Lansing, MI, Director. 4. Public Relations consultant, Mobile, Alabama
Michael A. (Mike) Ford	No Response Received

### Council Place 5

Alan T. Hall	I have been involved in private sector business for 23 of the 28 years since graduating from college in 1980 with a degree in Urban Planning. 5 years were in the public sector. For the past 11 years I have been employed as an executive in the aerospace industry managing 3 departments.
Rick Kingrea	As a program manager for Halter Marine Shipbuilding, I was involved in the planning, budgeting, and employee management for a seven (7) ship building project. As an attorney representing small businesses and corporations, I consult with businesses on legal issues, controlling risks, and legal exposure. As a professional mediator, I help businesses resolve conflicts, enabling them to focus their energy, manpower, and capital on core business issues rather than on legal disputes.

**Question #2: Outline your top three priorities if you are elected.**

**Council Place 1**

John H. Meyer	1. Maintaining sound fiscal policies and accountability for the city to provide adequate services to all of its constituencies. 2. Aligning the city's comprehensive plan with its strategic plan to insure growth in serving the needs and desires of its residents and business citizens. 3. Create an atmosphere of open communication between citizens and governmental leadership for addressing issues of growth and planning.
Debbie Quinn	1. Fiscal restraint through council budgeting process and treating our utilities like a business. 2. Finding ways to plan and manage growth outside our city limits and encourage the viability of our downtown. 3. Create better ways of protecting our environment...wetland regulations/create a stormwater authority for maintenance of detention ponds/energy audits for city buildings/co-generation of electricity/building codes for energy efficiency/tightening of our tree ordinance.

**Council Place 2**

Danny Corte	My three priorities are: using a common-sense approach for smart controlled growth, better management of our city finances, and open and honest government.
Daniel R. Stankoski	1. Fiscal responsibility. I will continue efforts to insure the city is on sound financial ground.I support the implementation of a three to five year Financial Strategic Plan. This would put the city in a proactive position in city administration, police and fire protection, safe drinking water, protection of the environment and upgrading our utilities and infrastructure. We must be judicious with our finances so as not to have to borrow money or seek additional sources of revenue. 2. Control growth and to protect property values by incorporating strict subdivision and zoning regulations into the Comprehensive Plan. If necessary, I would support another moritorium on building permits. 3. Ccontinue to strive for transparency in city government in order that the citizens can see how and why money is spent,decisions made and to have input in the process which affects the lives and property of our citizens. Our city government should be open, fair and impartial
Douglas Taylor	No Response Received

**Council Place 3**

Newton E. Delchamps	No Response Received
Lonnie L. Mixon	No Response Received

**Council Place 4**

Phil Brady	1. Make the Comprehensive Plan an effective document. 2. Place Council at forefront determining budgets and appropriations. 3. Protect Fairhope's uniqueness, its greatest resource.
Michael A. (Mike) Ford	No Response Received

**Council Place 5**

Alan T. Hall	1. Develop new revenue streams, other than a tax or utility charge increase. 2. Promote our Downtown Business District as a destination for visitors. 3. Return to "Common Sense" managed growth than enhances and protects the Fairhope community.
Rick Kingrea	1. Planning: Develop a strategic plan with cost/benefit analysis of crucial issues such as enlarging the waste treatment plant, transitioning from volunteer to full-time fire department, and annexation. Plans must be enforced equitably, regardless of family connections and length of residency. 2. Fiscal Responsibility: Control spending. Constant review of all current non-operating expenditures. 3. Teamwork: Council and Mayor must work toward common vision. Can disagree on issues, but goals must be well-communicated and embraced.

**Question #3: Name the taxes or fees that impact businesses and residents that you would support increasing, and for what purpose?**

**Council Place 1**

John H. Meyer	Taxes and fees that I would support are those that are based on financial planning, necessary to provide for the infrastructure, safety, and well-being of our community. Determined by an "as needed basis" they may include impact fees or sales tax; but only if the budget determines a greater need of revenue to support the desired growth of the community.
Debbie Quinn	We have no sales tax for the city of Fairhope and I do not support one at the present time. We have too many large businesses on the outskirts of Fairhope that would not share in the tax burden and be unfair to the businesses inside the city limits. We also have an Impact Fee for new buildings inside the city limits, which I still support. Our Business License was just updated about 3 years ago and I do not support changing it.

**Council Place 2**

Danny Corte	I know our Building Impact Fees are more expensive than our surrounding communities and that's an issue I will study to see if an adjustment is warranted. I do not believe we need a city sales tax right now, so in essence, I am not for raising ANY taxes now. We just need to manage the revenues we have more efficiently.
Daniel R. Stankoski	Today we are facing difficult financial times. Oil is in great demand worldwide and gasoline is at an all time high. This puts a great strain on city and family budgets. I would not at this time add to existing financial burdens by increasing taxes or adding fees. Instead, I propose an examination of city spending to eliminate inefficiency and duplication of city services and to be judicious with future expenditures.
Douglas Taylor	No Response Received

**Council Place 3**

Newton E. Delchamps	No Response Received
Lonnie L. Mixon	No Response Received

**Council Place 4**

Phil Brady	No position yet.
Michael A. (Mike) Ford	No Response Received

**Council Place 5**

Alan T. Hall	I would not support any tax increase unless supported by the citizens of Fairhope. I would support increasing fees for property owners who live outside of the city limits and received Fairhope city services to the levels that people who live in the city limits pay for those services.
Rick Kingrea	I am against raising taxes; however, I strongly oppose the indiscriminate raising of utility rates which essentially acts as a hidden tax and results in local businesses and residents subsidizing tourists. This issue needs to be examined in the Strategic Planning process. Potential sources of revenue include increasing the hotel occupancy tax, annexing the Grand Hotel and Wal-Mart, and, as a matter of last resort, establishing a sales tax, but exempting food and drugs.

**Question #4: Do you support the City's decision to financially partner and support the Chamber of Commerce's Blueprint for Tomorrow strategic plan and would you pledge to continue that support and consider future support on similar initiatives?**

**Council Place 1**

John H. Meyer	The mission of the Blueprint for Tomorrow strategic plan focuses on six target areas aligned with its mission statement. Each of these separately and collectively focus on key issues for the citizens of Fairhope. I support these as they align with and not compete with the strategic plan of Fairhope and would encourage governmental leadership to dialogue with chamber to best use resources collectively and for the common good of the city.
Debbie Quinn	The City of Fairhope has partnered and supported the Blueprint for Tomorrow and I continue to support it.

**Council Place 2**

Danny Corte	I believe the Chamber's "Blueprint for Tomorrow" is a very important piece of the economic development puzzle of the Eastern Shore and I have and will continue to support that plan and initiatives like that.
Daniel R. Stankoski	I am fully supportive of the Eastern Shore Blueprint for Tomorrow. No city can "stand alone" because many important issues cross geographical boundaries. Protection of the environment, storm water management, education, mass transportation, and economic development are all bigger than any one city and we need a strategic plan such as the Blue Print for Tomorrow and to be united in working together to solve these problems through the combined efforts of the chamber, city, county and state governments.
Douglas Taylor	No Response Received

**Council Place 3**

Newton E. Delchamps	No Response Received
Lonnie L. Mixon	No Response Received

**Council Place 4**

Phil Brady	All components should be opened for review by a new Council.
Michael A. (Mike) Ford	No Response Received

**Council Place 5**

Alan T. Hall	I would need to do a detailed review of the plan and gather input from the citizens of Fairhope, before any commitment would be made.
Rick Kingrea	I believe the Chamber's Blueprint for Tomorrow is a good guideline for the Eastern Shore's development. At this time, the Chamber's strategic plan should be supported. Future similar initiatives should be studied and supported, or opposed, based on their own merits.

**Question #5: What steps would you take to ensure that your city planning department is coordinating with peers in adjoining sister cities and the county?**

**Council Place 1**

John H. Meyer	City government can not work in isolation from other government entities. Development in a city is impacted by the vision of the county and therefore requires collaboration. City leaders, county leaders, and chamber must dialogue and articulate their visions and use resources to the most advantageous benefit of its citizens. I would request quarterly meetings each year to align the visions of all entities for the betterment of its citizens and business for the prosperity of Fairhope and neighboring cities on the Eastern Shore.
Debbie Quinn	We DO need to create an Eastern Shore Planning Committee that would have discussions about how we as a region plan for our future. Eastern Shore cities are already abutting and most people have no idea where the political lines are drawn. We should reach out to each other to better coordinate what we are doing and where we want to go. Our cities could also work together on large financial issues too, like purchasing large city items and insurance premiums.

**Council Place 2**

Danny Corte	All the municipalities on the Eastern Shore have growth issues. We can always learn from each other better ways to efficiently and smartly grow our communities. Communication between all our local communities and the county government is essential in keeping our towns the way we want them as our Eastern Shore cities grow into the county. We are all tied together so communication and planning are ESSENTIAL.
Daniel R. Stankoski	In my four years on the City Council, I have seen that Fairhope's planning department is already in contact with planning departments of surrounding cities and with Baldwin County. I will encourage our planning departments to continue communicating with other agencies and share information and ideas which may be of mutual benefit. No one department has a monopoly on good ideas and sharing them will benefit all.
Douglas Taylor	No Response Received

**Council Place 3**

Newton E. Delchamps	No Response Received
Lonnie L. Mixon	No Response Received

**Council Place 4**

Phil Brady	The Planning Department must operate in all areas with a clearly stated mission.
Michael A. (Mike) Ford	No Response Received

**Council Place 5**

Alan T. Hall	Only after considering a planning related matter as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and hearing public comments regarding the impact on Fairhope, would I inquire from the Planning Staff what coordination with peers were made.
Rick Kingrea	I believe we rise or fall together – that lack of cooperation and communication between city officials on the Eastern Shore and in Baldwin County is counter-productive. There must be an inter-governmental group in which each city has a liaison with the charge of representing the Eastern Shore's and County's best interests.