



The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce's

SPANISH FORT MUNICIPAL VOTER GUIDE ELECTION 2008

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The Candidates

Mayor



Joseph C. Bonner



Terry Reeves

City Council

DISTRICT #1

Dennis D. Dismuke
Wanda Wilson Finch

DISTRICT #3*

Joseph W. Thomas

DISTRICT #5*

Mary W. Brabner

DISTRICT #2*

Michael M. McMillian

DISTRICT #4*

Thomas E. Sawyer, Jr.

** These candidates were unopposed and answers are not included in this guide.*



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Chamber of Commerce

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

Mayor

Joseph C. Bonner	As former owner and operator of Cock of the Walk Restaurants in Mobile and Spanish Fort, I have 20+ years of business experience. I served on the Board of Alderman in Natchez, Mississippi for 7 years. I have served as Mayor of the City of Spanish Fort for the past 4 years.
Terry Reeves	Regional Manager 1998-2006...responsible for P&L statements (Approx. \$20 million).

District #1

Dennis D. Dismuke	For the past 20 years, I have managed a service group in the Computerized Process Control Industry where I am responsible for project management, contract management, negotiating contracts, and managing people/resources to assure customer commitments and financial goals are met. Prior to that I was a small business owner where I held a Master Plumbers License and Electrician License.
Wanda Wilson Finch	I've been on the Spanish Fort City Council for fifteen (15) years and employed as the Director of First Baptist Day Care in Spanish Fort.

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

Mayor

Joseph C. Bonner	1. Infrastructure - As we grow we need to maintain and improve our police and volunteer fire departments, recreation, educational needs, and street programs. 2. City Center - A master plan is to have a complete facility with emphasis on a Senior center and should consist of space for our Court system, City Council and Planning Commission meetings, future library and port office. 3. Hwy 31 Corridor - The City will work with ALDOT on this project: street lights, sidewalks, landscaping, etc. We have a chance to make a difference for the City in planning the "31 Corridor".
Terry Reeves	1. Education 2. Facilities for our Seniors & Youth. 3. Control High Density Housing.

District #1

Dennis D. Dismuke	1) Minimizing the effect of the cities decision to proceed with a private company to provide sewer service within the city limits. 2) Control the high density housing within the city limits to protect the quality of life and property values for the citizens. 3) Adopt a long term plan for the city that includes sidewalks and landscaping with the widening of Highway 31, increased recreational opportunities, a community center, and a library.
Wanda Wilson Finch	I believe we must continue to be fiscally conservative. However, if funds are available, I believe we need to construct a Senior Citizen Center, a new City Hall, and a Library.

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

Mayor

Joseph C. Bonner	I feel we are currently taxed enough. I would consider an "impact fee" on developments that would stress a normal growth pattern for our City.
Terry Reeves	I would not support any tax increase. We will operate under a balanced budget.

District #1

Dennis D. Dismuke	Development Impact Fees to fund needed infrastructure required to meet the demands put on the city by rapid growth, including Police and Fire Protection, increased building inspections and development of a city center.
Wanda Wilson Finch	I am not aware of any new fees or taxes that are proposed or would be in favor of.

Question #4: Do you support the City's decision to financially partner and

Mayor

Joseph C. Bonner	As a City government, Spanish Fort has supported the "Blueprint for Tomorrow" and I like what I see.
Terry Reeves	I would partner with the Chamber to support any positive initiative that promotes the Eastern Shore.

District #1

Dennis D. Dismuke	I support the City's decision to financially partner and support the Chamber of Commerce's Blueprint for Tomorrow strategic plan and would pledge to continue that support and would consider future support on similar initiatives.
Wanda Wilson Finch	The City of Spanish Fort is partnering with the Chamber, and as a member of the Council I supported tht decision and I will consider any future initiatives.

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?

Mayor

Joseph C. Bonner	The City of Spanish Fort has a very healthy relationship both in city and county governments with our partners in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.
Terry Reeves	I would pledge to work with our sister cities on the Eastern Shore to ensure a unified vision.

District #1

Dennis D. Dismuke	I would encourage periodic meetings between the Planning Commissions and City Councils of the sister cities as well as County Officials in order to take advantage of all available resources and to share knowledge and ideas as we all work toward a common goal. So much more could be accomplished by maximizing our synergies.
Wanda Wilson Finch	The City of Spanish Fort does not have a City Planner, however our Staff, Mayor and Council make every attempt to work with the County and Neighboring communities.