

## **HED: In their own words: 2018 local election candidates lay out their core issues and positions**

ART: [Submitted headshots]

By Austen Erblat

Local elections are Tuesday, March 13th. We asked each candidate what the most important issues are to them and their positions on them. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and early voting has opened. For more information, including the location you must go to vote, visit [www.pbcelections.org](http://www.pbcelections.org).

Editor's notes: Some campaign contribution information may not include the most current information as of publication date.

Every response except two were emailed and then copied and pasted, with the exception of Jonathan Pearce and Ronald Jarriel, whose interviews were conducted over the phone and edited for clarity. Some of the emailed responses had to be shortened for space. To view the candidates' full responses, visit [LINK]

### **Greenacres**

#### **District Three**

##### **Judy Dugo (Incumbent)**

Greenacres made 50 of the 50 Safest Cities ....far above the bottom of the list we were. My priorities are to continue to promote Public Safety. I was the proponent for the merger of our Law Enforcement to PBC Sheriff's and the results show a major reduction in crime ..My objective...Greenacres be #1 on the Safe City List..I will fight to Promote Economic Development and bring jobs to our City which will enable us to maintain low taxes

Putting People First and working together as a Council "Team" to bring our City to its highest potential for our citizens

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Nov. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

##### **Brian L. Willever**

I am running for City Council because I believe I bring unique perspective to government. My family and I have been residents of Greenacres for over 17 yrs, and as a local long term care pharmacy business owner, I understand the importance of listening and fully understanding the short term and long term ramifications that each council vote has on our residents.

I want to get a total understanding of the city budget, so that I can understand the budget priorities and plans to enhance services to our citizens. The city needs to prioritize the budget to address future needs including capital improvements and attracting economic development. In addition, the city needs to invest in redevelopment including enhancing our neighborhoods thru landscaping, code enforcement, and beautification projects to help increase the property values.

My opponent has wasted millions of dollars by abrupt decisions that include firing a city manager without cause, the city paid over \$500,000 in severance, the PBSO contract, hastily approved without negotiation, over \$1.3 M for no increase in service, and destroying the city reserves without a real future plan. Also, how does my opponent further justify her position on the PBSO merger when Wellington (pop: 63,000) residents pay \$92 less per citizen for their PBSO contract then the citizens of Greenacres (pop:40,000). \$148 vs \$240 respectively per citizen or \$9.33 million for the Wellington PBSO contract vs \$9.6 million for Greenacres PBSO contract. Although I am happy with the quality of the PBSO service, I was not in support of the vote, without any negotiations. The citizens were the losers in the 2015 merger vote. The citizens were told that the city could not afford to put more officers on the streets and that the merger would allow more officers on patrol. In fact, the Sheriff stated prior to the merger, that the city had the right number of officers on the street. The end result is the citizens are paying more for less patrol officers on the street, with administrative staff not in Greenacres, but at PBSO headquarters. My opponent led that charge with the support of the officers who were the ones who benefited.

I want to be the true voice of the citizens of Greenacres and not an empty promise of being that voice that my opponent has portrayed since she been in office.

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

#### **District Four**

##### **Jonathan Pearce**

"Keeping our taxes low, keeping Greenacres financially responsible and sound, improve the quality of life for our residents and provide the best services at the least cost. I want to pursue economic development, enhance our public safety services to keep our community safe. I want to accredit our fire department, it is currently not accredited. And the last one is I want to expand our after school programs."

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

##### **Anderson Thelusme (Incumbent)**

I am 32 years old and currently employed as a licensed banker at Wells Fargo bank. I am committed and dedicated to serving the residents of Greenacres. I've been involved with the city since 2011 working on various committees. My primary focus are as follow:

- Prioritize economic development to create more jobs for our residents
- Enhance law enforcement and fire protection
- Advocate for mentoring programs enriching our youths
- Expand representation of diversity in the city. I want to represent the people. This seat directly affects their daily lives. I take this responsibility very seriously.

Campaign contributions: [Nov. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018](#)

## **Loxahatchee Groves**

### **Seat 1**

#### **Ronald Jarriel (Incumbent)**

My first priority has always been decent roads, so road improvement for when we get the funds to pave it. That's my first priority for the safety of the residents for police and fire.

My second priority is better drainage. I've always fought for better roads and better drainage.

Third, is the quality of life that our residents have out here. For example, the Groves Plaza, That has made it very convenient for our residents to go do their shopping.

My other priority is education. I fought hard for Palm Beach State College. That college has economically has offered a place for nearby residents to go to college. It's kept them from driving to Lake Worth and Palm Beach Gardens and economically has saved them an arm and a leg in fuel cost.

Whether I win or lose, I hope we have the best turnout we've ever had.

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018](#)

#### **Neil O'Neal III**

I'm a new face with experience in business, roofing and real estate. I will bring a new perspective to the town council to help fix our problems. Roads are my center focus, getting funding to increase grading frequency, lay new road rock and build drainage infrastructure are the three solutions to improving our roads. Review our ULDC codes to better fit the town and protect residents' rights to utilize their property. I will help protect our rural character and safeguard against development that is unhealthy for the town. Learn more about me at [www.voteoneal.com](http://www.voteoneal.com)

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Oct. 2017](#), [Nov. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018](#)

## **Phillis Maniglia**

Friends and neighbors of Loxahatchee Groves;

While sitting in the front row of yet another LGTC meeting, from the dais comes the all too familiar "how long I've have been running this town speech". He left out 18 years and the Town is in the worst shape it has ever been in financially and physically, confirming my need to run for Town Council and do something positive for the Town I love, live and work in. As a 29 year resident of the Groves myself and my neighbors are still waiting for the same old issues to be resolved, safe roads, community trails, and a clean & green Loxahatchee Groves. I have the maturity of age, a lifetime of experience in business, overcame physical hard-ship, work well with others and can pinch a penny so hard I can make Lincoln cry. Groomed by my peers, selected to attend a Neighborhood Conference for a better understanding of working with government entities, I am ready, willing and able to make a difference for the betterment and protection of the Loxahatchee Groves lifestyle it's residents and landowners enjoy and love.

Vote March 13th

Phillis M Maniglia Candidate for Loxahatchee Groves Town Council Seat #1

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

## **Royal Palm Beach**

### **Mayor**

#### **Fred Pinto (Incumbent)**

In 2016, after serving as your Royal Palm Beach Village Councilman for several years, you gave me the great honor of electing me as your Mayor.

In the past two years, we have accomplished many good things including, establishing twice-a-year updates from the Sheriff's Office, to ensure Royal Palm Beach remains a safe place to live; continuing to hold the line on taxes – we haven't raised our millage rate in twenty years; reducing the rate for trash pickup; approving the first Senior Living Memory Care and Assisted Living Facility in the village; and passing a new traffic calming policy to add traffic calming in neighborhoods that want it, to name a few.

With your support, I look forward to continuing to serve you as Mayor.

[Campaign contributions and expenditures](#)

### **Martha Webster**

I stepped up to run for the seat of Mayor of the Village of Royal Palm Beach when our sitting Mayor, Fred Pinto, was arrested for domestic assault in November and then refused to resign when asked by the residents at the following Village council meeting.

I offer the residents of the Village of Royal Palm Beach experienced leadership and will represent the citizens of my Village with honor and integrity they deserve.

1. Crime - Initiation of a Crime Task Force including PBSO Sheriff, County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, State Attorney, District PBSO Major & Captain, VRPB Council, Village Manager, Neighborhood Crime Watch Representatives. Evaluation of the current crime within our community, review of the Village/PBSO contract and personnel, existing best practices, and recommendations to initiate a working plan of action.

2. Family Values – Return of the family values that in 2010 earned the Village of Royal Palm Beach recognition as one of the Top 10 Towns for Families in America by Family Circle Magazine. Ensuring that the character of the Village leadership reflects the values of our full community; it is time for our Village to reset its moral compass on March 13th.

3. Maintain the financial integrity of the Village and continue to wisely manage public investments of the funds earned by the Village through prudent property investments.

[Campaign contributions and expenditures](#)

### **Council Seat 3**

#### **Sam Roman**

As a family man, small business owner, active community leader and proud Navy Veteran, I have a long and proven track record of community service and will bring a unique set of skills and experience to the Royal Palm Beach Village Council.

As your Village Councilman, some of my priorities will include: ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity in our village government; ensuring all decisions by the village council take our quality of life into consideration;

investing in recreation programs for our youth; keeping taxes low; making sure the penny sales tax money is used to fund much needed infrastructure like repaving roads and dredging canals; and working with our neighborhoods to install traffic calming in those areas that want it.

I would appreciate your vote on March 13

[Campaign contributions and expenditures](#)

#### **Selena Smith**

When I was elected in 2016 I promised to work on 3 issues: seniors, local businesses, and transparency. I am proud I have accomplished and built a foundation for all 3. If fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will continue to work on senior issues and completing the work of the

Senior Citizen Ad Hoc board; helping our local businesses have their needs met, and promoting what the Village is working on and voting results.

### [Campaign contributions and expenditures](#)

## **Wellington**

### **Seat 2**

#### **Frank Ferrano**

1. Fiscal responsibility, honesty leadership, and providing citizens with "more service and less taxes".
2. Environmental stewardship and demanding protection of our natural resources.
3. Responsible Village growth in strict accordance with the Village Charter and related documents.

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

#### **Tanya Siskind (Incumbent)**

In 2016, I had the honor of being appointed to the Wellington Village Council. Now, I am proud to be running for my first full term.

In my first two years, we have focused on keeping taxes low, protecting and expanding our parks and green space, financially supporting our schools, simplifying our village ordinances and codes, putting more police on our streets and making sure our residents' voices are being heard. Wellington is financially secure, with strong reserves and close to debt free.

I look forward to continuing to serve our residents.

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Aug. 2017](#), [Sep. 2017](#), [Oct. 2017](#), [Nov. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

### **Seat 3**

#### **John McGovern (Incumbent)**

I grew up in Wellington and Michelle and I have returned to raise our two daughters, Emilia (12) and Victoria (11). Simply, the long-term success of Wellington is personal to me and my family. Being the first member of the Village Council to have grown up in Wellington, I see it as my responsibility to ensure that we create policies and establish a vision that will insure Wellington's long-term success in the ever-changing and growing Western Communities of Palm Beach County.

As such, these are my top priorities: keep property tax millage rates low; make public safety and its funding a centerpiece; put an emphasis on strategic planning; continued support of our partnership with our public schools to ensure they are top rated; encourage investment in our neighborhoods and parks/sports fields. The election is Tuesday, March 13th and I hope to earn your vote. To learn more please visit my website: [www.McGovernForWellington.com](http://www.McGovernForWellington.com)

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [July 2017](#), [Aug. 2017](#), [Sep. 2017](#), [Oct. 2017](#), [Nov. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

**Bart Novack**

This candidate did not respond to questions.

Campaign contributions and expenditures: [Dec. 2017](#), [Dec. 2017 \(amended\)](#), [Jan. 2018](#), [Feb. 2018 part one](#), [Feb. 2018 part two](#)

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