

PROPOSED QUESTIONS TO CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES
FOR MICAWAVE

1. What role do you view Deltona Deed Restrictions play in maintaining the vision in the development of Marco Island?

I have served on the MICA Board of Directors and also on the Architectural Review Committee, which is responsible for the deed restriction review process. The Deltona Corporation, developer of Marco Island, recorded deed restrictions against their properties in order to protect the integrity of its vision for the island. These restrictions apply to most, but not all, of Marco and were designed to assure conformity by new structures. While today's society is more about the individual and less about being the same, the deed restrictions provide basic standards that contribute to maintaining property values on the island.

2. Are the annual survey results of the MICA membership of value to you in developing your position on community issues?

Yes. The MICA survey is a positive tool to check the pulse of a large segment of the community on important issues. Having served on the MICA Board of Directors, I experienced how much time and care goes into developing the questions. While not technically from a survey instrument, the responses are helpful in seeing what the members of the community are thinking about the issues at a given time. In previous surveys, city councilors were offered the opportunity to submit a few of their own questions for the survey. I hope this invitation will continue to be extended in the future.

3. Are you in favor of moving forward with the city's petition for a COPCN (Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity) to provide ambulance service at Marco Island's expense? Please answer YES or NO.

Yes – but only if it becomes necessary to pay for and run our own independent service. Emergency Medical Services are vital to Marco Island. If the new Board of County Commissioners moves toward greater consolidation of county resources that could negatively impact service and response times for our citizens, then Marco Islanders will need to evaluate all options and decide how to provide this critical service to ensure the best life-saving measures are in place for our community.

4. How will you address more equitable water-sewer rates across the island?

Establishing a Water Utility Board, made up of retired professionals with a broad range of skills, would be a positive first step in assessing the best way forward for the utility. Reducing the utility's debt will be necessary for reducing the rates.

5. Do you support the City Manager? YES or NO, please explain.

Yes. I support the city council—city manager or “weak mayor” form of government that we have on Marco Island. As Chair of the MI Planning Board, I met regularly with the current city manager before each meeting to finalize the agenda. We met several times a month depending on the schedule and as a result have developed a working relationship.

6. Would you support a rental ordinance?

During my second term on the planning board, which began in 2013, the rental ordinance came before us. As a starting point, the city manager presented a 20-page rental ordinance from Marathon, Florida. Efforts to have a broad-based citizen’s working group to provide Marco-specific input quickly collapsed when representatives from some organizations pulled out. After several sessions listening to members of our community, I proposed a “five-point plan” at the Nov 21, 2014, planning board meeting as a new starting point for the rental discussion. This plan found what I referred to as the “common ground” among stakeholders and was met with applause and expressions of support from the podium. You can view the entire video of this meeting in the media tab at my website www.ElectCharletteRoman.com. Unfortunately for our community, the planning board majority decided instead to review the original 20-page document line by line and added more burdensome requirements. Because of the ordinance’s overreach, I voted no when the final version was reviewed at the Dec 5, 2014, planning board meeting; but it passed 4 – 2.

7. Do you support the city’s police department, or should the city rely on the county sheriff?

Yes. The voters have already spoken, and I support the decision.

8. Are you in favor of the Parks & Recreation Committee’s recommendation for Veterans Community Park that the city move forward with plans to build a band shell and restrooms, eliminate the asphalt parking lot, and install angled parking on Park Avenue?

No. This effort by the committee was a reaction to the failed attempt to build a government building on Veteran’s Community Park without the community’s knowledge. We only learned of this behind-the-scenes project when Governor Scott vetoed the line item in the 2015 budget. The park is one of the most important community-owned assets. We should take as much time as needed to plan the park, with the help of a professional, and start budgeting for the facilities.

9. How can we resolve our parking problems at the beaches and the remainder of the island? Would you support building a parking garage on city property at the north end of the island, assuming the city would fund the building?

No—the city is in this situation because of a failure to plan for the future. Reacting to today’s problem by constructing a parking garage on Veteran’s Community Park is not the solution, only the answer for today. While I support an island-wide comprehensive parking solution, I would like to see more innovation that moves our community away from the car-centric practices of the

past. As a community, it's important that we are able to explore the future together, chart a course to address our needs, and follow that path to completion.

10. Would Marco Island government be improved if there were five city councilors instead of seven? Would you support a restructuring of the city council to a 6 or 4 member council, with a mayor retaining the city manager position, city manager reporting directly to the Mayor?

As in question # 5, I support the city council—city manager or “weak mayor” form of government with seven city councilors that we have on Marco Island. I moved to Marco Island in 2002 and began attending city council meetings. I was appointed to the planning board in 2004 – 2006 and worked closely with the city council, staff, and the city manager at the time. I saw up close a city government that was able to function effectively.

11. What are the three most critical issues the community is facing and what would you do to remedy them?

First and foremost is the ability of our elected officials to govern. Marco Islanders deserve a professional and effective government that operates *in the Sunshine*, where insults are replaced with collaboration and constructive dialogue, and all members of the community are treated with respect. If decisions are made behind the scenes, out of public view, a citizen's voice does not matter. This ineffective way of operating creates distrust, rumors, and powerful special interests that destroy the fabric of a community. I believe we are at a turning point.

I moved to Marco Island 14 years ago after a successful 26½ year career as a soldier. I have proven leadership in government, including in my last assignment as the Garrison Commander of Ft. Gordon, GA, the equivalent of a mayor or city manager, where I routinely worked with local, state and federal governmental and civic agencies. I've been contributing to Marco Island as a volunteer for 14 years. If elected, I am prepared to govern on day one. However, I can't change the public dialogue alone. It will take all of us working together to put the community's interest above all others. With that unity of effort, we'll be better at solving the issues facing us today and in the future.

Preserving and maintaining a healthy, natural environment. Marco Island's prosperity is directly linked to the vitality of the rich natural environment that surrounds us. It is the reason people fall in love with Marco Island when they visit, and then decide to move here. I fell in love with the pristine natural ecosystem of Tigertail Beach and built a home here in 2002. Our natural environment is the #1 economic engine responsible for hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for our community. Protection of this environment is critical to our continued economic success!

Protecting our quality of life. Our community is made up of young families, retirees, full-time residents, part-time residents, and visitors who come to Marco Island because it is a special place. If you would ask someone from each of these groups about what makes our island special, you'd get many different answers. However, many, if not all, of these replies would be positive, highlighting what is great about our island. What becomes more challenging is working together when issues arise. The community must find a way to “bury the hatchet” and work together in an open and civil manner.