

Dear Candidate,

In order that we may better serve the voting public, we ask that you please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire and return it to our office by Friday August 24th. The responses will be published in the Wednesday August 29th edition. Responses must be typed. Please do not submit hand written replies. Word-processing documents may be submitted on CD or by email at editor@islandgazette.net. Please call to verify that your email response has been received.

Thank you,
Willard H. Killough III
Managing Editor

- Full name: Joel Arthur Macon
- Date and place of birth: Asheboro NC
- Address: P.O. Box 413 708 Cape Fear Blvd.
- Own or rent dwelling: Both
- Years living in town: 32 +/-
- Political affiliation: Independent
- Occupation: Investigator
- Education: Please list high school and/or college. Hoggard High/Cape Fear Tech.
- Club or organizational affiliations:
- Military service: Branch, years served and highest rank. None
- Governmental experience: 9 years as Town of Carolina Beach Building Inspector, 12 years on Town Council, 13 years as Investigator for the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors.

1. Will you participate in the Island Gazette candidate's forum with other candidates? Yes or No. Yes

2. Describe your platform; what you hope to achieve if elected. (600 words or less)

First and foremost, I think that we need to come together as a community. I will focus on building a "WE" attitude. Currently our town is fractured, and not working together to make Carolina Beach shine. What I have found is that "we" all want the same thing for Carolina Beach and are not very far apart on tough issues like height & density. Like I have said before, "a town divided into factions only benefits the few who encourage this split".

Our infrastructure must be maintained and repaired. Although we have made substantial repairs of infiltration problems within our sewer system, it is an ongoing process which

will help reduce flows into the waste water treatment plant, reducing the need for expansion and saving tax dollars.

We now have an engineering study for our water system and are now studying future water sources. We will concentrate on using our water resources in a manner to increase longevity of the system as well as looking at water quality through treatment and design.

Included in our infrastructure list of problems are our roads which need repaving. We must have a plan in place to resurface our roads and implement that plan over time.

We must concentrate on attracting new business, taking a hard look at our fee system and actively seeking out those businesses that we desire through personal contact. This includes everyone in our town, if we come together as a community, businesses will WANT to come here. People tend to avoid controversy, so do businesses.

The tendency for government is to grow too large. I think we should take a hard look at what we should be doing as a town and cut back where we can to hold down costs to the tax payers. Towns should be run financially like a business but not at the sacrifice of public service. I have spent most of my life working in government as a public servant and take service very seriously.

3. What do you see as Council priorities? (100 words or less)

Our priorities are our water & sewer infrastructure, our roads, our town's overall appearance, our business district, beach renourishment and our overall feeling as a community. First, our infrastructure issues must be addressed. We have our engineers currently studying and developing a plan for our current and future water needs which includes an in-depth study of the aquifers that the town currently depends on for our drinking water, future storage, water pressure, water quality and future water sources. We continue to work on infiltration issues which overtax our wastewater treatment plant and ongoing storm water needs and improvements. Secondly, we are currently in the process of creating a Master Plan for our business district which will include the community as a whole and give us the tools needed to implement the revitalization of this area. We must maintain our existing roads including final paving in our incorporated areas so a plan will be developed which will ensure that money earmarked for road maintenance is used for road maintenance and repaving will be a continuing process. We must also maintain, enhance and improve our town's appearance and the overall feeling that we have as a community.

4. How do you feel about the recent countywide property revaluation and property tax increases at the town and county levels and the affect on citizens; particularly those on a fixed income? (100 words or less) While we all want our property values to increase, I am not happy about it when it includes an increase of taxes. Revaluation will happen but taxes do not have to go up with a revaluation. I will

encourage the County to take a hard look at how they do business in order to reduce the size of government and reduce taxes.

5. Does the 2005 Land Use Plan update represent a broad consensus of the community and how will it affect the upcoming CBD Master Planning Process? (100 words or less) Looking back, I think the Land Use Plan did not have as much input as I would like and I do not agree with recent changes that were made. I have high hopes that more citizens will participate in the CBD Master Planning Process. I really feel that this Master Plan will be a huge stepping stone in the process of this community coming together, ending controversy and ending the height issue once and for all. Once this is in place, together, we can concentrate on moving forward and implementing the plan.

6. Other than Election Day, when is public opinion most important in helping you formulate decisions on council and how will you balance the desires of competing interests? (100 words or less) Public opinion is always important, every day 24-7. The risk that we run as elected officials is to cave in to special interests if what they desire is not in the best interest of the community as a whole. I think that experience is the key to balancing the desires of competing interests, having been put in that position many times. I guess what I would want everyone to know is that once on council, the way that you have to look at things changes, it grows and matures and there is a huge learning curve. This issue is something the new council majority has really struggled with. They are finding out that no matter how you vote, there are a lot of people that do not like it. It would be nice if on election day, the voter turnout was greater, however, to use this as a gauge of public opinion you have to put it in prospective. I have often heard the word "mandate" to describe the last election, but looking at the numbers, it is quite clear that there was no mandate.

7. What are the top five issues facing Carolina Beach that you will work to resolve during your term? (100 words or less) Infrastructure (water, sewer, storm water & roads), overall appearance, our business district (421 Corridor & Central Business District), our overall feeling and attitude as a community and beach renourishment including inlet and waterway maintenance. These items will be my focus, laying the ground work and plans to make it happen. The thing to keep in mind is that these things will not happen overnight, they take time unless you want to have a major increase in taxes.

8. What height limits do you consider appropriate for the Central Business District, and upon what information do you base your decision? (100 words or less) Great question. In the past I thought 140-160 was an acceptable height in the Central Business District. However, after listening to the concerns of the public, I am at 75-85 feet and depending on the project 100-115. I would have supported an additional 2 stories on the new hotel had it included an ocean front restaurant and meeting facilities but would not the whole Central Business District to be that tall. I would

say that obviously pulling these figures out of the air is not a great way to do this and that is why we are having the Master Plan done. Regardless, we want to have some flexibility – through the conditional use process – to encourage a project that might really turn the tide for redeveloping the boardwalk area.

9. What types of commercial and amusement-oriented businesses does Carolina Beach need and how do you plan to attract/encourage redevelopment projects to revitalize the Central Business District? (100 words or less) We need restaurants and tourist attractions like water parks and amusement rides. We need businesses that will support our citizen base. By coming together as a community, looking the best that we can and taking a look at our fees in order to be competitive with other communities, we will become more attractive to the types of businesses that we want as well as encouraging families to live here.

10. Residents' property taxes and utility fees were increased in this year's budget largely due to the cost of infrastructure. How will you address infrastructure and the demands of future growth? (100 words or less) I voted against this year's budget. We needed to make changes within our town that will require less tax dollars going to general operations and put those dollars toward infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

11. What should the town do to ensure future funding for beach nourishment and inlet dredging? (100 words or less) We need to continue to obtain public parking for beach access which includes support facilities. By ensuring public access we increase our chances for those funds at the Federal level. This is something that I have pushed and supported. We also must continue to join forces with all the beach communities in North Carolina to lobby for these funds. While many people complain about our parking fees, these fees (along with grant monies) have allowed us to purchase more parking lots thereby ensuring those Federal dollars for beach renourishment and ensuring future visits to our beach by those families that depend on those lots.

12. What is your vision for the future of the Town? (Growth, land uses, economy) (100 words or less) I will say again, "My vision for Carolina Beach is one of progress. I see a thriving business district which is pedestrian, family and bike friendly. In the downtown portion of our business district, I see mixed use projects consisting of shops, restaurants, coffee shops, offices and residential uses. I see enhanced recreational opportunities for our citizens and visitors. I see Carolina Beach as a destination for families who are seeking a place to vacation that has it all. Our close proximity to Historic Wilmington, Fort Fisher, State Park, the Aquarium, Battle Ship, our fishing fleet, combined with the Atlantic Ocean, our sounds and estuaries make us unique. Our job as a Town is to come together, setting aside our "us & them" attitude. We must work together, recognizing that "we" are in this together. We know that tourism is our past and our future, therefore we must concentrate on enhancing our Island to attract visitors. We must also recognize that once someone visits here, they also long to live here just as we did. This is inevitable, people fall in love with our Island and way of life, just as we all have. This brings development through new businesses and new homes. Through compromise, we

can control development to our advantage, recognizing that we do not want either extreme “over development” or “a ghost town”. It is sometimes easy for us as residents to want keep things the way they are or were. To be annoyed by traffic and tourists, is forgetting that they have been and are our Islands life blood. We must be smart as we move forward, realizing the importance of balancing growth with our desires to keep things simple. Neither extreme is the right way.

13. Do you feel it is possible to avoid raising property taxes and utility fees during your term? (Why or why not?) (100 words or less) I feel that by taking a hard look at how the town does business and focusing on reducing expenses we can afford to eliminate tax increases or hold them to a minimum. On the utilities side, we must set the fees based on what the real cost of providing that service is. In the past, we supplemented this with development fees, which while popular with the public was not the best idea in the long run.

14. Open floor: (300 words) I guess what I would like everyone to know is that I have always tried to just be myself in my 12 years on council. I have not changed as a person and I have not let the power of the office corrupt me. As many of you are aware, not only does the old guard not want me to be mayor but the new guard as well. I think we should ask why. The answer is, because I refuse to be led by the nose, I refuse to be told what to do, I buck the system, I think for myself and make fair decisions. I choose to represent you, making decisions that are in the best interest of the community as a whole. Have I made mistakes? Yes. Have I always voted the way that you would have? Probably not. But I have dedicated 21 years of my life to serving you, the public, representing and serving Carolina Beach. I am proud of where I live and it is an honor to represent you. I take this opportunity very seriously. I want to be your mayor and I hope you will have me.