

Vero Beach City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Linda Moore

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QUESTION:

The Property Tax Amendment and Water Infrastructure.

HJR 1F on the November 3 ballot would raise the non-school homestead exemption to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, cutting the City's annual revenue.

- Do you support this amendment?

- If it passes, how do you expect the revenue reduction to affect the City's support for water utilities, Lagoon monitoring, and water quality projects? If you intend to protect those programs, tell us specifically where the money comes from instead (which services or staff positions you would reduce, or what revenue you would raise).

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

I do not support the amendment, but it is up to the citizens of Florida to decide and up to me as a City Council person to come up with solutions. I would support all lagoon and water quality projects, in fact, more needs to be done, especially in the areas of stormwater. Approximately 80% of our expenses are staffing, I believe technology is the answer. I have already been looking at ways systems can be automated making us more efficient and saving money in the long term. This is something we should do regardless of the amendment passing.

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QUESTION:

Sustaining Restoration Under Funding Pressure.

Much of our local restoration relies on layered, non-guaranteed outside funding: EPA National Estuary Program dollars, competitive NOAA grants, the state Indian River Lagoon Protection Program, and water management district contributions.

- If state and federal funding are severely cut, how will you keep research and restoration moving for the Indian River Lagoon?

- Would you support a dedicated, recurring City funding source to insulate these projects? If not, what is your alternative?

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

We have thus far done a great job acquiring grants for our various water programs, I would encourage our Water and Sewer director to continue this practice, along with implementing new innovative ideas. During my time on council, we started the stormwater utility, and in the future I will do whatever is necessary to protect our water resources.

QUESTION:

Understanding Our Lagoon.

The St. Johns River Water Management District's 2025 monitoring showed a significant rebound in Lagoon seagrass coverage after years of decline.

- In your own words, what are the current water quality issues facing the Indian River Lagoon?

- Do you read the seagrass recovery as a reason to sustain current spending and effort, or to ease off?

- Beyond funding, name one or two concrete City-level measures you would champion to restore and maintain Lagoon health.

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

Seagrass is rebounding, but is, in no way, at the level it needs to be. This is not the time to ease off. We still have septic tanks being approved and installed in the county, even on the barrier island. At the City level, I would continue the push to eliminate all septic tanks, expand our efforts to treat stormwater for reuse, and complete the construction of the new One Water facility so that we can finally get rid of the old facility on the lagoon.

QUESTION:

Future Water Supply and Utility Expansion.

- What is your assessment of the City's long-term potable water supply, and how do existing and expected utility operations (wastewater and potable, City and County) affect the City's overall water resources?
- The City provides potable water to Indian River Shores and reuse water to John's Island for irrigation, while the County develops an Integrated Water Master Plan. What specific City actions are necessary to meet future demand and restore the Lagoon, including connecting legacy septic systems to central sewer?

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

The reuse water that we supply to John's island has had the nutrients and pollutants removed prior to sending it through a pipe under the lagoon. We should expand on this practice, and also proceed with our plans for PFAS removal that have begun during my term.

QUESTION:

City-County Collaboration.

- Where do you see tangible opportunities for the City and County to work together on water and land use?

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

Well, as the county currently does not have enough capacity in its existing water treatment facilities to accommodate all of their septic tanks to be replaced with sewer, I am sure we would be happy to help them out with our new facility.

QUESTION:

Three Corners.

In mid-August, the City granted another 30-day extension for private-sector developers to negotiate a master agreement, including lease terms, for the Three Corners project.

- Would you facilitate the development of Three Corners? Explain why or why not.
- What would you propose to improve the project?

CANDIDATE'S ANSWER:

My job is to make ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that the will of the voters is respected. Any kind of bait and switch, or elimination of amenities that the developer has committed to will not be tolerated.