

YOUR VOTERS' GUIDE

Personalized Ballot Information

Learn where candidates running for office in your community stand on the issues. You can print or email the information to use as a reference when you actually vote. We do not save your information, it will be lost when you leave this page. Only candidates that appear on your ballot will be listed. Additional information may be available for your area so be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page for other voters' guides.

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Bonita Springs Mayor

Bonita Springs City Council District 4

Under the city charter, Bonita Springs has a City-Manager form of government. The governing City Council consists of a Mayor and six City Council members. Each council member, excluding the mayor, must reside in the district they represent and is elected by the voters in the district. The mayor must reside within the city and is elected at-large. Elections are non-partisan and for terms of four (4) years.

All elected city officials fully participate in City Council meetings while demonstrating dignity, respect, kindness, consideration, and courtesy to all, follow a Code of Conduct and maintain the City of Bonita Springs best interests in a diligent and professional manner.

Source: extracted from <http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org>



Chris Corrie (NP)
Retired from PWC



Lynda Waterhouse (NP)
Campus President



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1. Why are you running for office and what do you hope to accomplish?

Chris Corrie:

My priorities are: 1. The quadrant plan to manage traffic at Bonita Beach Road and U.S. 41 2. The return of taxpayer dollars from Lee County government to fund capital improvements. 3. Storm water management and the acquisition of the Bonita Country Club property to add that property to our storm water management system. 4. Clean water 5. Conversion of CSX railroad to bike trail and walking paths 6. The economic recover of Bonita Springs

Lynda Waterhouse:

I am your neighbor running for office and would love to be able to give back to the community where I have lived for 26 years. I am interested in the same concerns many Bonita Springs residents have, such as workforce development, water quality and flood water management, traffic and more. Just like all my Bonita neighbors, I want to see our city continue to grow and prosper. I care about communication, economic vitality, community identity and effective management of our resources. As a college president and business leader, I will bring a fresh, positive and creative mindset to the City Council, and through my work, help the city move forward in a positive way. I love to bring people together and work towards a common goal.

2. What are the most important challenges facing this office and how do you propose to address them?

Chris Corrie:

The Council needs to take action now to create a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the Visioning Plan for traffic, clean water, storm water management, the return of taxpayer dollars from Lee County, conversion of the CSX railroad to bike trail and walking paths and the economic recovery of Bonita Springs now.

Lynda Waterhouse:

The most important challenges in this office and everywhere is how we move forward and recover from COVID-19 physically, emotionally, and economically. Since this is new territory for everyone, I wholeheartedly join the City Council in evaluating community needs as a result of COVID-19 and researching best practices to meet those specific needs.

3. How should the city address economic development and infrastructure improvements while assuring equality and equity for all residents including those in underserved neighborhoods?

Chris Corrie:

We first need to save as many businesses as we can from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We can assist those businesses with regulatory relief in terms of how they do business, tax and fee relief, increased public works projects and obtaining Federal and State grants for economic recovery. Second, we should continue our efforts to develop downtown in a responsible way to generate jobs. We should consider borrowing money at historically low interest rates to fund shovel ready projects. We should move to quickly solve the flooding problems in neighborhoods which always flood and make the lives of those residents more secure. The City should push for more public transportation.

Lynda Waterhouse:

Economic development and infrastructure policy have broad impacts on housing, commercial development, investment patterns, and our general quality of life. Policy makers should evaluate how the projects should be funded, who is going to benefit, what are the environmental considerations, and who makes the decisions. If the outcomes of policy are fair and beneficial to everyone throughout Bonita Springs, then everyone will have a seat at the negotiating table, so all viewpoints are heard.

4. What actions would you take to assure quality, safe, clean affordable housing for all city residents and reduce homelessness?

Chris Corrie:

We first need to eliminate flooding. If we do that, we can open up property for affordable housing which heretofore no one would develop as such because of flooding. We need to fix our relationship with Habitat for Humanity and they need to our concerns on existing projects they have built. I suggest we patch in affordable housing in neighborhoods where jobs and schools are close by. We need to include these people in our community, not segregate them.

Lynda Waterhouse:

Affordable housing is a complicated and a challenging topic. It should start with a study to determine the needs of and vision of the citizens of Bonita Springs. It is connected to the vision of Bonita Springs because it is impacted by future growth and development, workforce, transportation, and maintenance of a safe and healthy community. The issue involves a variety of stakeholders and a multi-faceted approach could occur with buy-in from residents, private builders, and government. Although affordable housing can be part of a solution to reduce homelessness, other measures to specifically target the needs of the homeless will be considered.

5. What issues would you address with the Police Department? Do you support civil citations and other diversion programs for juveniles? For adults?

Chris Corrie:

I believe that black and brown lives matter. I support civil protests. The right of citizens to peacefully assemble and petition the government is guaranteed by the 1st Amendment. Looting, riots, fire bombing, killing and take over of government property is not peaceful assembly. We

Lynda Waterhouse:

I fully support the Police. They work tirelessly and fearlessly to protect and serve our community. Thank you for your service. I support civil citations and other diversion programs for juveniles. This is a beneficial alternative to the judicial handling of misdemeanor offenses with the focus of

cannot govern ourselves with anarchy. I believe the Lee County Sheriff's Office does an excellent job of policing. I have had no reports of the use of excessive force by these officers. I have had many reports of their good actions. I think this favorable police environment is due to excellent training. I would not be in favor of diverting funds from the LCSO to diversion programs but it should be done with new money.

preventing further juvenile delinquencies. It provides better outcomes for youth with early targeted interventions and no criminal record as well as ensuring healthier families and communities. Also, the program reduces the costs of processing youth for misdemeanors and frees up limited resources to focus on more serious and violent offenders. The same concept works for adults as well.

6. What leadership would you provide to protect water quality and water resources.

Chris Corrie:

We need to stop the building of residential and commercial projects in the DR/GR. We need the DR/GR for fresh water storage for our water needs and to hold storm water. We need to increase the number of Bioreactors to reduce the amount of nitrogen in the water. By reducing nitrogen we improve water quality and eliminate blue/green algae blooms. We need to protect the grasses in Estero Bay from boats and jet skis. I supported the partnership recently entered into with FGCU and the Water School for additional testing of the water. That testing, however, must lead to results in terms of actual improvement.

Lynda Waterhouse:

Water quality and water resources are paramount issues for our community. Many of us chose and live in Bonita Springs because of the proximity to the beach and water. It has been heart breaking with all the outbreaks of red tide that we have experienced over the past several years that literally closed the beach. It is very important to the economics of the community, both businesses and home values, that we take appropriate measures to ensure water quality and protect water resources. I support initiatives such as the bioreactors which have been successful in removing nitrogen from the water to control algal blooms and support continued research on emerging technologies to further initiatives to safeguard water quality and resources.

7. What steps should the city take to eliminate the long term economic, health and financial devastating effects of the pandemic and plan for the future?

Chris Corrie:

To the extent it can, the City should be prepared to reduce the tax and fee burden on business such that business can reopen and bring people back to work. The City should finance shovel ready projects which would employ companies and their workers. The City should look to private public partnership to provide incentives for new business in Bonita Springs. Working with the Chamber of Commerce and surrounding cities, it should form a Regional Commerce and Growth Association to address issues of business growth and business incentives from a regional point of view.

Lynda Waterhouse:

No one could have imagined the economic, health, and financial devastation as a result of the pandemic. From the health perspective, we knew almost from the beginning the COVID-19 virus targeted the elderly, and those with existing health conditions or co-morbidities. This population always need to be protected since they are the most vulnerable. We now know social distancing has worked along with basic good common-sense health habits such as individuals staying home when they are sick, diligent hand washing or hand sanitizing, and covering one's mouth and nose. Last, keep the economy open by businesses instituting good health practices, social distancing, and staggered schedules to prevent the financial devastation we have seen in 2020.

8. What are the top three issues you want the city to coordinate with Lee County government?

Chris Corrie:

1. Funding of the purchase of the Bonita Country Club property so that property can be added to our storm water management system. 2. Funding for the purchase of property for the completion of the plan to alleviate traffic congestion at U.S. 41 and Bonita Beach Road 3. Protection of the DR/GR

Lynda Waterhouse:

Water Quality and Storm Water Management: These issues are of utmost importance to the residents of Bonita Springs. There is already collaboration with Lee County government on these issues and I want to see it continue. Traffic: Bonita Springs has already been coordinating with Lee County Department of Transportation and Florida Department of Transportation on the Quadrant Plan. I want to see this continue. Workforce Development: In order to bring vitality to our community and ensure that we can have the workforce the community needs in the future, we need to invest in our young people, and give them opportunities to stay local. Career paths for the younger generations will fulfill services for older generations.

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