

# TOWN TOPICS

## SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE



# JARVIS HALL

### CANDIDATE FORUMS

Two candidate forums will be held prior to the Town Commission election on Tuesday, March 11. The first one — sponsored by the Property Owners Association — is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7PM in Jarvis



Hall, 4505 N. Ocean Drive (next to Town Hall at 4501 N. Ocean).

Please bring your questions that night.

The next candidate forum — moderated by the League of Women Voters — is Tuesday, March 4 at 7PM in Jarvis Hall. Questions for the League of Women Voters forum can be submitted via e-mail to Carol Smith at [csmith@att.net](mailto:csmith@att.net) by March 2nd.

Both forums will be televised on the Town's Government channels (Comcast Channel 78 and U-Verse Channel 99). They will also be available for viewing on our Web site: [www.lbts-fl.gov](http://www.lbts-fl.gov).

## No voting at Assumption Church in the March 11 Town Commission election!

**All Town voters next month must cast their ballots in Jarvis Hall!**

Since **Assumption Catholic Church** is not available on the date of the upcoming Town election, all voters — including those living in **Precinct Q031** in the north part of Town — will either have to file absentee ballots or **vote** in the **March 11 Town Commission** election at **Jarvis Hall, 4505 N. Ocean Drive** between **7AM** and **7PM**.

Jarvis Hall, where all official Town meetings are held, is adjacent to **Town Hall** at 4501 N. Ocean Drive, which is on the west side of A1A about two blocks north of Commercial.



The Town has two traditional polling places, Jarvis Hall and Assumption Catholic Church, which is **not** available because of a church concert scheduled the same day.

The Town will notify each voter who would normally vote at Assumption Catholic Church about the change by mailing them a change in polling place postcard in late February.

There are also notices about the polling place change on the Town's Web site ([www.lbts-fl.gov](http://www.lbts-fl.gov)), as well **Comcast Cable Channel 78** and **AT&T U-Verse Channel 99**. The Town will also make a **CodeRED** call to all residents in its **CodeRED** phone database on **March 10**.

Three candidates are running for the District 1 Commission seat now held by **Vice Mayor Scot Sasser**, who was unopposed in his bid to succeed **Mayor Roseann Minnet**. Because of mayoral term limits, Minnet was not allowed to seek re-election to the Commission this year.

The three Commission candidates are **Birute Ann Clotey**, **Elliot Paul Sokolow**, and **Eric Yankwitt**. See Pages 2 and 3 for articles written by each candidate.

There would normally be two Commission seats open, but **Commissioner Chris Vincent** was also unopposed. Neither Vincent's nor Sasser's name will appear on the March 11 ballot. Both will be automatically elected once the official election results are certified by the **Broward Supervisor of Elections**.

All three elected officials will be sworn in at the **March 18** Commission meeting at **7PM** in Jarvis Hall.

### Proposed Town Charter Amendments

Six proposed Town Charter amendments are also on the ballot (See Page 4).



# TOWN COMMISSION DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE PROFILES



## BIRUTE ANN CLOTTEY

Dear Fellow LBTS residents: Next month you will have the opportunity to select a new Town Commissioner. I want to thank the Town for this opportunity to reintroduce myself to you and ask that you vote for me in the upcoming municipal election.

On a personal level, my family has lived and established roots in this community early on in the mid 1970's, and I have lived in the Bel Air neighborhood of Lauderdale By The Sea since 1989, where I raised my daughter, Aldona, who graduated from Cardinal Gibbons High School. As a former Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Commissioner, I have a longtime record of commitment and accomplishments to the residents of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

On a professional level, I hold a Ph.D, MBA, and BA in Business Administration. I taught at Barry University for 19 years here in South Florida, as well as Western Carolina University, Oklahoma State University and DeVry University. I have lectured throughout the world and served ten years on the Faculty Senate at Barry University including two years as its Chair, positions that I was elected to by my peers. Under the auspices of the Small Business Administration, I have conducted workshops and developed business plans for local small business owners.



Birute Ann Clottey

My proudest accomplishments while serving in office was the return of the Volunteer Fire Department and hiring of AMR ambulance service which provided us millions of dollars of recurring savings to be used towards much needed infrastructure improvements without raising taxes or critically draining our Town's reserves. Another achievement was understanding the process for applying for grant funds to offset the expense of costly beautification and infrastructure needs in multiple areas of our community.

As a Commissioner, I was appointed by my colleagues to serve on the Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Broward League of Cities. During that time I was instrumental in securing matching funds from the MPO for the north A1A beautification project and applying for funding for improvements on El Mar Drive. Unfortunately, due to family obligations outside of this area, including the death of a family member, I chose not to run for re-election in 2012.

As a community minded individual, I have owned a small business and been active in civic affairs, including serving on my neighborhood association (Bel Air Civic Association) and Rotary, and in 2008, on the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Commission.

My vision moving forward is using my business acumen to continue moving Lauderdale-By-The-Sea into the future while restructuring and protecting our Budget and Reserve Funds, and keeping taxes low. More emphasis must be placed on securing grant money for capital improvements and beautification projects. It is also important to take input and ensure we create a shared vision identifying our sense of being ONE community. I am Birute Ann Clottey and I would appreciate your vote and support at the March 11 Municipal Election. Thank you again for this opportunity.

## ELLIOT PAUL SOKOLOW

Although we've lived in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea for three years, my wife and I have lived in Broward County for 45 years, and for the fifteen years before we moved to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, we lived in the Village of Sea Ranch Lakes, which is surrounded by LBTS.

During that time, we became very familiar with the shops, restaurants, beaches, lifestyle and many of the residents of LBTS. When we decided to sell our home and move to a condominium, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was our obvious choice.

Having watched some of the political turmoil that afflicted LBTS in the past, I'm pleased to see that the present Commission works together very well and treats residents, businesses and each other with respect but not always with unanimity. I have been gratified to see our tax dollars being utilized wisely in combination with grants from other agencies to help bring our town into the twenty first century and make it an even better place to live, visit, and conduct business. I believe that the Mayor, Town Commission and Staff have done a wonderful job over the last three years, so when the seat in the North part of the Town became available, I decided to run to try contributing some of my past experience in government and business to the Commission to help LBTS keep moving forward on the path on which it has embarked so successfully.



Elliot Paul Sokolow

My government experience includes 6 years as Mayor of Sea Ranch Lakes, 5 more years on the Village Council, 7 years as their finance director, 7 years on the Board of the Broward League of Cities, 5 years on the Broward County Planning Council and 12 years on the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals. I've owned and operated a business in Broward County for over 40 years. I sold my local company and was one of the founders, and a member of the board of directors of a New York Stock Exchange company which grew to over 5,000 employees and 115

locations across the country. I think that I can use that experience and my proven ability to work with people, to positively contribute to the Town and the Commission from my first day in office. I believe strongly in keeping the unique character of the town, including maintaining height limits, while continuing improvements downtown and in the residential areas. Improvements include property maintenance and a continuation of upgrading of our infrastructure and esthetics, such as relocation of power lines underground, increased use of landscaping for water control and air quality, and continued emphasis on life safety.

Our police and Volunteer Fire Departments do an excellent job and should continue to have the full support of the Commission.

It would be my pleasure to serve the citizens of LBTS as a member of the Town Commission. If you would like to speak with me, please feel free to call me at 954-599-5800, or send an email to epsokolow@gmail.com.

### DISCLAIMER

The Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea invited all three Town Commission candidates for the District 1 Town Commission seat to submit articles for this special edition of Town Topics. This is intended to let the voters know each candidate's views. The Town is not endorsing any of the three candidates.

## ERIC YANKWITT

I am running for office because I am passionate about maintaining the small town atmosphere that distinguishes us from neighboring cities and moving forward into the 21st Century. I believe in:

- Maintaining building height restrictions, and protecting our beaches and coral reefs.
- Fighting for affordable flood insurance premiums.
- Implementing more family-friendly activities.
- Providing eco-friendly and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified remodeling of the Town's infrastructure.
- Preventing gambling establishments in our Town.
- Supporting beautification projects that increase property values.

As your Commissioner, I will help resolve our Town's challenges while being a fiscal conservative. I am a self-employed accountant, attorney, and a licensed Supreme Court mediator. I am well equipped through my education, experience, and consensus building to understand and creatively assist in moving the Town forward. While I am independent minded, I am a team player. I am dedicated to moving successfully into the future by encouraging Town officials, employees and residents to work together and build a strong sense of community and pride throughout our Town.



Eric Yankwitt

Community involvement is important to me. Events that I have initiated are the Thanksgiving Holiday Orphan Meal, dancing lessons, reviving the community theater, regular beach clean-ups, health fairs, and multiple seminars for residents. Currently serving on the Town's Planning and Zoning Board for four years, the Health Department — Community Outreach, and the Broward Coalition of Homeowner and

Condo Associations. I know the issues and concerns facing our Town as a Board member of the Town's Chamber of Commerce and League of Cities' Education Subcommittee, and by participating with the Broward's Sheriff's Office gang violence task force, and regularly attending the Hotelier Association and Commission meetings. I am ready to serve now as your commissioner.

As a proven leader and consensus builder, I have established an E-library portal at the community center, created and promoted an online parking survey to begin resolving parking issues, formed an Interfaith Leadership Council, combined the efforts of the Chamber, Woman's Club, and the Lions Club to provide a pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit disabled veterans, which will be held on March 16.

I am most proud of my family: Verence, my spiritual partner (a 20-year Town resident), and my children, David, an Afghanistan Veteran; Lindsey, graduating this year from UCF, and my Big Brother/Little Brother family. To discuss Town business, or to volunteer, please e-mail Eric@MyTaxGuru.Com, or call me at 954-600-2274. Having two ears and one mouth, I will work hard to represent you, no matter where in the Town you reside. My actions speak louder than words. I have earned your trust and now ask to earn your vote. Together, we will make a difference for today and tomorrow. Facebook EricYankwittCampaign.

# Six Charter Amendments on March 11 ballot

The following six proposed Town Charter amendments on the March 11 ballot were selected by the Town Commission from numerous recommendations suggested by the Charter Review Board, which concluded its deliberations in May 2013.

## QUESTION 1

### CREATE ALTERNATIVE STANDARD FOR TOWN COMMISSION TO DETERMINE TOWN MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS

Shall the Charter be amended to give the Town Commission the option to determine that other levels of education and experience are acceptable because they are comparable to the identified levels?

#### EXPLANATION

This would give the Commission flexibility in determining if a candidate's education degree is commensurate with the specific qualifications outlined in the Charter which, among other things, require a graduate degree with a concentration in public administration, public affairs, public policy, or public finance.

## QUESTION 2

### CHANGE TIME FOR TOWN COMMISSION TO DESIGNATE THE VICE-MAYOR

Shall the Charter be amended to provide that the Town Commission designate a Vice-Mayor no later than the second regularly scheduled Town Commission meeting following each regular election?

#### EXPLANATION

The Town Charter requires the position to be filled on the second Tuesday after an election; this charter amendment would allow the Commission to elect a Vice Mayor "no later" than the second regular Town Commission meeting after an election.

## QUESTION 3

### ALLOW MAYOR-COMMISSIONER TO RUN FOR TOWN COMMISSIONER AFTER REACHING TERM LIMIT AS MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

Shall the Charter be amended to allow future Mayor-Commissioners to run for Town Commissioner without a two-year break in service?

#### EXPLANATION

This amendment would allow the Mayor to run for Town Commissioner immediately after reaching the mayoral term limit of six consecutive years. Under the current Charter, the Mayor is required to wait two years before running again for Commissioner, while Town Commissioners are not required to wait two years after reaching their term limit as a Commissioner before running for Mayor. This proposal does not affect Mayor Roseann Minnet, who completes her third consecutive term in March and cannot run again until 2016.

## QUESTION 4

### ESTABLISH MAXIMUM CONSECUTIVE TERM LIMIT FOR SERVICE AS MAYOR-COMMISSIONER AND TOWN COMMISSIONER

Shall the Charter be amended to provide that no person may be elected or appointed as Mayor-Commissioner or Town Commissioner if that person has served a total of fourteen years in any combination of offices, without a two year break in service?

#### EXPLANATION

The effect of this Town Charter amendment is to require any Town Commissioner who has served two terms as Town Commissioner (8 years total) and three terms as Mayor (6 years total), in any order, to take a two-year break before running again.

## QUESTION 5

### AMEND PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES APPLICABLE TO ALLEGED COMMISSIONER VIOLATIONS

Shall the Charter be amended to clarify the due process requirements for such hearings, and to allow the Commission to consider lesser penalties (censure and a letter of instruction) for violation of any standard of conduct or code of ethics established by law and for incapacity for three or more months?

#### EXPLANATION

This amendment requires the Commission to provide due process and allow the accused official to present their side of the story. It also allows the Commission to decide whether to impose lesser penalties than "forfeiture of office" when finding violations of a standard of conduct or code of ethics established by law, or finding that a Commissioner lacked the capacity to perform the requirements of the office for more than three months.

## QUESTION 6

### CREATE PROCEDURES FOR VACANCIES IN CANDIDACY FOR TOWN ELECTED OFFICE

Shall the Charter be amended to add procedures related to candidate vacancies including procedures for withdrawal, supplemental qualifying periods, treatment of remaining candidates, and effects of death, withdrawal or removal of candidates?

#### EXPLANATION

This amendment creates procedures for vacancies in candidacy for Town elected office, as required by law, including how a vacancy should be handled if a candidate files to run for the Town Commission or Mayor but then withdraws, dies, or is otherwise unable to continue with their candidacy.

