

David Williams – Candidate for Colonial Beach Town Council

David is a hardworking career minded individual with over 25 years of business management experience and has traveled the country working with various government agencies. As an auditor he interacted with small businesses, and as an accountant and supervisor he has worked with government agencies throughout the country on national response efforts through numerous natural disasters. David is currently a supervisor for a large Government Agency with a sizable team that coordinates financial activities throughout the country.

Working for YOU

David Williams is currently serving his first year on Town Council and is running again because he believes the people should ultimately be put first. He is known as an honest and trustworthy man that truly cares about the future of Colonial Beach. What sets David apart from others that have come before him, is that he is a member of the community that has distinguished himself for his commitment to engaging and informing the citizens when he believes the Town Council is not representing them fairly. David asked Lisette Montalvo and Chuck DiNenna to join his campaign this year because these individuals are committed to the same core values and he felt this was the only way to get real change on council. David is an advocate for the residents of CB and wants to ensure there is transparency and accountability in our government. He plans to represent all residents and will not hesitate to call it as he sees it and he has a record of doing just that. As a Council member, David is and will continue to be a leader for all Drifters. To learn more about David Williams, please explore his website and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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Candidate Questions

1. Fiscal responsibility is one area I feel strongly about and have been championing since being elected to council November 2021. I have and will continue to push for full visibility when it comes to the taxpayer's money and will ensure infrastructure and other priorities are funded before the fluffy stuff. I believe the residents of CB (Colonial Beach) have been saddled with higher and higher taxes for too long. I voted against the last tax increase while all but one other council member voted for the increase. Most taxpayers will not see the tax increases until after they vote in November. I am currently looking for ways to get our taxpayers relief, especially after the huge increase in real estate and personal property values this year. I have and plan to

continue to fight for full transparency when it comes to spending and the budget process. I also plan to continue pushing back when I feel government is wasting your tax dollars.

2A. My assessment of the infrastructure in town is that it is in a deteriorated condition. I am currently the public works liaison for town council so I have a unique perspective on our infrastructure needs. It doesn't take an engineer to figure out that our roads, sidewalks, parking areas, water sewer, golf cart path, town pier and drainage all need help. While ARPA funds and other grant money is nice, we cannot rely on those funding sources alone and the property owners in town are about tapped out.

2B. Next steps for improving our infrastructure in my opinion are pretty simple; first identify all the areas in town that need to be addressed (many have already been identified), complete an assessment of all problem areas, map out how we will address each problem and finally move the plan forward. The key is to have a plan, ensure it is realistic, there is visibility and funds are in place to make it happen. We should consider starting an infrastructure committee made up of council members, public works employees and members of the community. We could also have subcommittees for problem areas like, drainage, water sewer and sidewalks. I would also suggest having a town webpage dedicated to our infrastructure to ensure there is complete visibility. Our public works director just started a couple of months ago but she has listened to concerns I bring her on behalf of residents and seems eager to start tackling our infrastructure challenges.

3A. I view the towns progress over the last several years as both good and bad. A couple of examples of good progress are choosing to use ARPA funds to upgrade the central drainage area downtown and tackling the inflow and inundation with our stormwater issues which has caused an undue burden on our sewage treatment plant. Examples of bad are lack of transparency when it comes to things like Eleanor Park, the Dodson development and not being honest about the condition of the town pier.

3B. I'm in favor of controlled growth and revitalizing our boardwalk but do not agree with how things have been handled to date. I do not think the town should have put all it's eggs in one basket with Dodson (an unproven developer) and do not think that adding up to 80% residential on our boardwalk will bring our boardwalk back to life (it may actually kill it). I'm the only council member that voted against numerous concessions for Dodson and against approving the final sales contracts. If phase 4 of the development closes half of the parking in downtown CB will be gone (beach visitors will not come if they don't have a convenient place to park).

3C. As far as becoming a city goes, I'm not sure that is what the residents of CB want so I believe further investigation needs to be done. We need to know the details and if it is even possible to gain city status. Many people move here because of the small town feel so that needs to be balanced with growth.

4. As a sitting council member, an initiative I am most proud of is my service to the residents of CB. After being chosen by the voters last November I have been posting blogs after every meeting with updates on what happened in the meetings as well as how and why I voted (I have not missed one). Many residents have complimented me on my "Councilman Williams Updates" and are grateful not to have to watch 3+ hour meetings or wait months for official minutes to come out to see what is going on with our town government. I also add my public works updates to these blogs.

5. I support the school system remaining independent and have never said anything to the contrary. The schools belong to the people of Colonial Beach and I support the majority that wish to keep their kids here vs bussing them to Montross. I am the only councilmember that defended the schools when they were being blamed for our budget woes last spring.