



Seldovia Gazette

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Opinions

Election time is here - VOTE on October 3 at the Multi Purpose Room - Your vote is important!

List of City Council Candidate Questions: *(Numbered responses correspond below.)*

1. Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?
 2. What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?
 3. What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?
- (Candidates are listed in alphabetical order with responses)*

Candidates running for 1 year term (1 position)
John Carluccio and Allison Miller are running for position.

Candidates running for 3 year term (2 positions)
Tom Glover, Savannah Lewis, Gerry Patrick and Steve Pollack are running for the two positions.

John Carluccio Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

"I want to help the City grow economically and in the climate of compatibility. The people in the City must pull together if the City is going to survive." Carluccio said. He mentioned that he would like to be part of that teamwork in establishing that and working together towards the goal of continued viability. Carluccio has been coming to Seldovia since 1989. He and his wife, Paulie, have been year-round residents since 2004 and are business owners of Central Suites on Seldovia Street.

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

Carluccio stated that he has no "personal agenda." He is very motivated to see Seldovia grow. He emphasized that growth is vital to the sustainability of the community. He has a fresh approach with a new perspective and would like to offer that as a member of City Council. Carluccio commented that he is an independent thinker and will stand-alone for something he believes in; he is not afraid to adhere to his convictions.

Tom Glover Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

I am greatly concerned about the challenges that face this community over both the short and long term. I have a strong background in business, management, communications, engineering, and computers and I believe my skills in these areas will be a continued benefit to Seldovia. Seldovia is a very special community and I consider it my responsibility to help keep it that way. Being on the City Council is hard work if you do the job correctly.

The issues that face this community are often complex and sometimes very contentious. One of the most important aspects of the people you elect to fill these positions is that they are able to effectively work together as a team and at the same time be able to honestly represent their constituency. Your current City Council and City Office Management Team are an outstanding, dedicated group of individuals that have worked cooperatively over the past year and accomplished much for Seldovia. It would be my pleasure to serve with them again.

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

Carluccio does not want to see the Old Cannery Property sold. It will not continue to generate income once it is sold. It is the last Industrial Property on Main Street and is the last substantial piece of property that the City owns. He would like to see a building that can house different kinds of businesses. This large building could be partitioned off, as seen fit for a multitude of different business pursuits (ice plant, freezing for sports fish catch, etc.). This diversified business complex would suit a fish processing plant of some kind amongst other fishing industry business pursuits. "Tourism is only good to a point, it will never become the basis for the economy in town," Carluccio noted.

a) He would like to garner some of the fishing business for Seldovia, instead of the fishing business going to Homer.

b) Carluccio would like to see rapid completion of the Safe Water Program.

c) The creation of the Port Authority is crucial to the future development of Seldovia. This will modernize and make Seldovia available for updated transportation now and in the future. The harbor and airport upgrade will be very important services that will generate growth because of the contemporary convenience these provide. Carluccio stressed that he has a hard-won common sense that he feels would be a good addition to Council.

Allison Miller Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

Allison is very interested in promoting job opportunities for the families and people already residing in Seldovia. While she thinks Seldovia as a retirement and tourism community has provided some positive economic impact, she would like Seldovia to begin to aggressively pursue (creating) jobs that would give Seldovia residents, and possible future residents with families, the means in which to make their home here year-round. Miller was born and raised here and wishes to stay here. Her desire is to see more young people and families make their home here and she wishes to be instrumental toward this end.

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

Miller is a graduate with a degree in English and a minor in Natural Resources. She hopes to speak for the younger Seldovian and offer a fresh perspective on current and future issues. Most recently, she is working on an Emergency Operation Plan for both Homer and Kenai and is active in oil response and prevention. She is a determined person with good follow-through and feels these are good qualities for a Council Member to possess.

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

- Seldovia City Council: Councilman since November 2004
- Seldovia Chamber of Commerce: Board of Directors and active member since 1999
- www.Seldovia.com: Owned and operated by my wife and myself
- www.SeldoviaGazette.com: Owned and operated by my wife and myself
- Computer consultant that services and repairs most of the PC computers in Seldovia
- I know most of Seldovia's citizens and I will listen with an open mind

Education & Work Experience:

- BS and MS degrees in Geology and Economic Geology
- Minerals exploration in the western USA for 15 years as a Professional Geologist
- PC computer dealer in the Denver , Colorado area for 7 years
- Owner of a highly successful business, Sequoia Publishing, Inc., for the past 17 years

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

- Stabilize the local economy and promote economic growth (especially year-round jobs)
- Renovation and repair of the City infrastructure, harbor, and water system
- Dealing with issues relating to the continued shift of our population to part year residents.

Savannah Lewis Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

"I am running for a council seat in order to address what I see as three significant problems with our current city government. These are an apparent lack of equitable representation of the interests of all Seldovians in city decisions, a lack of transparency in city administration, and a loss of continuity in the management of our community. I have received comments from a number of members of the community who have said that they are concerned about the questionable extent to which all segments of our community are being represented in council deliberations and action. As our municipal codes are written, a council seat represents and is responsible to the community of Seldovia as a whole. I believe that council actions that may benefit one portion of the community should not come at the detriment to another: municipal government should not be about competition to become winners or losers. If I am elected, my work will be guided by the premise that I would be working for all Seldovians, not just a select few. I have heard a number of concerns

a) Again, Ms. Miller would like to conceptualize and brainstorm ideas for future "skilled labor" for Seldovia. She feels it is paramount that a plan for creating jobs for people here and also people that would like to relocate here be a top priority with the Council.

b) Miller wants to see the development and design of a functional building or buildings for the Old Cannery Property be completed in a timely manner. This also ties in with her first priority of job growth.

c) Kachemak Bay has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world and Miller would like to explore options to harness the potential energy as an alternative fuel source. In keeping with that, she would also like to start a Recycling Committee to engage in informing, providing materials, and possible transport of recyclables' to the landfill. This protects our environment while also utilizing natural resources in a positive way.

about access to information on council actions, not just what the council finally does but the reasoning and background that go into a particular direction taken. I will provide an open communications link concerning those portions of the municipal government process to which I would have access as a council member for the interested public. This information process would be an important focus of my work, with the full understanding that representation is a two-way dialog. Further, I am prepared to draw upon the council's past decade of activity which I have observed closely in attending nearly every council meeting in that time, as a guide for the actions the council must take and plan for today.

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

These are summed up in my personal statement at <http://sovnews.com/>, but include nearly a decade of involvement in local civic activities including serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, attendance at city meetings, assisting the city office in a number of archival and editing efforts, familiarity with the state and borough statutes that regulate city government action and state/borough issues. I have studied Seldovia's history and understand that the present-day challenges we face in Seldovia must be informed by its past. I have strong communication and research skills, personal reliability, and honesty.

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

I think that most of the current issues actually devolve into a single theme, that of municipal economics. The boat harbor project, the former cannery site, the city utilities, personnel issues like ballooning insurance and retirement fund costs, transportation issues -- all of these things intersect around the short supply of actual taxpayers and lack of other city revenue. I think it's exciting that the city had such a revenue surplus last year that it was able to eliminate the tax on airplanes and give financial support to certain businesses, but I don't feel that this addresses all of the concerns that our citizens have about the future of their city and the services it provides. The city has problems which still need work and planning, and that job is likely to stretch out ahead of us in the years to come. We must seek out more creative ways to deal with the reality of our actual situation. This reality includes the make up of our population, financial trends, and the outlook for changes in the level of borough and state interest in the welfare of our community. We must plan and act based on the realities we actually face rather than what we might wish for them to be.

Gerry Patrick Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

I am interested in what the City is doing; the forward direction it is taking is exciting. This will be my first experience in a public position, having always chosen to work behind the scenes.

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

I am a reasonably long-time resident of Seldovia and feel that I have the perspective and understanding of the community in mind when issues come up that will need addressing; even ones that are difficult. In addition, Ms. Patrick felt that her life experience, as a mother of seven, and as a human being, would be useful as a City Council Member.

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

a) Patrick thinks that the three biggest issues to address in Seldovia for the coming year will be: She would like to see the completion of projects that have already begun. For example, the completion of the small boat harbor and the water infrastructure, etc. Emphasizing maintenance and/or repair of the existing infrastructure such as streets and buildings is also of top importance.

b) Patrick would like to work as a team member in the City Council position with regard to the enforcement and "housecleaning" of the ordinances. Housecleaning" means updating possible archaic ordinances that are no longer pertinent to the current lifestyle in Seldovia and enforcing ones that are.

c) Patrick is passionate about making sure the City stays within its budget. She would do her part to make sure that we stay on task and keep that focus for future financial viability for the community of Seldovia. Patrick mentioned Seldovia gaining Port Authority would further this goal. She feels she can be part of that stewardship for our unique community.

Steve Pollack Responses:

Why do you want to run for Seldovia City Council?

I would like to see some changes made and more decisions made by the people of this town, for the prosperity of this town.

What qualifications do you have to offer for the benefit of Seldovia?

I have lived here for the better part of my life, grown up here, and gone to school here. I am a good listener and believe I have Seldovia's best interest at heart.

What are the three most important issues for Seldovia in the coming year?

a) I would like to see more of an open government. One that is up front about its dealings and makes more of an effort to inform the public on issues, especially those which directly effect the way they live.

b) I believe the City needs to do something with the old cannery property without selling it. I believe it is in the City's best interest to develop the land itself and create a business that would bring year round jobs to our community for our citizens.

c) There also needs to be some clarity and resolution to the Port Authority and "Fast Ferry" issues.

Political Announcement from: Citizens for a Positive Future

VOTE "NO" ON BALLOT PROPOSITION 2

Citizens from across the Kenai Peninsula form group to oppose Ballot Proposition 2 on the October 3rd ballot.
[Click here to read the complete Press Release](#)

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily the opinions of the Seldovia Gazette.

Letters to the Editor

None this week



Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.

[Last topic: Creation vs. Evolution](#)

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at tomg@seldovia.com or maryg@seldovia.com, by fax at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

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