



## The Gibbons Plan for St. Petersburg

### *"4 Steps to Ensuring a Better, Safer, Prospering St. Pete"*

- ✓ **Priority One: Keeping You Safe**
- ✓ **Keeping Our Jobs & Developing New Opportunities**
- ✓ **No New Taxes = Living Within Our Means**
- ✓ **Open, Responsive and Inclusive Government**

#### **(1) Priority One: Keeping You Safe**

As Mayor, it will be **my first priority** to make sure that every citizen, in every neighborhood of our city is safe and secure.

We will do this through streamlined management; a focus on partnerships that include and empower **all** stakeholders; and by strong and consistent leadership from the Mayor's Office.

I will allocate city resources **to assure that the Fire & Police Departments have all of the tools they need**. In exchange, I will expect full accountability. As part of implementing an enforceable accountability plan for the Fire & Police Departments, we will conduct a thorough review of both Departments, top to bottom, and make any changes necessary to ensure peak performance.

I will also bring residents together to jointly solve our public safety needs; raise the profile of our fire fighters & police officers in every corner of the city; comprehensively address our homeless problem; continue and expand efforts to stop gang violence, and improve youth services.

**No criminal who lives in St. Pete, or preys on St. Pete, should EVER feel comfortable when I become Mayor knowing, with certainty, we will work to identify them, apprehend them, and jail them.**

**This city will maintain a no-nonsense commitment to safety, with policies to match.**

## **(2) Keeping Our Jobs & and Developing New Opportunities**

**No person, no family, no community can feel comfortable to pursue their dreams in St. Petersburg unless we protect the jobs we have while growing new jobs in the city. As Mayor, I will make it my priority to ensure that EVERY person in St. Petersburg has the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.**

As Mayor, I will work with the business community to make it clear that St. Petersburg is truly “open for business.”

I will promote and facilitate regular and meaningful dialogue between City Hall and the business community.

I will protect the significant assets we have developed over the years – the Rays, Baywalk, the Pier, the Arts Community, other tourist venues - to ensure they are not only financially sound and viable, but add to the overall economy and attractiveness of the city.

I will work very hard to retain the Rays, and work to restore Baywalk and the Pier as financially self-sustaining destinations that balance the needs of a growing downtown with a dynamic and evolving tourist trade.

I will work with key stakeholders to design and implement a new marketing plan highlighting the city to draw interest and investment here.

I will redouble our efforts, regionally and statewide, to identify and recruit potential businesses to our city.

I will expand the city's collaborations with the Pinellas County School Board, Worknet Pinellas, St. Pete College and USF St. Petersburg so we can leverage their discoveries to create new jobs. Further, we will train students not only for the jobs we have but also the jobs we want.

I will also embrace our thriving arts community and use it as a catalyst to grow additional arts-based businesses in, and "arts tourism" to, St. Petersburg.

**As your Mayor I will strongly advocate for constructive tax policy, meaningful incentives, real regional transportation planning and networks, and smart growth management.**

**I remain the only candidate in this race with real, credible, hands-on experience advocating at every level of government.**

### **(3) No New Taxes = Living Within Our Means**

**I am a fiscal conservative who's always believed in empowering people – not government -- to make their own choices with their own money.**

Too often government chooses to tax rather than tighten their belt, even in times like this when families are struggling, bills are piling up, and jobs are threatened.

**As Mayor, I will hold the line on new taxes by challenging any and all attempts by government to raise our taxes – period. However, should the people of St. Petersburg elect, by referendum, to tax themselves, I will faithfully implement their expressed will.**

Like each family within the city, under a Gibbons Administration our city government will assess and prioritize each item in the budget

and then allocate resources using only what we have to spend. These decisions will be made out in the open, with full public input.

When establishing priorities, **I believe that we must first fund “essential services”** – such as police and fire, water and utilities, public transportation and all infrastructure required for public safety (such as streetlights). Beyond these truly essential services, we will budget based on available resources, funding first those items that we believe contribute to the special nature of St. Petersburg.

I believe **the city’s “rainy day” funds should ONLY be used for real catastrophes** or to fill holes in the city budget when there is no other way to provide full funding for truly essential services. I will not support “raids” on these vital funds pushed by politicians because they don’t have the willpower to make tough decisions.

Finally, **I will do everything I can to maintain basic services in our city.** I will continue the process of streamlining city government begun by Mayor Rick Baker, and will reallocate the resources we have to meet our consensus priorities. I will pursue this budgeting methodology **while doing everything I can to avoid further reductions in line level personnel** – those who directly help and serve the public.

#### **(4) Open, Responsive and Inclusive Government**

**I’m a businessman, not a career politician. I know that if you want to stay in business or grow a business, you must know your customers’ needs and preferences and cater to them. For some reason, government never seems to run that way.**

**In my administration, it will.**

How often have we seen government get into trouble while we’re left holding the bag? How many times have politicians left us feeling overlooked, ignored, and left out from decisions that directly affect us?

**Under a Gibbons administration, city government will be open, responsive and inclusive.**

To this end, my administration will reach out beyond City Hall and into the community, holding office hours in different locations to enhance convenience and accessibility. **We're going to bring government to you.**

Under a Gibbons administration city staff will treat every citizen as its most important customer. **We work for you.**

Under a Gibbons administration, EVERYONE will have a seat at the table.

**We're in this together – one city – moving forward.**