

Tampa City Council 2023 survey Creative Loafing Tampa Bay (non-incumbent)

Creative Loafing Tampa Bay is beginning to put its voting guide together and would love to get some feedback from you since you're on the ballot. This is a pretty basic form asking you about your background and how you'd vote on certain issues. It includes multiple choice questions and lots of room for you to explain answers in your own words. We'll definitely be reaching back out with follow ups after your initial response. We'd like to hear back from you before Jan. 23 if possible. These responses are all on the record.

Email *

alan@alanclendenin.com

Your race is non-partisan, but do you care to disclose your party affiliation?

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- Other
- Prefer not disclose

Could you give us your quick elevator pitch? *

My name is Alan Clendenin, and I am running for Tampa City Council District 1, one of the three citywide seats on Council. I am a Floridian! Born in Sanford Florida, grew up in and around the Orlando area. I left Florida to attend the University of Colorado, I moved to Tampa in 1985, where I raised two children in Tampa public schools. I love everything about Tampa, the food, culture, diversity, the environment, there is no place I would rather live. A great city deserves a great government. Unfortunately for nearly 4 years we've watched City Council led by Joe Citro spiral. He's been unprofessional and downright embarrassing. I spent 30 years as a professional air traffic controller, and manager. I spent most of my career right here at Tampa International, I've also started and run a small business. For 30 years you trusted me to manage multi-million dollar budgets, manage a highly skilled workforce, hire, fire, train and guide you and your family home safely, now I'm asking for your vote to serve on Council to guide Tampa for the next 4 years. My experience as an air traffic controller and business owner makes me uniquely qualified. Being a successful air traffic controller required 100% accuracy, team work and the ability to take in a constant flow of varied forms of information from multiple sources, process the information and come up with a viable solution. As a business owner I am responsible for every aspect of running a business including paying my debts. This is the skill set I will bring to council. Unfortunately my opponent has not demonstrated that ability in or out of office. We have made tremendous gains in our city but we have a lot more work to do. Tampa wouldn't be Tampa without its diverse and incredible neighborhoods. We can't tear down and build new, without considering the impact growth and increased density will have on existing neighborhoods and families. We must expand Economic Opportunities to every corner of the city. Not only does every neighborhood have its own personality, each once has its special needs and challenges. Flooding and protecting quality of life, maintaining sidewalks, rec centers and playgrounds. I spent 30 years in transportation, I bring 30 years of transportation planning, logistics and management experience with me. I will be a transportation councilman. Every person in Tampa who's driven, been a passenger or biked in Tampa knows our streets are in disrepair. Our children who walk to school know our sidewalks are missing, broken or heaved. Let's face it, our roads and sidewalks have been neglected. What has Joe Citro done to improve your streets or sidewalks? NOTHING. Its time Tampa leaders fill the pot holes and repave your street, I will vote to protect our water supply. We've seen what happens in other cities when their municipal water supplies were contaminated. Our families and children cannot be used as guinea pigs in an experiment. There's not a more important role for city government than ensuring the safety and health of the citizens. I will fight to ensure clean water continues to flow from your tap.

Please feel free to give us a more robust explanation of your background and why you want to be a city councilperson.

I have spent my life promoting and helping candidates that share my values get elected. I have also been the person that when I see problems or dysfunction, I jump right in to fix it. That's why I became a labor organizer in a labor hostile environment and explains my lifetime involvement in Democratic Party politics. There is a problem on city council and I believe I have the background and experience to be part of the solution.

I was born in Sanford, Florida, attended Central Florida public schools, started a small business and have been a local, state and national leader.

I spent 32 years as an air traffic control professional. I have extensive teaching, training, budgeting and management experience. As a leader I coached staff to achieve organizational excellence. I maintained professional relationships with; various government agencies, industry representatives, customers and local and national elected officials. As a small business owner, I have demonstrated ability to plan, execute and manage budgets, communicate and pivot during tough economic times.

I've lived in Tampa for over 37 years. I raised two children in Tampa, both attended Tampa public schools, Mabry, Coleman, and Plant.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY

Committee on Foreign Relations

Great American Teach-in volunteer

Minority career outreach

Counselor for juveniles in trouble with law enforcement agencies

Paint your Heart out Tampa

BOARD EXPERIENCE

Tampa Civil Service Board

Tampa Bay Area Committee on Foreign Relations

Pinellas County Florida Noise Task Force

Air Traffic Control Advisory Board

FAA Collaborative Management Leadership Team

FAA Central Florida Management Executive Board

Southern Region Executive Board, NATCA

National Chair, NATCA

FDP LEAD Task Force

FAA Quality Through Partnership Regional Board

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FAA Air Traffic Management. Sarasota, Tampa, St. Pete-Clearwater Control Towers. Air Traffic Control, Anchorage, Rochester, Elmira, Orlando, St. Pete-Clearwater, and Tampa Control Towers

FAA Special Event Air Traffic Manager

Air Traffic Assist. Manager, Sun 'n Fun Fly-in

FAA Liaison to the National Football League

EDUCATION

Valencia Community College, Orlando, FL

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

TRAINING

Human Resources

A Positive Approach to Discipline
Fundamentals of Supervision
Introduction to Emergency Readiness,
Situational Leadership
Workforce Development
Customer Focus Training
Leadership Development and Labor Relations
Basic Arbitration
Dispute Resolution

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Democratic National Executive Committee
Southern Caucus Chair, Democratic National Committee
Association of State Democratic Chairs
First Vice Chair, Florida Democratic Party

What makes you more qualified than the incumbent or any of your other opponents in the race. We'd like to read specific examples and reasoning.

As I have listed previously, I have a lifetime of accomplishments, education, experiences and training. My opponent pulled himself together at nearly 40 to become a hairdresser. While he misleads folks into believing he owns a salon, he has never owned one. He rents a chair. He boasts about his experience while in reality his only credentials are past experiences serving on a few volunteer city boards. Occupying a seat is not evidence of growth, knowledge or true preparation. Joe Citro is incapable of handling his own personal budget, how can he be trusted to manage a nearly 2 billion dollar budget? As reported, he took out a loan in 2017 (?) from Bank of America and made no effort to pay it back. I understand that people occasionally fall on hard times but this is not the case. Since that time Citro has made nearly 5000 dollars in political donations, maintains a due paying membership in the Tampa Rough Riders, frequently attends black tie galas, has a valuable watch and record collection, has an electric BMW, a motorcycle, and lives in a Bayshore condo. His disclosed salary is roughly 150% above the median household income of citizens living in Tampa.

What do you call someone from Tampa?

- Tampeño
- Tampanian
- Other:

When it comes to the municipal flag of Tampa, do you stan or would you change it?

- STAN 100%
- Reluctantly Stan
- Needs a redesign

Tampa City Council recently rejected a Harbour Island hotel proposal after loud outcry from residents. As promised, the developer is suing the city for \$6.6 million. How would you have voted on the proposal, given all the context of neighborhood feedback and Tampa's trajectory as an emerging metro?

I would have voted no.

Hindsight is 20/20 at this point, but go back to the appointment of former police chief Mary O'Connor. Given the community feedback on Jane Castor's pick, would you have voted to confirm O'Connor for the position? Feel free to explain why or why not.

I would have voted against the confirmation. Joe Citro had previously and widely said he would vote no as well, unfortunately for Tampa, it is just another example of him flip flopping, he caved to pressure and voted yes. There was a clear evidence that O'Connor's background and experience precluded her from being successful as a leader in the department.

Staying on the topic of police. The Tampa PBA recently sent out a candidate survey that ruffled feathers, in part, because it asked about a candidate's support or affiliation with Black Live Matter, but skipped any questions about affiliations with white supremacist groups. From the dais, one city councilman asked the PBA to apologize. How would you have reacted to the survey, had you received it?

I received the survey.

Would you have voted in support of expanded oversight capability—including subpoena power—for Tampa's police Citizens Review Board? Please feel free to expand on your yes or no answer.

I supported the charter amendment providing independent council for the CRB. I am still processing and learning about the needs and pitfalls of the subpoena issue.

A year ago, Tampa's Hanna Avenue 'City Center' project faced scrutiny after the public learned that its budget was increased from roughly \$6 million to \$108 million without a public RFP. Did that process trouble you? How would you have handled if you were on council?

Yes, I would support passing an ordinance to clearly require council approval if a contract significantly exceeds the initial RFP.

At a March 2022 press conference, Tampa Mayor Jane Castor told reporters that rent stabilization and rent control aren't viable solutions to the housing crisis because the measures would "kill development." What is your stance on rent control, and how would you have voted last August when council was talked out of putting the issue of rent control on last November's ballot?

While rent control could be considered in an emergency like during the pandemic, it isn't a viable long term solution. I would have voted against it. Instead I would have looked for ways to create additional emergency funds to keep people in their homes. I would have immediately sought an end to "renting while black" and I would support the cities multiple ongoing initiatives to assist with rent, first time home buyers and negotiating with builders to expand the number of affordable housing units.

Last Halloween, as council was set to vote on charter amendments, Mayor Jane Castor said, "For more than fifty years, mayors and city councils have worked together for the betterment of our city under its current form of government. This system has served us well and resulted in a stronger, more prosperous city – and today, more than 90 percent of Tampa residents say they trust their city government."

That echoes a sentiment from former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, but we'd argue that the last 50 years has led to an inflection point where maybe the city should consider not abolishing the strong mayor form of government, but giving council more tools to check the mayor's power.

Especially now after Castor's recent vetoes, what's your take on charter amendments, specifically those that would give council more avenues to balance power in city hall?

There are multiple forms of city governments in our country. Based on my extensive background, experience and knowledge one is not really better than another, just different. Each comes with advantages and disadvantages. Had the mayor asked me, I was disappointed the mayor chose to veto the proposals, but that is part of the procedure. City council followed the charter and addressed the vetos. That is government.

If a vote to relocate the Christopher Columbus statue came up, how would you vote? Please answer yes or no, and feel free to explain why.

I do not currently have a position on the statue.

Last September, council members all expressed either doubt or complete disapproval of the administration's PURE wastewater plans as a whole. The Tampa Bay Times recently confirmed environmentalists' concerns and reported that it was actually Tampa lobbyists who helped craft the legislation that will require Tampa to find some other use for the wastewater by 2032. What's your take on the situation? Would you have pushed on with PURE as it was presented?

I believe it's essential we protect our water supply. We've all seen the devastating consequences that can happen when water supplies are contaminated, and we cannot allow that to happen in our city. Residents must trust our elected officials are protecting their health and supplying clean water. There are other solutions, and I will be a voice to ensure each of these options are fully explored and the public is informed along the way.

Please feel free to freestyle and tell us about anything that you didn't get to address above.

Throughout my campaign I have been asked what "team" I'm on, my response, I am on "Team Tampa". I have spent a life time building bridges between individuals and groups, I will bring that skill set to Tampa. I will give voters a clear choice between someone who fosters dysfunction or someone that will put the drama aside, come to work prepared, do the work, listen to the facts to address the problems facing our city.

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This form was created inside of Creative Loafing Tampa.

Google Forms