

James T. (Tim) Walden, Sr. - Covington Mayor

Dear Sustainable Newton,

I am honored that you would ask for my concerns on the following questions as a candidate for office. I have listed my answers below to each question.

- 1) **General Belief:** When I hear the word Sustainability, to me it means taking care of our generation without compromising future generations which include our children and grandchildren. Recycling, keeping our greenspaces, and taking care of the resources God has provided for our use. Being good stewards. I would implement measures by watching out, and speaking out against overgrowth, destroying our forests.
- 2) **Land Use & Development:** I am not against growth but I do believe in smart growth. The tax base is not the best when we continue to build multi housing, with the majority being rental. The homeowners' taxes are through the roof and continue to rise. Our emergency services cannot properly handle our growth and cover the numbers. At times our ambulance service has two ambulances to cover our entire county, and this results in citizens not getting the emergency care they deserve and some dying. My family has been affected by this. Tax rates so high that our seniors who have worked hard for their homes are losing them because they cannot afford the taxes. With growth comes children which cost our school system around 15000.00 per student, per year to educate and the resources and revenues are not keeping up.
- 3) **Solid Waste:** Our local landfill is overused period. We must initiate change for the better. I understand we cannot have 100% but I am proactive to anything to help in this area. Zero Waste is the way to go not only for controlling solid waste and landfills but also for the health of our citizens and visitors. Recycle, Recycle, Recycle.
- 4) **Clean Energy:** 100% YES. I do have concerns with complete electric vehicles but I am all for clean energy and protecting our people, which is our most important commodity. I think we all need to be more educated on this subject.
- 5) **Climate Pollution Reduction:** I am on board. I believe we must do things proactively to support our climate. Pollution needs to be slowed if not stopped. I believe it has caused and continues to cause sickness and death to our citizens. I have had family members to suffer and die from this.