



## **COTI ENDORSES RUANE AND DENHAM FOR CITY COUNCIL SEATS**

COTI's mission is to help ensure the continuity of good local government, to protect the environment and to preserve the sanctuary nature of our island.

In furtherance of this mission, we have traditionally endorsed candidates for local office when those candidates have exemplified qualities consistent with this COTI mission.

On March 7th, citizens of Sanibel will vote to fill three seats on the Sanibel City Council, each for a four-year term.

In deciding on endorsements for this election, we considered the candidates' demonstrated abilities in the following areas:

- Consistent support for the principles of the Sanibel Plan and Vision.
- Effective representation of the City's interests beyond the borders of Sanibel.
- Ability to work with others and to construct effective coalitions with leaders of other governments.
- Leadership and clarity of thinking regarding policy issues.
- Demonstrated work ethic regarding Council responsibilities.

We are pleased to announce that COTI is endorsing the following two candidates:

**KEVIN RUANE.** In his ten years on Council, Mr. Ruane has consistently demonstrated willingness to confront tough



issues. As mayor for seven years, he effectively led to improve the City's financial condition and to aggressively deal with difficult water quality problems. He has represented Sanibel effectively by holding leadership positions with the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Florida League of Mayors and many others.



**MICK DENHAM.** In his twelve years on Council, including terms as mayor and vice-mayor, Mr. Denham has proved time and time again his commitment to the values of the Sanibel Plan. He has aggressively fought for local control of fertilizer and other measures to reduce water nutrient pollution. He represents Sanibel effectively on the Regional Planning Commission and the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Regarding the other two candidates, our bylaws require a supermajority of votes, and neither Councilman Marty Harrity nor Planning Commissioner Jason Maughan were able to garner the necessary support for an endorsement.

In the case of Mr. Harrity, he is a known member of the City Council with a long record of service and represents continuity with the current Council. However, he does not have the same record of accomplishments and array of relationships as have Mr. Ruane and Mr. Denham.

In the case of Jason Maughan he represents a break from the current administration and a different approach to addressing Sanibel's challenges. However, it is not clear that his approach would prove to be more effective.

COTI thanks both of these citizens for their community service in many areas. Regardless of which candidates are elected on March 7, we remain committed to working with all members of the City Council in furtherance of COTI's mission and the best interests of our community.

**Mike Miller**  
**COTI president**

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