



## **COTI Members Respond to Survey**

*May - June 2017*

Thanks to those COTI members who participated in our recent survey. You've given us valuable guidance as we deal with Sanibel's various issues. Below are the summarized results.

### Survey Participation:

The survey was sent to 580 registered email addresses of COTI members; responses were received from 116 representing a response participation of 20 percent.

### Survey Respondent Demographics:

The following is demographic data as provided by some of those responding to the survey:

- Gender: Male - 55% Female - 45%
- Sanibel registered voter: Yes - 66%; No - 34%
- Reside on Sanibel during summer: Yes - 33%; No - 67%
- Age:
  - Under 40 0%
  - 40-49 2%
  - 50-59 4%
  - 60-69 33%
  - 70-79 44%
  - Over 79 17%

### Survey Respondent Ranking of Listed Issues:

Ranking of listed issues by importance - the results are shown in order of overall average importance, with the most important issues listed first:

**Gulf/Caloosahatchee Water Quality**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
85	9	3	3	0

**Sanibel River/Bayou Water Quality**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
68	21	7	3	1

**Beach Management**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
49	37	9	4	1

**Traffic**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
53	26	13	4	4

**Regulation of Formula Retail Stores**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
40	39	17	3	1

**Climate Change**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
47	20	7	13	13

**Dark Sky Ordinance Education/Enforcement**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
34	29	21	8	8

**Redevelopment**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
25	30	28	8	9

**Review of Sanibel's City Charter**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
24	28	25	17	6

**Lee County Development**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
19	26	34	10	11

**Captiva Development**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
19	21	32	19	9

**Term Limits for City Council**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
12	29	29	15	15

**New or Renewed Center 4 Life**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
11	25	33	19	12

**Alligators**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
14	20	23	27	16

**Coyotes**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
9	19	28	24	20

**Compensation for City Council**

Very Important %	Important %	Moderately Important %	Somewhat Important %	Not Important %
5	24	29	23	19

**Additional Issues Suggested by Survey Respondents:**

The following are additional issues as proposed by some survey responders:

- The rules and regulations relative to the use of bicycles on the Island are primarily directed at those driving automobiles. I used to ride a bike on the bike paths (occasionally on the road), but no more. There are rules for bikers .. seldom enforced and hardly ever communicated to them. Responsibility is a two way street.
- Parking fee increases to make beach and park maintenance self funding. Very important; City Budget analysis important; City Unfunded Pension Liability tracking moderately important

- Control/minimize Use of pesticides - very important
- Invasive species like iguanas. This is somewhat important
- Please, oppose traffic circles as solution
- Center 4 Life, Community Housing Association and BIGArts are all considering new facilities. COTI should be proactive in finding solutions and spaces, not sit back and criticize.
- RED TIDE—I don't think there is enough information in the news about the impact of red tide on health. What is the danger of breathing the air when the red tide is present? Doctors I spoke with believe that Sanibel government is not being open about this to avoid hurting tourism. We need to inform the public about this very serious issue.
- Curtail tourism by discouraging advertising about our island. tourism is the evil that will destroy our island.
- In order to stay with our vision statement for Sanibel, I am most interested in preserving our existing wildlife and natural preserves and adding if possible. I am concerned about new development taking over and creating more traffic and increased density thus affecting our overall environment.
- Traffic, traffic, traffic
- I'm very concerned that our City managers appear more concerned with protecting business interests than preserving our fragile ecosystems. Once the water is poisoned and the environment is ruined, we'll have nothing to call "Sanibel Special". I'd like to see COTI take a stronger stance for conservation.
- Massive new developments going up right off island and they will all want to spend the day on Sanibel—the island cannot handle an influx of this magnitude!! It's a big threat to our habitat.
- Finding a balance of keeping Sanibel special between keeping it quaint and quirky ... at the same time progressive and comfortable.
- Growing influence of commercial interests over residential interests. Too many exceptions being made for commercial properties. Roundabouts are not a solution to the traffic problem.
- Applications for more intensive use of existing facilities (the West Wind for example )should be monitored, lest a wall of buildings block the views from the shared use paths and create more of a burden on the infrastructure.
- Safe biking education and bike path safety. I don't understand what happened to the work that was done a few years ago on this topic. There was a consultant report, a citizen survey and other a few signs, a video that no one sees and a brochure, the issue seems to have died. Compared to many cities today, Sanibel is seriously lagging in education and safety.
- DARK SKY involvement requires some background in classical physics. That part has been missing, and still is.
- In the question, Redevelopment, Lee County Development, and Captiva

Development, I am not sure what you mean. Does it mean controlling it? Please clarify. If I indicate very important for Captiva Development, am I indicating that I am for it? Thank you

- General city planning and land use
- Keeping non automobiles or trucks off Sanibel roads.
- Use of pesticides for control of rodents, and working to limit impacts to wildlife.
- COTI should hold tight on Sanibel's ordinances. There are plenty of communities that do not have dark sky ordinances, don't protect wildlife, allow high-rises and chain stores, etc. If people don't like the laws on Sanibel they can move to those other communities and leave this one the way we like it. Thank you for all you do! It is essential
- Traffic traffic traffic; congratulations on your proactive measures taken so far.
- No, I think you are all brilliant.
- For me, the biggest disappointment on Sanibel is the bike path along San Cap. If there were vegetation separating it from the motorized traffic, it would both more pleasant and safe. It would also encourage less traffic on San Cap as it encourage those living west of Tarpon Bay Road to bicycle in to the commercial areas to shop.
- Citizen complaints about City government, especially the performance of the Planning Dept and Code Enforcement - Important
- County impact fees should be restored. Control of development in Lee County is extraordinarily important to Sanibel since our traffic and congestion problems are caused by daytrippers, and because of the strain on water resources as overdevelopment continues.
- Impact of flood insurance premium increases and fairness re sharing the cost of this coverage.
- If the "Slow Moving Vehicles" issue returns to the City agenda, denial is very important
- Advertising! the issue of commercial desires versus residents' desires
- Recapturing the island for its residents as opposed to day trippers.
- Adherence to Land Development Code and Sanibel Plan, very important
- Everglades renewal, water storage and flow-ways south of Lake O, purchase of US Sugar land, all very important.
- Very, very concerned that COTI continue to monitor development on the island so that the unique charm and lack of congestion can be maintained. Please keep an eagle eye on new (re)development and see that it remains appropriate, not congested, and attractive. The traffic is a major problem and should be discouraged. Thanks!
- Planning Commission and City Council waivers for increased commercial

development erode Sanibel Plan and quality of life.

- Investment by government to increase tourism to island should be monitored.
- Recycling containers should be available at all commercial establishments/ shopping areas, all public areas, event sites, etc. " anywhere cans, bottles and plastics are routinely thrown in the trash. Plastic shopping bag usage fees should be instituted and styrofoam takeout containers should be prohibited.
- Climate change, water quality and traffic are significantly more important than other issues.
- Prohibit all Personal Water Craft from near or on Sanibel beaches. Restrict the size of "tents" on the beaches. Study what the city can do to protect our shorebirds—some restrictions should be in place during nesting season. Focus on the Sanibel Plan. Some of our elected officials. forget about it. All are very important.

Survey Respondent Willingness to Assist COTI:

Of the 116 responders, 35 indicated a willingness to get more involved with the organization and its various committees, as shown below:

Activity	Number of members 'interested'	Number of members interested in occasionally assisting	Number of members not sure, but want more information
Serve on Board of Directors	2	0	4
Serve on Environment Committee	3	9	4
Serve on Traffic Committee	1	6	1
Serve on Membership Committee	3	3	1
Serve on City Governance Committee	3	3	4
Serve on Nominations Committee	3	0	3
Serve on Technology Committee	2	1	4
Serve on Community Outreach Committee	0	5	3
Serve on Candidate Endorsement Committee	1	4	7
Assist with special events	3	14	4
Act as liaison with other organizations	3	5	4
Assist with organizational tasks	3	5	4
Assist with commentaries or letters to editor	3	4	1

Researching policy issues	4	2	5
Contacting public officials	2	2	4
Recruiting new members	1	2	2
Attend meetings of government bodies	4	4	2

We thank those members who offered to assist and will be contacting them in the coming season.

Please write to us at [coti@coti.org](mailto:coti@coti.org) if you have questions or comments.

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