

## The Wisdom of Nonpartisan Elections

The Sanibel City Charter states that “All nominations and elections for the office of city councilperson shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis without regard for or designation of political party affiliation of any nominee on any nomination petition or ballot.” COTI is in agreement with Sanibel’s tradition of nonpartisan elections and will work towards its preservation.

While the partisan system seems to work well at the national and state levels, Sanibel elections would not be benefited by this approach. National parties would not inform Sanibel residents on the unique issues faced by the island. The Sanibel Plan is a better place to look for guidance and inspiration with regards to solving local problems. Partisan politics would only make it more difficult to deal with the concerns facing Sanibel.

Nonpartisan elections do not lead to political tranquility. There has always been plenty of lively debate on Sanibel. The discourse has centered on the island’s unique issues such as water quality, red drift algae, development, the environment, and the budget. Focusing on problem resolution, instead of national party affiliation, stands to better serve our island.

People who have different national party affiliations have often worked together in support of island issues on which they agree. This kind of cooperation is important to preserving our sanctuary island. The nonpartisan clause of the City Charter has served Sanibel well in the past and will do so in the future thanks to the wisdom of our founding fathers.