

Scott Matheson for City Council

Full name: Scott W. Matheson

Age: 46

Years living in Chesapeake: 16+

Education: Kempsville High School, 1982
University of Virginia, 1986
Bachelor's Degree in Communications with
concentrations in Commerce, Economics and History

Family: Married to Dawn Matheson
23 Nieces, Nephews and God Children

Occupation: Financial Advisor, Certified Financial Planner®

Political/community experience:

Member of the Financial Planning Association and serves on the board as the Director of Government Relations for the Hampton Roads Chapter, has worked with United Service Organizations (USO), The Up Center, Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity, Faith Works Coalition, the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, the Reading First Program, Pop Warner Football, among others and has served as a volunteer on many local, state and federal campaigns.

1. Aside from the budget, what is the most important issue in Chesapeake right now? How do you intend to help solve it?

While on the campaign trail, I've met people from all walks of life and from every borough of the City. There are two issues that are consistent across the board—financial security and jobs. Citizens are worried about their savings erosion, higher taxes/fees and job security. I believe in this uniquely difficult economy, the top priorities of government must be to maintain fiscal restraint while working to bring more and better jobs to Chesapeake.

2. What makes you the best candidate for Chesapeake City Council?

My professional experience as a financial advisor and Certified Financial Planner® has prepared me well for the challenging job ahead. I understand the importance of fiscal accountability and how to manage budgets and reprioritize financial objectives when needed. Additionally, I will bring a unique business-based philosophy to government. As in business, the City must be competitive in how we attract and retain customers (job providing businesses) and increase value for our shareholders (the taxpayers).

- 3. Recently, the city manager recommended \$19.6 million in cuts to general fund spending. In your opinion, which city departments could afford to be leaner? Also, please describe your philosophy and experience in terms of balancing a budget.**

A successful budget exercise should begin with setting priorities. Government should be a prudent investor of the taxpayer's money. From 2006-2008, our City enjoyed historic revenue growth. Some reports indicate budget surpluses of \$260+ million. Yet, today we're unable to fully fund critical programs like public safety and education. If we had done a better job of saving and paying down debt during those prosperous times, we would be better prepared for the current recession.

- 4. How do you view a City Council position: as a part-time job or full-time job? Currently, some council members do city work on top of their full-time jobs. Others have time to be more involved in city business on a full-time basis. Where do you fall on this spectrum of involvement?**

I have a passion to serve both my community and the clients who have trusted me to manage their financial situations. Therefore, I plan to continue my financial advisory practice. Staying active in my professional life will allow me to keep abreast of the issues that effect people's lives in a significant way. If elected, I will view my fellow citizens as valued clients, and I will be accessible and responsive to their needs.

- 5. How do you think the current City Council can improve the way it handles city business? Please describe what you feel are the council's weaknesses.**

Like business management, I believe public management should be a dynamic process that continually works to maximize human and financial resources and should promote innovation and service excellence. In my discussions with citizens and leaders across the City, I consistently hear about redundant processes and the lack of communication between departments. If elected, I will work to obtain cross-training for employees, look at the feasibility of re-engineering some services, streamlining processes and implement quality assurance standards.

- 6. What is your favorite Chesapeake eatery? Why?**

My wife Dawn and I enjoy many local restaurants. Our current favorites are the Amber Lantern, The Broken Egg Bistro, Nana Sushi and Wild Wing Café. We enjoy the great food, good service and, of course, the people.