



# 2018 Municipal Election

Town of Kiawah Island • 4475 Betsy Kerrison Drive Kiawah Island, SC 29455 • 843-768-9166 • [www.kiawahisland.org](http://www.kiawahisland.org)

The Kiawah Island Municipal Election will take place Tuesday, December 4, 2018. This election marks the sixteenth administration of the Town of Kiawah Island, which was incorporated on September 13, 1988. The terms of this administration will expire December 2020. Below is the candidate roster. Candidate biographies are provided inside.

## Candidates

### Mayor One to be elected

- **Craig Weaver**
- **Fran Wermuth** **Withdrawn**

### Council Four to be elected

- **Maryanne Connelly**
- **Dan Prickett**
- **Klaus Said**
- **Christopher Widuch**

## Meet the Candidates

Tuesday, November 13  
6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.  
The Sandcastle

Hear directly from Town Council and Mayoral candidates on important Town of Kiawah Island issues. Hosted by KICA.

- Submit questions at the meeting or in advance.
- Wine and hors-d'oeuvres will be served.
- RSVP and email questions to Holly Newman at [holly.newman@kica.us](mailto:holly.newman@kica.us).



**When do I vote?** In person at the polls on election day Tuesday, December 4, 2018, from 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. Photo ID is required.



**Where do I vote?** Kiawah Municipal Center (4475 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy.)



**How can I vote?** Residents can vote in person at the poll or absentee. To vote absentee, you must be a registered voter and meet the criteria. Absentee voting begins 30 days prior to the election.

### **Absentee Voting Information**

Qualified voters may vote absentee in person or by mail. Common criteria for absentee voting include:

- persons sixty-five years of age or older
- persons who plan to be on vacation
- persons who are physically disabled
- persons attending sick or physically disabled persons

### **In person**

Vote in-person at the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration office located at 4367 Headquarters Road, North Charleston, SC 29405. Voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. In-person absentee voting closes at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the election. Photo ID is required

### **By mail**

Voters must complete an absentee voting application. Once the application is submitted, your ballot will be mailed. Voters can request an absentee ballot application by one of the following ways:

- Visit [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org) and fill out an absentee application online.
- Request a ballot from the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration office by calling (843)744-8683 or via email to [absentee@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:absentee@charlestoncounty.org).

# Mayoral Candidates



Craig Weaver

crater1@comcast.net

My wife Terry and I built our home here twelve years ago. We both grew up in Michigan, but divided our working years between Chicago, Houston, and Minneapolis. Most of my career was spent in the energy industry, where I had global management responsibilities. We have two children, a son in Tucson and a

daughter in Detroit. When we built our home in 2006, Kiawah was more developed, but still every bit as unique as when we first saw the island and bought our property 25 years ago. During the time that I have been a council member and now mayor, my desire has been to see that Kiawah remains the same great place to live, visit or own a home for many more years. The Town has an important role in making this happen. Some of my priorities have been to:

- preserve the uniqueness of the island by protecting Kiawah's natural environment and maintaining a responsible approach to development;
- anticipate and address the challenges that arise from the community's growth and help balance being both a popular tourist destination and a desirable residential community.
- protect the Town's strong financial position and avoid spending or expansion in the size of our local government that might hinder our financial flexibility down the road.

These priorities have guided the actions that the Town Council and I have taken over the past two years, such as quickly re-nourishing the island's beach and dunes following tropical storm Irma, working closely with the Resort and property owners to move forward re-development at West Beach, and easing the Town's building permit requirements in order to make it easier and less costly for property owners to maintain and improve their homes.

As Mayor, I have the additional responsibility of overseeing the Town's operations and am committed having a municipal government that is respected, professional, and focused on the priorities of our residents and property owners. The Town Council and staff must be leaders within the community and able to bring together residents, property owners, KICA, the Resort, and others to address issues and solve problems. My additional experiences chairing the KICA board, serving on the STJFD commission, and working with County, City of Charleston and Johns Island organizations have helped me develop an understanding of how to get things done on and off Kiawah.

During the past two years I have worked with our Town Council members – John Wilson, Diana Mezzanotte, Chris Widuch and Jack Koach – and with our staff, to create an increasingly effective municipal government. There is a good deal of work underway and still much to be done. After this election three of the Town Council's five council members will be new. I would like the opportunity to continue working with and bring continuity to the new Town Council to help ensure that Kiawah remains a great place for all of us.



Fran Wermuth

fran\_wermuth@comcast.net

Elected in December 2010 as a Council Member, chairing the Public Safety and Communications Committee. I had the good fortune to work with a number of people who believe as I do that Kiawah residents are to be fairly represented and privy to the workings of the Committees; all meetings were

completely transparent and open to the public, as required by law. I ran for Mayor in 2014, doing fairly well, but did not win. While some on the KICA Board have refused to run in contested elections, I am proud that I made the attempt even though it was unsuccessful.

Our family first came to Kiawah in 1986, becoming full time in 2007. Living here with abundant wildlife and at that time, a pristine community, made me realize how important it is to protect this unique environment, which must be carefully managed for all of us to continue to enjoy this special place.

I have been involved as a volunteer, in a number of issues affecting Kiawah Island, Johns Island, and Charleston. I have served with the Kiawah Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) since its inception in late 2010, and currently as CERT leader. I have served on the Foster Care Review Board (9A), Charleston, SC, since February 2015. Recommended by the Charleston County Legislative Delegation, and appointed by the Governor. Served as Board Chair from December 2016-December 2017. I am a past volunteer for Reading Partners at five schools in Charleston and on Johns Island. I am a past volunteer for an evening summer program, Camp Hope at Sanders-Clyde, implemented by the then Chief of Police.

My education includes a MA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Economics and Public Policy (2000) and a BA in Individualized Study: Economics and International Relations (1994), George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. I undertook my undergraduate/graduate work while working full time with the Department of Justice.

I served on staff, handling financial issues for the Jeremiah Denton Campaign for U.S. Senate from the State of Alabama. I joined the newly elected Senator's Washington staff for the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, chaired by Senator Denton. The subcommittee had oversight of a number of Department of Justice agencies, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. During 26 years of Federal service, I held positions which gave me a breadth of experience in numerous areas of government. When the Senator returned to Alabama in 1986, I joined the USMS as a Congressional Liaison officer, and later as a member of the Judicial Security Division's Management & Oversight Team. I served in the INS Budget Office and after 9/11 as Assistant to the INS Commissioner until the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

As with any career, each new position required expanding my knowledge of new programs, new regulations, extending to legislative issues, strategic planning, budget formulation and oversight, and training.

# Candidates for Council



Maryanne  
Connelly

fanwood1@gmail.com

After retiring in 2015, my husband and I moved from Morristown, NJ to Kiawah Island to live full time. Our property was purchased in 1984 so we had enjoyed many vacations and family gatherings here. Why Kiawah? There were many properties under consideration, but the decision was based on the environmentally sound master plan, the proximity to Charleston and the availability of an airport nearby. The natural beauty and wildlife were prime considerations. My first few months of living here full time were used to become familiar with the "Maze of K's" on Kiawah. Because of my previous experience, it was only a matter of time before I got involved with the community. In my prior life, my community involvement spanned 20 years so I am anxious to continue to be an active member of the Kiawah community working to preserve the natural environment and to consider the impact of new developments on the existing infrastructure and public safety.

My community involvement started with a Building and Zoning issue with my New Jersey home. It concerned conflicting information on a floodplain abutting my property. I decided then to become part of the solution to this problem. I was appointed to the Planning Board and the Environmental Commission and subsequently elected to Town Council also serving as Police Commissioner for nine years before being elected Mayor. The highlight of my political career was running for the United States Congress which was an honor I will never forget. I was one of 435 candidates across the United States and while I didn't win, I will never regret running.

As a Human Resources Executive at AT&T my 30 years career involved the development and implementation of corporate strategy and Human Resource needs in several AT&T businesses including International, Business Services, Consumer Products, and Bell Laboratories. I completed several Executive Development Programs including the Tuck School at Dartmouth and the Thunderbird School of International Business. I was also a member of the executive planning team for the AT&T Divestiture.

In looking to expand my knowledge of the Kiawah Island Community Association, I became a member KICA nominating committee which interviews and evaluates candidates for the KICA Board. In wanting to apply my Public Safety experience I was appointed to the Public Safety Committee for the Town of Kiawah. I volunteer for Respite Care, Charleston and I am on the Family Services Committee for Habitat for Humanity. As a Kiawah Cares volunteer, I tutor and career counsel St. John's High School students.

My educational background includes a BS Nutrition - College of St. Elizabeth, MBA - Management Fairleigh Dickinson University, MA Education - St. Peter's University. Also: Professional Certification Dietetics - Cornell Medical Center, Special Education Certification - St. Peter's University.



Dan Prickett

prickettdan@gmail.com

Our kinship with Kiawah began twenty-two years ago when my wife, Nancy, and I first visited the island and, a week later, decided to purchase a Tennis Club Villa. Ten years later we built a home on Whimbrel Road and became full-time residents. As with many of you, we were attracted to this wonderful coastal community by its stunning natural beauty, its carefully planned and executed development, and its proximity to the cultural experiences available in Charleston. Rarely does one find this carefully blended combination of maritime forests, expansive sandy beaches, picturesque marshes, beautiful residential homes and a world-class golf and tennis resort. As a community, our challenge going forward is to protect and preserve all that we love about Kiawah in its later stages of growth and development.

The Town of Kiawah has grown along with everything else in Charleston County and we need a strong partnership with KICA, The Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Partners, Kiawah Conservancy, the County and our neighbors on Seabrook and Johns Island. The Town should and can take a lead in insuring these partnerships are communicating with each other and working together. Improving the roadways we all depend upon to travel to and from Kiawah safely is a top priority.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Town's Planning Commission for the last six years and currently serve as vice chairman. I also co-chaired the development of the Town's current Ten-Year Strategic Plan. I was a member of the committee appointed to plan and design our new Municipal Center on Betsy Kerrison and later served on the committee that oversaw the actual construction of the building. I also co-chair the Kiawah Residents Art Guild. Nancy and I both have been active volunteers with a variety of non-profit organizations here on Kiawah, on Johns Island and in Charleston. We play golf and tennis and are members of the Kiawah Island Club and the Governor's Club.

My educational background includes holding a BS from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Missouri. I was a commissioned officer in the United States Army and, during my tour, served as the Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of STRATCOM. In 1970, I was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. My civilian career focused on investment management and banking. Highlights include leading the Investment Management and Trust Division of the Boston Company, and heading the U.S. Private Bank at Chase Manhattan in New York. I retired as executive vice president for Wealth Management at Wachovia Corporation, now Wells Fargo.

Nancy and I have two wonderful children. Our son, Clark, lives in Chicago with his wife, Michelle, and three active young boys. Our daughter, Lindsey, and her husband, Taylor, live in Venice, CA with their equally active young daughter and son. They, too, also love Kiawah. I ask for your support and will do my best to represent the long-term interests of all our residents and guests.



# Candidates for Council



## Klaus Said

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I recently retired after a 35-year career in Investment Banking in Frankfurt, Germany, London, and New York. I spent 17 years at JP Morgan in the fixed income trading division trading interest rate derivatives, merging markets debt instruments and foreign currencies. I was responsible for some of JP Morgan's global trading

businesses from 1993 until 2001 and subsequently was global head of all currency, moment market, and precious metals trading for Credit Suisse in New York until 2006. I then spent time as a portfolio manager of a large family office and founded an independent currency trading firm in 2013.

I graduated from the University of Cologne, Germany with a BA in Business studies and from the Graduate School for Business Administration in St. Gall, Switzerland with an MBA.

Laura and I have been married for 30 years and we have three children Nicholas (28), Robert (25) and Charlotte (23). We are residents of South Carolina but also spend time in Greenwich, CT. I am an avid golfer and have a keen interest in modern history and politics. I have no previous experience in local government, but Kiawah is home for us now and I am keen to volunteer my time and whatever expertise might be useful to the Town Council.



## Chris Widuch

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My name is Chris Widuch. I have served on the Kiawah Island Town Council for the past two years and I am running for a second term. My wife Theresa and I have been full-time residents of Kiawah since 2009. I spent 30 years in the steel industry until my retirement in 2015; the last twelve years as President of a

mid-size steel distribution firm with multiple locations in the eastern US. This executive background has been valuable on Town Council as issues have been brought before us which have required a quick education and thorough understanding of multiple viewpoints.

In addition to the typical business before the Council, topics such as island development, beach re-nourishment, and budgets, I have focused much of my energies on three issues which have both a short and long-term impact on our residents. First, I chaired a subcommittee to review our current law enforcement model and recommend changes going forward. As a growing island with more homes, more full time and part time residents, and new and expanding tourist facilities, the Town's long-time practice of employing off-duty Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Deputies is bumping up against capacity constraints. Taking a long-term view, we concluded we need a different approach to our policing needs. We have recommended, and Town Council has endorsed, moving to a locally based policing model. Under this approach, Kiawah will contract with the CCSO to provide full-time Deputies, permanently assigned to Kiawah twenty-four hours per day, every day of the year. This change still requires County Council approval, and will, if adopted, take up to three years to fully implement. But I believe this change is needed and will benefit us greatly when implemented.

Second, I was asked by the Mayor to help investigate ways of making the Town's permitting process more customer friendly; to lessen the bureaucratic maze residents are forced to navigate when improving their homes. The professionals within Kiawah's Building Department held a similar goal. Together we recommended a revision to the permitting process which cuts the need for permits roughly in half. We maintained the requirements for any work involving structural or safety issues of any sort (i.e., electrical, plumbing, gas, etc.) but we eliminated the Town's requirement for residents to obtain a permit for aesthetic or decorative changes to their homes.

The third issue I have focused on has been the dangerous condition of a home located mid-island. This home has become more than an eyesore; the structure has been breached by the elements, is rat infested, and is a safety risk to neighbors. I have worked to confront this issue and move the condemnation process forward. We are following all court procedures to have this structure legally condemned and torn down to return the neighborhood to its well-maintained state.

If re-elected, I will continue to give my full attention to the issues which impact our town. I will remain engaged and focused on what is in the best interest of Kiawah.

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