



## An open letter to Santa Rosa County District 4 Commissioner Rob Williamson from the Navarre Area Board of Realtors®

It's been 30 months since the people of Santa Rosa County elected you to office: The NABOR Board carefully reviewed all of your opponents, and it's fair to say that we didn't give you an easy pass; you were certainly no "shoe-in". You fairly earned our 2014 endorsement. A recommendation from NABOR is a powerful tool in any politician's arsenal, and we've been closely monitoring your performance. At this time of year, and with sights already set on the 2018 election cycle, it's fitting that we issue your report card! We've used your personal words to us, and held you accountable!

# Report Card

**Rob Williamson**  
**Term: Nov. 2014 – May 2016**

**Responsibility & Initiative: You said that you would "use your work ethic to achieve a simple goal for the county: to leave it better than you found it." Grade: A**

**Assignment: Improve the quality of life, making Santa Rosa County a more attractive place to live, work and play**

It's important that Santa Rosa County (SRC) offers competitive workforce options: You led the effort for better compensation for all county employees including the largest salary increase for the Sheriff's Office in SRC history. You increased our leisure and sports amenities by adding two additional playgrounds to District 4 and the first ever "All Inclusive" playground ensuring access for all abilities; worked with NYSA and SRC Parks Department to improve youth sports facilities and are working towards adding multiuse athletic fields to relieve pressure for currently overused facilities. You prioritized safety by adding lifeguards west of the pier and demanded better beach services. Your Navarre Park Master Site Plan will transform the venue in to a top class attraction with additional parking, new equipment and visual enhancements.

**Assignment: Address chronic areas of infrastructure concern**

You ensured a Navarre Bridge replacement and Navarre road and pedestrian enhancements (Panhandle Trail , Tom King Bayou Bridge Pedestrian Crossing) be addressed by the FL/AL TPO. You secured funding for the feasibility study of Navarre Community Access Road to relieve traffic congestion on Highway 98. You successfully led the effort to have the segment of East Navarre Parkway from Hwy 87 east to the Okaloosa County line designated as a separate segment for Highway 98 capacity improvements. This likely shaved two years off the project. You are working to improve safety by evaluating and addressing dangerous median openings on Navarre Parkway. More miles of roads in District 4 have been, or are scheduled to be re-surfaced in the next 12 months, than in the previous four years combined. You worked to alleviate traffic congestion on the beach with a dedicated right turn lane added to Gulf Blvd. four way stop intersection, and concerned about the safety of our teen drivers, you gained approval and funding of a dedicated right turn lane for Navarre School Road. You spearheaded the first ever Stormwater Drainage Maintenance Plan. **Areas for improvement: Stormwater & drainage solutions need to be prioritized, funded, and a definitive timeline for long and short term results, established.**

**Assignment: Increase Navarre's visual appearance for residents & visitors alike**

What we look like as a town is important to us as residents and business owners: Over \$1million was allocated toward median beautification efforts county wide; more than half of that amount coming to District 4. Code Enforcement was strengthened to penalize chronic offenders and signage blight has been reduced. As real estate professionals, we know that homeowners like sidewalks. You led the effort to add a sidewalks provision to the land development code and you initiated the first District 4 Master Plan ensuring that the hometown feel we cherish, is preserved when growth and development inevitably happen.

**Assignment: Conserve our most valuable resource: Our environment**

You fought for BP money resulting in the designation of \$12 million to projects that will restore the Santa Rosa Sound (a citizen cited prioritized project). You led the effort to add water quality features to Villa Venyce drainage project and confirmed Federal Grant Funding does apply to water quality features; you added Camden Drive outfall to SRC Legislative Priorities...the project was awarded \$650k of state funds, and were instrumental in adding the Navarre Park water quality project to the RESTORE Multi Year Implementation Plan. Despite the controversial timing, Beach Restoration was completed under budget, and ahead of schedule, with no negative impact to the tourism economy. It was paid for with a grant of \$7 million, the highest ever in Santa Rosa County history. **Areas for improvement: Resolve to keep the BOCC's focus on improving water quality and implement a favorable solution for the treatment of waste water on Navarre Beach.**

**Economic Development/ Tourism: Plan for tomorrow, make us competitive today**

You requested that I10 Industrial Park infrastructure improvements be added to FY16 SRC Legislative priorities, and led the effort that saw \$1 million in state funding granted to improve the facility. Within six months of taking office, you held feet to the fire to establish a ground breaking date for the new beach hotel. Fairness matters: Residential beach lease fees are now not only equitable, but earmarked for Navarre Beach related expenses. The south-end alcohol policy is no longer a deterrent to new commercial enterprise. The importance of a vibrant business community is not lost on you: Partnering with Holley Navarre Water System, you encouraged the reduction of water tap fees by 50% for any new business. You created the Heart of Navarre Tourism Corridor Improvement Plan, and approved countywide retail incentives to encourage large scale (greater than \$10 million) retail investment. You transformed Tourism outcomes by defining roles of all stakeholders, streamlining the grant process, improving transparency, productivity and accountability, and rebranded our Tourism.

**Collaboration: You said "The more challenging the problem, the more interested I am in trying to look for new and creative ways to bring stakeholders together and solve the problem." Grade: A**

**Assignment: To engage the community, and more than that, be accessible and transparent at all times**

You performed, and more importantly, acted upon the first ever District 4 Improvement Plan Survey that asked residents to identify and prioritize improvements. You established the Santa Rosa County District 4 Facebook Page. You have conducted numerous countywide "Listening Tour" & public town hall style meetings. You established a permanent office in Navarre Tourist Information Center, so we can meet you in our own backyard. You are available.

**Assignment: Ensure that Santa Rosa County interests are represented statewide & nationally**

Wherever you are, we can be confident you are working on our behalf: Board of Directors for the Florida Association of Counties; Treasurer for Florida Association of Counties Education Foundation; Vice Chairman of FL/AL Transportation Planning Organization; SRC Board representative for the Florida Gulf Consortium, the Florida 8 County Coalition, the Florida Association of Counties Trust; Current Chairman SRC Board of County Commissioners; Regional Defense Support Initiative

**Independent Work: You said you are "passionate about family, the outdoors and serving the community you're proud to call home." Grade: A**

**Assignment: Be present, be seen and contribute to a life beyond politics as an integral part of our community**

Whether it's at a memorial service, church, the ball park, a civic/charity event or the grocery store, we see you out and about as one of "us", and that's important.

**If it matters to our family, and our businesses, it clearly matters to yours. To date, you've been responsive, proactive, driven and have produced tangible results. We NEED definitive action on stormwater drainage...we are closely watching the L.O.S.T. funds... and we are counting on you to continue the momentum. Keep up the good work Commissioner.**