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# Goodwin to join FWB city council

## Polls to decide 2 open Seats

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**FORT WALTON BEACH**—Trey Goodwin, an attorney with Matthews & Hawkins, is the newest member on the Fort Walton Beach City Council.

Goodwin, who grew up in the area and graduated from Choc-tawhatchee High School in 1998, was unopposed for Seat 4 when he qualified as a candidate Dec. 30. The seat currently is held by Councilman Mike Minich, who will leave the council in March.



**TREY  
GOODWIN**

Goodwin's seat is one of three already decided before the March 8 municipal election. Councilman Dennis Reeves is unopposed for Seat 3 and Councilman C.H. "Bull" Rigdon has no opposition for Seat 6.

Two races will be decided at the polls. Katy Krueger, Bobby Griggs and Jim Frazier are running for Seat 1, while Councilwoman Joyce Gossom and former Councilman Bill Patterson are vying for Seat 2.

The five new council members will be sworn in April 1.

Goodwin, who describes himself as politically and fiscally conservative, said he decided to run for the council because he wanted to become more involved in the community.

"What I would like to see is a Fort Walton Beach that is able to capitalize on a rebounding real estate market," Goodwin said. "I want Fort Walton Beach to prosper during that time."

To be ready for the market's recovery, the city must become more business-friendly, he said.

"We've got to be attractive to business," said Goodwin, who added that the city must move beyond its base of tourism and defense contractors. "Business growth brings jobs and jobs support people."

Although he stopped short of criticizing the council for raising the city's 2011 property tax rate, Goodwin said he and many other residents are concerned about the rising millage.

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“I worry that we might be taxing some or all of our citizens to exhaustion,” he said.

Goodwin said he has heard from many residents who are willing to withstand cuts in services to avoid future tax hikes.

“I would certainly be willing to look at that,” he said. “It’s important for government not to be too laden with bureaucracy. I am more than willing to support making cuts where they’re appropriate.”

Goodwin said his interest in public service dates back to his high school days when he helped out on Charlie Clary’s first state Senate race in 1996.

“I understand it’s a time commitment,” he said. “Most things worth doing are. I look forward to putting in the effort.”

Goodwin said he and his wife, Krystle, have a 16-month-old daughter named Alexia, and are both are “deeply rooted” in the community and excited about working to make the city better.

“I want to have an open-door policy with people,” he said. “I may sit in Seat 4, but it’s not my seat. That seat belongs to the people of Fort Walton Beach.”