

KIAWAH ISLAND  
COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

# Island Issues Pulse Poll Results

SEPT. 12, 2022  
KICA BOARD MEETING



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Good Participation

JULY 25 - AUGUST 8

1,531 Members  
Participated

Input from 1,000 members is considered a good response for a pulse poll. Previous pulse polls this year received 1,250 and 1,900 responses.



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Results Overview

QUESTION 1:

## Rank 9 Topics by Importance

Please indicate the level of importance by ranking the following community-expressed topics related to island development. #1 is your highest level of interest, and #9 is your lowest level of interest.



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Results Overview

## High Importance

---

1. Increased Traffic Congestion
2. Development Impact on Wildlife Habitat & Natural Environment
3. Overcrowding of Amenities



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Results Overview

## Medium Importance

---

4. Gate Access and Traffic Management
5. Architectural Review Board (ARB) Transition
6. Flood Management



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Results Overview

## Low Importance

---

7. Enforcement of Rules
8. Landscaping
9. E-bikes



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #1

# Reduce Traffic Congestion



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #1

# Reduce Traffic Congestion

308 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- traffic congestion impacts all members
- peak-time traffic
- commercial traffic
- rate of development correlates with increase in traffic congestion
- safety concerns: speed of access for medical care, pedestrian safety
- concern with turning onto main roads from side streets
- congestion at main gate and Beachwalker intersection
- off-island congestion: Freshfields (grocery), Bohicket Road, Main Road



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #1

# Reduce Traffic Congestion

## Member Comments

---

“At the end of the day, for us, Kiawah has been about enjoying time away from cars and congestion. Congestion is broad as it threatens many aspects of island life.”

“It is harder to enter the island in the morning, leave in the afternoon and enter traffic most all day from a side road onto Kiawah Island Parkway.”

“Traffic congestion is a proxy for a bigger issue which is the overdevelopment of the island.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #2

**Minimize the Impacts  
of Development on  
Wildlife Habitat and the  
Natural Environment**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #2

# Minimize the Impacts of Development on Wildlife Habitat and the Natural Environment

430 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- the natural environment is Kiawah's greatest asset
- largest concerns with West Beach Developments: The Cape (in development) and Captain Sam's Spit (planned)
- the island is overdeveloped
- general concerns about wildlife and habitat (very few named specific animal or plant species of concern)



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #2

# Minimize the Impacts of Development on Wildlife Habitat and the Natural Environment

## Member Comments

---

“I believe that Kiawah’s culture, reputation, and island experience is centered on the incredible natural beauty of the island and the wildlife that inhabits it. Controlling the development of our precious natural space and our wildlife is critical for the long-term preservation of what living on or visiting Kiawah has been all about.”

“Development is unavoidable, but it has to be done thoughtfully, creatively, and respectfully.”

“Kiawah is special and different from other resorts/vacation areas because of preservation on natural areas and wildlife.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #3

**Minimize the  
Overcrowding  
of Amenities**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #3

# Minimize the Overcrowding of Amenities

268 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- crowding at KICA, club and resort amenities
- lack of dinner reservation availability
- lack of golf tee times
- Sandcastle pool crowding
- concern over renter/visitor use of amenities



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #3

# Minimize the Overcrowding of Amenities

## Member Comments

---

“As a part time resident, nothing is more frustrating then to get an opportunity to be on-island and not be able to get access to things because they are “full.” This is a problem with The Club, the Governors Club and often KICA amenities.”

“As a resident, it is disappointing that I have difficulty making dinner reservations, tee times, etc for the times that I want.”

“Island amenities is one of the main reasons anyone visits or lives on the island. Useability of these amenities is vital.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #4

**Tighten Gate  
Access and  
Effectively  
Manage Traffic**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #4

# Tighten Gate Access and Effectively Manage Traffic

118 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- issues with “unauthorized” island access
- island entrance signage preceding the main gate is problematic
- traffic is too often backed up at the main gate
- interest in members-only lane at main gate



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #4

# Tighten Gate Access and Effectively Manage Traffic

## Member Comments

---

“The traffic congestion at the main gate has reached a point where it is inconvenient to leave the island at times even to go into the village. Something has to be done to reroute non-residents in a different direction so that island residents can get through the gate in a more efficient manner.”

“Too many people have access to the island and are using amenities when they shouldn't be.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #5  
**Transition Away from  
Developer Control of  
Architectural Review  
Board (ARB)**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #5

# Transition Away from Developer Control of ARB

110 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- perception of inconsistent standards and subjective approval
- difficult and costly to renovate or build homes
- desire for the ARB to transition to KICA or town control
- recognition of the ARB's role in maintaining property values



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #5

# Transition Away from Developer Control of ARB

## Member Comments

---

“It is unnecessarily too difficult, time consuming, and costly to deal with the ARB.”

“The Partners have benefited from their control of the ARB and have not applied development standards evenly; this is unfair and has permitted the Partners to break commitments and obligations without consequence—they should no longer be in control of the ARB.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #6

# Continue Flood Management Efforts



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #6

# Continue Flood Management Efforts

88 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- concern with increased storm activity, sea-level rise and climate change
- concern with property values if Kiawah doesn't proactively mitigate sea-level rise or flood waters
- development concerns are irrelevant if Kiawah isn't livable due to flood waters



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #6

# Continue Flood Management Efforts

## Member Comments

---

“All the other issues become moot if Kiawah is inaccessible or uninhabitable because of flooding.”

“Sea level rise is inevitable; and preventing/minimizing the effects of flooding all over the island is key to the continued quality of life and preservation of this singular environment for all of us.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #7

**Improve  
Enforcement of  
Rules**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #7

# Improve Enforcement of Rules

53 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- concern with short-term renters and bicyclists violating rules
- concern with lack of regulation of amenity access
- rules enforcement correlates with livability



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #7

# Improve Enforcement of Rules

## Member Comments

---

“Rule Enforcement touches all areas of the island. Critical to maintaining a top notch lifestyle for owners and guests.”

“So many short term rental properties are not informed of or made to comply with the island rules.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #8

**Maintain  
Landscaping**



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #8

# Maintain Landscaping

9 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment

---

“Kiawah is pristine as-is, making it such a special and desirable place. Maintaining and enhancing landscaping contributes greatly to its value as home or a destination.”



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #9

# Evaluate E-bikes



KICA BOARD PRIORITY #9

# Evaluate E-bikes

20 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comments

---

- **Divided Opinions:**
  - Those who support the ban of e-bikes are concerned about the safety of pedestrians due to high speeds.
  - Those who would like e-bikes to be allowed on Kiawah are generally interested the slowest class of e-bike (Class 1), and may have health limitations that make pedal-assist support appealing.



---

KICA BOARD

# Other Suggested Priorities



2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS

# Other Priorities for the Board

563 MEMBER COMMENTS

## Member Comment Themes

---

- board transparency and diplomacy
- renewable energy: solar panels, electric car charging stations
- Sandcastle user fees and access policy review
- Off-island development (most notably around Freshfields) and Johns Island roads
- board's earnest pursuit to foster relationships with island entities to represent member interests



---

2022 ISLAND ISSUES PULSE POLL

# Summary



## 2022 PULSE POLL RESULTS SUMMARY

# KICA Board Priorities

### TOPIC & WEIGHTED CALCULATION

#### HIGH CONCERN

1. Increased Traffic Congestion - 7.03
2. Development Impact on Wildlife & Natural Environment - 6.55
3. Overcrowding of Amenities - 6.55

#### MEDIUM CONCERN

4. Gate Access and Traffic Management - 5.61
5. Architectural Review Board (ARB) Transition - 4.76

#### LOW CONCERN

6. Flood Management - 4.76
7. Enforcement of Rules - 4.5
8. Landscaping - 3.31
9. E-bikes - 1.93

