

CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY

NAME: William Cogswell OFFICE SEEKING: Charleston Mayor

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PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities and why?

Smart Growth, Safe Communities, and Sound Governance.

As our city grows, we need to be smart about where it is happening. Growth should follow infrastructure, not the other way around, so we don't lose our great quality of life.

Our approach to crime has been ineffective and inefficient. Let's enforce our laws on the books and make our neighborhoods and businesses safer.

To improve delivery on basic government service, we must modernize city hall and revamp our organizational chart to ensure effective governance. I will bring city council together to accomplish great things for Charleston.

DEVELOPMENT: Taxpayers complain a lot about too much development changing the character and nature of Charleston. What specifically would you do to make sure overbuilding stops and doesn't kill the tourism goose that laid our golden egg? Or would you continue things as usual, and why?

As opposed to our current city leadership, I have the vision, track record, and determination to ensure future development only enhances our city. In my career, I've earned national recognition for my preservation projects. The Cigar Factory is a great example of a complex project that I undertook to maintain our city's unique DNA. As we build, we need to build projects that fit the character and scale of our city so we don't lose what makes us special. Building in our city should happen where there is in place infrastructure to support it.



FLOODING: Seas are rising. What specifically would you do about flooding to protect property throughout the whole city?

I will use a common sense approach to tackle daily flooding problems, including prioritizing preventative maintenance in areas at high risk. I will also modernize our Stormwater Management Division and provide our field crews with the necessary tools to maintain our drainage systems effectively. As we think about a future with higher sea levels, we need to make sure that the entire city has outflows and drainage in place and not prioritize putting the whole city's tax dollars towards protecting only one region from a hurricane.

UNION PIER: What will Union Pier look like in five years and how will you work to make it fit in with Charleston and not become an overdeveloped monstrosity?

Construction for Union Pier will be underway with a Charleston-first plan that benefits all of our residents, including adequate green space, lower-density housing, and local business opportunities. We have a strong-mayor system - no developments should be allowed to go through unless they fit the scale and needs of our residents. Charleston needs to lead from the front on Union Pier and all city projects, where currently we've been taking orders. With vision for the future and strong leadership, we can utilize our city's beautiful character to make it more special and affordable for all of us who live here.