



CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY

NAME: Debra J. Gammons
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PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities and why?

- A. Develop a strong strategic plan with comprehensive inclusion of all neighborhoods to restore our beautiful City with a safe, clean, place to live, work, and visit; addressing overbuilding, water access, and preservation of homes and historic buildings.
 - Planning is necessary for our citizens' well-being.
- B. Create the Mayor's Task Advisory Committee with volunteers from the peninsula, Johns Island, West of the Ashley, James Island, and Daniel Island.
 - To ensure equality, diversity, and fairness in working together.
- C. Increase effective Police Protection with regular visits (foot, bicycles, horses) to all neighborhoods.
 - To build relationships, establish trust, and prevent crimes.

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?

- A. Place a moratorium on building until we create the strong strategic plan with a clear vision; stopping to see where we are and where we need to go to preserve our charm, respect, and quality of life. We need to amend Zoning Ordinances with height restrictions; limits on hotels; preservation of rivers, creeks, marshes, trees.
- B. Amend Ordinances/Statutes requiring that visitors/tourists share in the cost of using our roads, water, sewer.

NOTE: Answers for each question were limited to 100 words. Answers were provided by the candidate in response to a survey by the Charleston City Paper. Candidates who did not return surveys were not considered for an editorial endorsement.



- C. Amend Ordinances (Business Licenses and Building Permits) to provide a substantial percentage of affordable/workforce housing; planting trees and preventing cutting down established trees; have builders share in cost of repairing roads and sidewalks.

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

- A. Inspect and clean all drains on a regular basis.
- B. Clean the streets and keep them free of litter and debris.
- C. After engineering reviews, raise street levels in flood-prone areas.
- D. Remove concrete to allow the natural flow of water; install retention ponds.
- E. Prohibit building over creeks and marshes.
- F. Restrict the cutting down of established trees; plant more trees.

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?

I will work with the Mayor's Task Advisory Committee, City Council, advocacy and non-profit organizations, Charleston Historic Foundation, Preservation Society of Charleston, Coastal Conservation League, and everyone for a beautiful environment that extends our City's connection to the water – allowing views of and access to the water. I see a mixed-use area that includes

- A. a green space park with access to the Cooper River – for people to sit, fish, shrimp, play, ride bikes, and walk;
- B. residences that are affordable;
- C. small businesses that provide for surrounding neighborhoods' needs. Buildings will have height restrictions.