



CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY

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PRIORITIES: What are your top three priorities and why?

Public Safety, Flooding/Infrastructure, Quality of life

Public safety is job one; That's why I've increased our police and fire budgets every year I've been mayor, to ensure we have the best-paid police and firefighters in the state. Regarding traffic, we're working with our federal, state and local partners on major infrastructure projects, including widening Glenn McConnell, and the Northern Pitchfork on John's Island. See question 3 for flooding. Quality of life is at the forefront of every decision we make and that is why we have been focused on improving the city parks we have and building new ones.

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?

I share the concern regarding the quality of life challenges tourism brings. That is why we have worked together with Explore Charleston to change their focus from the quantity of tourists to the yield per tourist. This shift allows our tourist-related business to survive while we slow the increase in tourist population on the peninsula.

I will continue to advocate for more autonomy regarding tax revenue generated by tourism so that we can use it to improve the quality of life of our residents.

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



There are over 50 flooding projects completed or underway to mitigate flooding and increase our resilience across the city. Additionally, we have entered into a new partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to analyze everything we have done and what remains to be done to protect all parts of our city from rising sea levels. By including them in this partnership, we become eligible for federal funding (up to 65%) on future projects. This funding will allow us to address major and smaller projects to keep Charleston safe and dry.

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?

In five years, Union Pier will be on the way to becoming a beautiful and appropriately scaled community that preserves the character and fabric of Charleston. It will enhance the surrounding communities and bring more public parks and access to the waterfront while also increasing our protection from sea level rise and flooding. With the help of the Riley Institute and additional public engagement, we will see a new plan that reflects the needs and wants of our community. I will work alongside experts, the public, and city council to ensure we have the right plan for Charleston.