



## **NORTH CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY**

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### **PRIORTIES: What are your top three priorities and why?**

- a. **Crime:** High crime rates can have a detrimental impact on the quality of life in a community. Reducing crime and creating safer neighborhoods is fundamental to ensuring the safety and well-being for citizens.
- b. **Affordable Housing:** Affordable housing contributes to economic stability within a community and social equity.
- c. **Economic Development:** Economic development contributes to an improved quality of life for residents by increasing access to goods, services, cultural amenities, and educational opportunities. Economic growth can help lift people out of poverty by providing stable employment and income-earning opportunities.

### **GROWTH: Charleston is experiencing overdevelopment that is pushing people into North Charleston. What is your plan to accommodate growth while keeping neighborhoods intact in North Charleston?**

As mayor, I will embrace smart growth principles, which encourage development that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable, and socially equitable; such as, mixed-use development, affordable housing, frequent and reliable public transportation as well as walkable neighborhoods. I will protect green spaces and parks within neighborhoods. These areas provide recreational opportunities and contribute to the overall quality of life for residents. I will also implement affordable housing initiatives to ensure that a diverse range of residents can continue to live in North Charleston. I will certainly identify and protect historic districts and landmarks within North Charleston. Historic preservation can maintain the character of neighborhoods and attract heritage tourism.

### **SAFETY: North Charleston has been ranked one of the nation's most violent cities in recent years. While the crime rate has come down, what will you do as**



## **mayor to make the city safer for families?**

I will use data and technology to identify crime hotspots and allocate resources strategically to address high-crime areas effectively. I plan to implement and strengthen community policing programs to build positive relationships between law enforcement officers and residents. This approach fosters trust, improves communication, and encourages collaboration in addressing safety concerns. I will promote access to mental health services and addiction treatment programs to address underlying issues that can contribute to crime. Collaborate with healthcare providers and organizations to expand mental health resources. I will collaborate with the forensic psychologist to identify and address systemic issues contributing to crime and violence. I will also look for economic development opportunities for disadvantaged individuals by providing entry level job training opportunities.

## **COMMUNITY: If you had an extra \$100 million to spend over five years to make North Charleston a stronger community, what one thing would you invest in and why?**

I would invest in communities to identify the major concerns. Such as, investing in education and youth development which can contribute to crime reduction. Engaged and educated young people are less likely to engage in criminal activities, ultimately making the community safer. Preparing our youth with 21st-century skills, including digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving, positions North Charleston as a hub for innovation and prepares students for the jobs of the future.