



## **NORTH CHARLESTON CANDIDATE SURVEY**

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

My administration will focus on key crime, economic development, and housing initiatives. Based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, physiological and safety needs are the most important. Psychological needs include food, housing, and water; improving economic opportunities will satisfy residents' basic survival needs. 18.1% of N. Charleston residents are considered impoverished, but our administration will work to lower poverty by creating jobs that are obtainable for N. Charleston residents. Safety is next among the lower-level needs based on Maslow's hierarchy. Safety includes protection from violence and theft, but N. Charleston leads the state in crime.

### **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?**

To accommodate growth in North Charleston while preserving neighborhood integrity, we propose a comprehensive plan that includes:

1. Community Engagement: Foster community involvement in planning decisions to ensure residents' voices are heard.
2. Green Spaces: Create and preserve green spaces, parks, and community gardens to enhance quality of life and provide recreational opportunities.
3. Infrastructure Investment: Prioritize infrastructure improvements, including roads, public transit, and utilities, to support population growth without straining resources.

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.



4. Zoning Review: Conduct a thorough zoning review to ensure mixed-use development, allowing for residential and commercial spaces while protecting the character of existing neighborhoods.

**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?**

To make N. Charleston safer for families, my administration will work to improve police community relations; building trust and fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community is vital. As a city, we must address city bail bonding programs and other actions that allow violent offenders to receive slaps on the wrist after committing egregious crimes with a high probability of re-offending. To improve police community relations, we will improve community engagement, neighborhood watch, and citizen advisory board programs. We will partner with law enforcement to combat crime and improve safety in North Charleston.

**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?**

Investing in North Charleston's educational outcomes is paramount for future success. Prioritizing:

1. Quality Teachers: Attracting and retaining skilled educators with competitive salaries and growth opportunities.
2. Smaller Class Sizes: Ensuring personalized attention by reducing student teacher ratios.
3. Curriculum Enhancement: Updating curricula with relevant subjects, digital literacy, and practical skills.
4. Early Intervention: Identifying struggling students early and providing tailored support.



5. Parental Engagement: Cultivating strong home-school partnerships with parents.

6. Technology Integration: Equipping schools with modern technology for interactive learning.

This investment will nurture a skilled workforce, attract businesses, foster economic growth, reduce crime, and build a thriving community.