

## Charlotte City Council – At-Large 2009 Candidate Questionnaire

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### **What is the number one issue facing our community and how do you plan to address it?**

*Charlotte must remain competitive. When city taxes and regulations compare unfavorably with surrounding counties and states, businesses will not call the Queen City home.*

*The most important initiative to undertake is to create a more competitive and business friendly environment that will attract companies which are migrating to the south. Businesses have choices and they will not call the Queen City home if: 1. we continue to raise taxes/fees and 2. if government continues to expand faster than the population growth, thereby creating a more costly and inefficient place to live and work. Unfortunately, our current course is helping create competitive advantages for other communities throughout the state as well as other states throughout the southeast in attracting jobs – all to the detriment of Charlotte's workforce.*

- *Cut government red tape to facilitate businesses/jobs coming to Charlotte.*
- *Keep the regulatory burden to a minimum. Any proposed regulation should meet a rigorous test of cost-benefit analysis.*
- *Create a customer-service oriented culture in city government.*
- *Support specific parameters that help recruit jobs in energy, biotech, manufacturing and Fortune 500 Companies.*
- *Create an environment which addresses the needs of small businesses and promotes entrepreneurial growth by endorsing the continuation of the Qualified Business Venture State Tax Credit which provides 25% of personal state income tax relief on investments in small businesses.*

### **Do you support a transfer tax or impact fee on real estate? Please explain your answer.**

*No. Any new taxes/fees are totally unacceptable, especially during these difficult economic times for residents and businesses.*

### **How do you propose to keep housing affordable in our community?**

*Given the current economic climate we actually have a surplus of affordable housing. I support housing being available for every economic level with housing inventory being market driven.*

**Inclusionary housing policies, voluntary and mandatory, have been suggested for developing additional affordable housing in our community. Do you support any type of inclusionary housing policies? Please explain your answer.**

*Answered above*

**Do you support a fee-based rental registration program for all rental units throughout the city of Charlotte? Please explain your answer.**

*The City should have a complete list of owners for all rental property so that landlords can be notified of problems at their properties and ultimately be more accountable for criminal activity.*

**Paying for roads is a community responsibility. How do you plan to address prioritizing and funding the road construction and maintenance needs of Charlotte?**

*Congestion threatens our economy and we must keep people moving by having a sound transportation plan and road system.*

- *Encourage flex-time, ridesharing and work-at-home programs*
- *Improve intersection turns and synchronized signal systems*
- *Use innovative highway and intersection designs*
- *Continue to lobby Raleigh for our fair share of transportation dollars in order to complete the loop and widen the lanes on the southern portion of the loop.*
- *City funding should be allocated to care for city roads first rather than subsidizing the maintenance of state and federal highways.*