

No Vote . . . No Voice

Voter Guide to Charlottesville City Council Elections 2004

The Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization Project is proud to present this “*Voter Guide to the Charlottesville City Council Elections 2004.*”

The Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization Project is a non-partisan collaborative effort of a wide range of community groups and social service agencies in the Charlottesville area convened by the Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR), Quality Community Council (QCC) and the Virginia Organizing Project (VOP).

This guide includes information about the general election for Charlottesville City Council on May 4, 2004, how to register to vote and where to vote, and how to vote by absentee ballot. The main part of the guide consists of answers to 11 questions posed to all six candidates for the May 4 election, appearing in alphabetical order. In the last section of the guide are ways to get involved in the electoral process and answers to frequently asked questions regarding elections.

Ballot Information

General Information

- The next General Election is Tuesday, May 4, 2004. On the ballot are candidates for the May General Election. You must be registered to vote by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2004, to be eligible to vote in this election.
- If you will be away from the City of Charlottesville on Election Day or are unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability, you may vote by absentee ballot.
- Citizens needing to verify their voter registration status are encouraged to call the General Registrar's office at 970-3250 as early as possible prior to the April 5th voter registration deadline.

Ballot Information for the Charlottesville City Council as it will appear on the ballot May 4th:

- Kenneth Wayne Jackson (R)
- Ann Reinicke (R)
- David E. Brown (D)
- Kendra Hamilton (D)
- Kevin J. Lynch (D)
- Vance D. High (I)

Please note: Virginia law does not allow party affiliation on the ballot for local elections. The party designations listed above will NOT be on the ballot for the May 4th election.

General Election

May 4, 2004

Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Important Information

Absentee voting will begin on March 22, 2004, in the Office of Voter Registration for voters who will not be in Charlottesville on May 4.

- Deadline to register to vote
Monday, April 5, 2004 by 5 p.m.
- Absentee Ballot Applications by mail deadline
Thursday, April 29, 2004 by 5 p.m.
- Absentee Ballot Applications in person deadline
Saturday, May 1, 2004 by 5 p.m.

I N S I D E

Voter Registration Information and Voting Precincts	..2
Candidates' Responses to Questions3
Frequently Asked Questions15
Getting Involved16

Voter Registration Information

You are eligible to register to vote in the City of Charlottesville if you are:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Virginia
- A legal resident of The City of Charlottesville
- At least 18 years of age or will be 18 by the next general election
- Have not been convicted of a felony or adjudicated mentally incompetent (or the right to vote has been restored)

Any permanent resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia may register to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Registration closes 29 days prior to a general or primary election and thirteen days before a special election. You may register in any Registrar's office or by mail.

Voter Registration in Person

Voter registration is available at all Department of Motor Vehicles Offices and at many public assistance agencies. In Charlottesville the following sites offer voter registration:

City Hall Annex, Room 122
120 7th Street NE
Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Department of Motor Vehicles
2055 Abbey Road
Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. and Saturday 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Voter Registration by Mail

You may request an application by calling 970-3250, or pick an application up at one of the above sites. You may also download the application via the Internet. However, voters who register by mail who have never registered to vote in Virginia before must vote in person and present an identification the first time they vote. Exceptions to this requirement are students away at school; citizens overseas; members of the armed forces, their dependents; and, senior citizens.

When your registration is received and accepted by the registrar, you will be sent a Voter Registration Card notifying you of your polling place. This card may be used as identification for voting. It may not be used for any other identification purpose including proof of citizenship.

Once registered you are always registered for any election. You will always vote at the same polling place unless it is changed or you move. If the polling place is changed, you will be notified by the registrar of voters. If you move, you must advise the registrar in writing. You may use the reverse side of your voter registration card for changes.

Virginia Voter Registration Application

The Virginia Voter Registration Application is available for download from <http://www.sbe.state.va.us/votregserv/Forms/registration.appl.download.htm> in Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF). You must have the

Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to view or print the application.

After downloading the application form:

1. Print the form
2. Read the instructions accompanying the form
3. Fill out the requested information on the form carefully
4. Sign the application
5. Mail the completed application to your local general registrar's office

Change of Address

You must be registered in the precinct wherein you reside. To change your address you must notify the registrar in writing to P. O. Box 911, Charlottesville, VA 22902, or send e-mail to vote@charlottesville.org

You may use the reverse of your voter registration card for this purpose. You may also change your address in person in the registrar's office. If you have moved to another location within Virginia, your voter registration will be sent to the registrar of your new residence. If you have moved outside the Commonwealth of Virginia you must register in your new state of residence.

Voting Precincts

- Recreation Precinct (101) – 800 East Market Street
Votes in Downtown Recreation Center
- Clark Precinct (102) – 1000 Belmont Avenue
Votes in Clark Elementary School Gym
- Carver Precinct (201) – 223 4th Street. NW
Votes in Carver Recreation Center at Jefferson School
- Walker Precinct (202) – 1564 Dairy Road
Votes in Walker Upper Elementary School Gym
- Tonsler Precinct (301) – 435 Cherry Avenue
Votes in Tonsler Park Recreation Center
- Jefferson Park Precinct (302) – 2512 Jefferson Park Avenue
Votes in ballroom of Fry's Spring Beach Club
- Venable Precinct (401) – 406 14th St., NW
Votes in Venable Elementary School Gym
- Alumni Hall Precinct (402) – 211 Emmet St
Votes in main Ballroom of Alumni Hall at UVA



David Brown

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the neighborhoods? What is your opinion regarding gentrification?

The increasing costs of housing, both to rent and to own, are making it harder for families to afford to continue to live in Charlottesville. We must not allow Charlottesville neighborhoods to undergo gentrification – where only the affluent can afford to live in the city – but instead we must strive to make our neighborhoods safe and affordable.

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville? Please be specific.

Affordable housing – housing that requires no more than 30 percent of a person's income – is a critical issue for Charlottesville. Charlottesville must remain a community in which working families can afford to live. The City should create incentives for developers to include affordable units in their mix of residential projects, and should ensure through land trusts or other policies that home ownership programs do not contribute to increased assessments, property values and housing costs.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the public schools?

Not only should the City support the school board in its effort to increase expectations and achievements of all students, but the City can help in other ways. The city can help low-

income parents have the time, skills and resources to invest in their children. The city can also promote after-school and summer activities to augment the learning which occurs in our school system, and can ensure that early childhood education means that all children enter school ready to learn.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the buses on Sundays?

Yes. City residents who depend on our buses for transportation to work should be able to use them on Sundays and evenings.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents including felons coming out of prison? What are your goals for economic development?

The best way to assist low-income and high-risk residents is by creating opportunity: educational opportunity for both children and adults; employment opportunity; and the opportunity for meaningful and genuine involvement in the working of our City. Ex-felons should share in all of these opportunities, beginning with restoration of voting rights.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who are not registered?

The City should advocate for the repeal of laws keeping former felons from voting; once a person has served their sentence he or she should be a full participant in our city, including voting. The City should reach out to neighborhoods in which voter registration is low, by having meetings in those communities as a way of increasing the interest of residents to participate in our government. City councilors should spend time in low-income neighborhoods in order to understand issues and concerns.

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

It is appalling that in our country a person can work full-time, or even hold a second job, and still live in poverty. Creating a skilled and educated workforce, and developing good jobs, with benefits, is the long-term solution to these problems.

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services for their clients?

Decreased state and federal funding of community agencies, and our schools, is a serious problem. Council must address this problem by working in Richmond and Washington to make sure that state and federal governments fulfill their commitments. Council also must make sure that essential needs are met, even with decreased funding. Communication and coordination with agencies and communities is required to ensure that even the poorest among us have their needs addressed.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

It is important that the City police department operate without bias. I think the current emphasis on community policing, as it progresses, will be very helpful in promoting understanding between the police and neighborhoods. Keeping track of ethnic data could provide some useful information, but at the same time numbers by themselves may not paint a complete picture.

What are your positions on the following:

- Moving city council elections to November?
- An elected mayor?
- A ward system?

I support moving the election to November, which would save the city money and result in higher turnout. We should carefully and fully consider the pros and cons of an elected mayor and a ward system. We need to be careful that any changes do not adversely affect minority representation on City Council.

Is there anything you would like to add that is not addressed in the above questions?

A healthy trend in Charlottesville is the activism emerging in our lower-income neighborhoods. In the past concerns of lower-income residents have not always been acknowledged; in the future both the activism of neighborhood residents and the priorities of City government should ensure that issues and problems affecting all of our residents are addressed.



Kendra Hamilton

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the neighborhoods? What is your opinion regarding gentrification?

Throughout the recession and “jobless recovery” that we’re in right now, the housing market has provided the only “good” economic news. It’s been creating construction jobs – and for middle class folks who own their homes, it’s created a cushion. They have one solid asset in spite of the fact that stocks and retirement savings are vanishing.

But retired people living on fixed incomes can’t absorb the higher taxes. Renters are suffering, because landlords have no choice but to pass on the increased tax and insurance burdens they face to their tenants. And now, assessments are rising so high so fast in some neighborhoods that the even the middle class is starting to feel the bite.

In and of itself, gentrification isn’t necessarily bad. It’s a good thing that dilapidated housing is being fixed up and the city is getting enough tax income to meet citizens’ needs. But when the influx of higher-income people starts forcing out the poor and even the middle class – and things are getting to that point – that threatens the character of neighborhoods, the

relationships that form a community. And if we don’t care about that, we ought to.

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville? Please be specific.

In 2003, you needed to make \$13.42 an hour – \$28,000 a year for a family of four – to afford to Charlottesville’s “fair market rent” of \$698. Guess how many people in the city couldn’t afford that rent? 44 percent. People at the poverty line – \$19,000 for a family of four – can only afford a rent of \$477 a month. Someone making minimum wage? \$268 a month. Someone on SSI? Only \$166 a month.

There’s lots of development in Charlottesville, but it’s all high-end. The developers want to make money and, given the costs of new construction, they can’t do it building affordable housing – unless government helps. But the federal and state governments are opting out. The city is on its own here.

We already target some low-income renters with subsidies; we also help some low-income buyers with low-interest loans. But can we do more? I think so. Other cities give density bonuses, tax credits, tax increment financing, and property tax abatements to get banks and developers to buy in. If we find mechanisms that allow banks and developers to “do the right thing” and still make money, then we can start making a dent in the need.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the public schools?

We know that when it comes to setting basic patterns for learning and achievement, the first five years are critical. But we also know that low-income families who don’t have safe, affordable places to live are less able to provide an environment in which children can thrive. If parents face long commutes or work two or three jobs to make the rent, that cuts into their ability to nurture their kids. If they’re paying 50 percent or more of their income for rent, other critical things are neglected: books, clothing, toys, even nutrition.

So any approach we adopt has to stress high-quality early childhood education as well as elementary education. Fortunately, we have great resources in this community. First, there’s UVA’s Curry School, which just received a large grant to develop elementary school “best practices” that can be used around the country. We need to explore partnerships with them. Second, the current members of the school board strike me as diverse, educated about the issues, and concerned. I look forward to talking with them to gain a better understanding of our problems and possible solutions. Third, parents – especially low-income parents – are an underused resource. I’ll work to change that.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the buses on Sundays?

I absolutely support expanding the hours of bus service, especially to Sundays. As I mentioned in my nominating speech at the Democratic convention, we’re very proud in Charlottesville, from an environmental standpoint, that so many of our citizens use public transit to get to work. But too many of us don’t know how difficult the bus system is to use. We don’t know that transfers have to be timed just right or you may wind up waiting an hour for the next bus. We don’t know that the bus routes don’t take our citizens where they need to go. For example, there’s no bus to the magistrate’s office – that’s a criminal oversight. And while we sit in restaurants enjoying our Sunday brunch, it doesn’t occur to us that the people in the kitchen cooking and serving had to have a car, beg a ride, or walk there, because Sunday is a day of rest for CTS. Well, nice for the bus drivers – not at all nice for the people who need the service.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents including felons coming out of prison? What are your goals for economic development?

We’re always being told that we’re an “information society,” but what does that mean? It means that the riches of our society no longer lie in factories and machines – society’s riches are its human beings and the things they know. But folks in our society don’t know nearly enough for their own good. How many folks in

prison have college degrees? Only about 3 percent. But 68 percent of state prison inmates didn't finish high school. And the states are busy eliminating educational programs for prisoners even though studies prove that completing a degree program drastically lowers your chances of ending up back behind bars.

My philosophy is that economic development is directly linked with educational development. Fortunately, we're a town with tremendous resources. There's CATEC, PVCC, and the University of Virginia, to name just three. We've got to explore the kind of partnerships that will get our young people prepared to work in expanding fields, like biotech – or teach them about fields like hospitality or skilled trades that will give them the chance to become small business owners. I'll use my position on council to encourage that process.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who are not registered?

Right now, restoring the rights of ex-felons is a matter that's in the hands of the General Assembly. We need to work with those lawmakers and educate them in our core belief that there are NO "throwaway people" – that everybody, eventually, has to be re-integrated into society. We can agree with the "tough-on-crime" legislators that there is such a thing as human evil; there are predators who need to be kept away from the rest of us. But those predators are very much in the minority in our prisons, which are filled with people who landed there through personal weakness or simple human error. Once those people have paid their debt to society, they need to be educated in what it means to be a citizen – voting, paying taxes, and all the rest – and brought back into our midst as our brothers and sisters. I don't know what's the correct mechanism for making that happen, but it would be a priority for me to talk to the right people to find out what that is.

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

That certainly is a high figure, and it speaks to several failures in our society. It speaks to the failure of our schools to give students who are not college bound productive career alterna-

tives. It also speaks to the failure of the local economy to generate jobs that provide a middle class lifestyle. Charlottesville City Council is not going to be able to do much to address the fact that there is a national recession, but we can set raising the overall level of our work force in terms of education and quality as a priority and gather together the community's best minds – from the Chamber of Commerce, UVA's Darden School, and the community at large – to brainstorm solutions to the problem.

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services for their clients?

I think we have to recognize that generating revenue for local services is an area where the state has a lot more resources at its disposal than city council does. Fortunately, Governor Warner seems to be in the process of riding to our rescue right now. Recognizing the pain and suffering caused at the local level by the car tax cut, among others, he has courageously offered a tax reform package. The fact that the Republicans in the General Assembly have not rejected the idea out of hand – and are generating their own proposals – means they realize localities are hurting, too. So help is on the way, and we can do a couple of things to help move that along. As a city, we can band together with other cities to pressure the state government to take care of its responsibilities. And individually, we can vote for candidates who share our belief in people and communities.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

I don't know that that's necessary. I think it's far more important that the community policing model spread to every neighborhood.

What are your positions on the following:

Moving city council elections to November?

- I'm in favor of it.

An elected mayor?

- Once your town gets to be a certain size, an elected mayor is probably crucial. But in a

town the size of Charlottesville, it could lead to more problems than it might solve. First of all, it would be expensive. You'd have to find a mayor with real expertise and pay him or her a real salary. And then, giving the mayor hiring/firing authority over the city staff might be a good thing – and it might not. Especially if the mayor doesn't really know what he or she is doing. Lastly, if you get a mayor who's good, there's the temptation to keep electing him. In my hometown, our mayor is on his 8th term – that's 32 years! If you have an ethical mayor, maybe that's fine. But in many towns, it leads to corruption, with the mayor creating his or her own "machine" and handing out rewards to buddies and punishments to enemies. In the current system, the mayor's power is mostly symbolic, not real, and the council acts as a check on anyone who might develop "the big head." I don't think that's a bad thing.

A ward system?

- Again, it will be expensive and we have to ask ourselves: what's the problem the change is meant to solve? Most of the time, when cities or counties change from at-large voting to wards/districts, it's because somebody's being excluded from the process. So I think we have to ask, who's being excluded in Charlottesville? Is it blacks? No, there's been a black on council almost every year since 1972, and we've had black mayors as well. Is it women? No, there have been excellent female councilors and mayors, too. In fact, the folks who are having the hardest time getting on council are the folks who made the proposal: the Republicans. And their situation won't necessarily change if we get wards. It'll only change when the Republican party starts running better candidates. So, sure, explore the idea of wards. But I'm not sure the current system is broken. Having all the councilors accountable to all the people makes them listen to all the people, not just the ones in their neighborhood. What's wrong with that?

Is there anything you would like to add that is not addressed in the above questions?

I care about housing affordability, commu-

nity-police relations, the achievement gap, and workforce and economic development. I think these are crucial issues affecting our community, issues that have not always received the hearing that they deserve. I'm committed to letting the whole community speak to me about these issues, because whether you're a candidate or a councilor, in an at-large system you have to be accessible and to listen to all the voices. You never know where the next great idea is going to come from.



Vance High

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the neighborhoods? What is your opinion regarding gentrification?

Increased housing costs are making it more problematic for those on limited budgets. When costs increase, then the affected residents have to move or live with others. This creates overcrowded conditions and disrupts the family structure. One solution is family ownership of their homes. Home ownership creates feelings of responsibility and pride. Without ownership, there is a vacuum of responsibility. This often leads to discord. This discord may foster dysfunctional family issues and can lead to disruptive behavior in the family unit. The higher priced neighborhoods are a barrier to home ownership when "goodwill money" needed for a down payment on a home is substantially higher than most have saved.

Neighborhoods reflect who live there. They mirror the socioeconomic conditions of residents. If the residents are "renters" they have less of an incentive to maintain the property. Home ownership creates feelings of improved self-esteem, self-image, and confidence of those living in the neighborhood. They have an invested interest to maintain their homes and property.

When people are displaced by gentrification, the neighborhood loses character. I strongly feel that loans should be available to the economically disadvantaged so they can refurbish these types of homes. In a case-by-case basis, these types of loans should have a forgiveness clause, essentially a "no pay back" option dependent on certain conditions. Only 40 percent of housing in Charlottesville is owner occupied. I would work to change this by utilizing Virginia Individual Development Account programs, which offer matching funds if certain criteria are met. The Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries is helping to facilitate one such state grant through a program called "Friendship Circles."

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville? Please be specific.

Affordable housing is the amount of housing one can "realistically" afford with their net income. That should not exceed 40 percent of their monthly salary. I would increase the number of affordable rent units with multilevel structures and incorporate attached homes (duplexes) in development plans before the Planning Commission.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the city schools?

I would organize a mentoring program with students who are performing a high level tutoring those having difficulties. I would also implement a program of follow-up of these students so they would not fall between the cracks as they advance from grade to grade.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the bus lines on Sundays? Why or why not?

I support expanding the hours of bus transportation including Sunday hours. If used, it would help reduce city traffic congestion. Incentives need to be found to promote bus utilization as trends show they would. In 2003, Charlottesville Transit Service riders were up by 16 percent.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents (including felons coming out of prison)? What are your goals for economic development?

I would make sure that all residents in these categories be aware of resources with social service agencies like Region 10. I desire that all individuals with specific needs have support group to address their needs and offer assistance. My goals for economic development are 1) maximize business production to promote synergy, 2) attract new businesses, 3) foster cooperation of businesses to utilize resources more efficiently and 4) train and retrain the residential workforce to thrive in the changing economic conditions of the 21st century.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who are not registered?

I would send them voter registration materials and follow up with a phone call.

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

I would make them aware of available jobs through the employment commission and US mail. The library has postings for positions on www.Monticello.org

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services for their clients?

I would apply for federal grant money to support these agencies and search for ways they could utilize resources within the existing system. Their clients would be served by referring them to other potential resources, retraining, or offering services on a less frequent, but adequate basis.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

No, I have not favored racial stereotyping and would never support tracking this information.

What are your positions on the following election-related issues?

Moving city council elections to November?

- I favor this move.

An elected mayor?

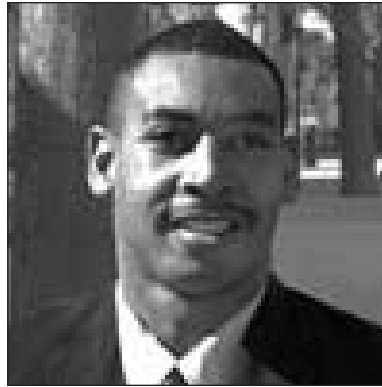
- I favor this move.

A ward system?

I favor the ward system, which is used in many other Virginia municipalities, including Richmond.

Is there anything you would like to add that is not addressed in the above questions?

I want to thank the Quality Community Council for providing a central place to address these concerns, but welcome personal inquiries on the above questions. I am listed in the Charlottesville telephone directory. I urge everyone to vote in the May 4th election based on the issues and not parties. I am a member of the Democrat National Party, but felt our local party was not addressing the protection of our environment and the Rivanna watershed. Those streams and tributaries within the city limits need monitoring and protection. Water is a key to our quality of life in the region. My motto is to ENGAGE, SUPPORT, AND INVOLVE our citizens with the decisions affecting the present and future. You can do that by casting a vote for me on May 4th. Your voice will be heard with a VOTE FOR VANCE D. HIGH.



Kenneth Jackson

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the neighborhoods? What is your opinion regarding gentrification?

The high cost of rental and home ownership is changing the face of most of our working, lower-income and retired citizens in the Charlottesville neighborhoods. These individuals are moving out, or finding it hard to obtain adequate housing in a reasonable financial range.

I feel that Charlottesville's "Neighborhood Revitalization" statement is merely a phase which means the forced removal through financial manipulation, of fixed, and low-income families and individuals as well as working class citizens. This principal is based mainly on income, and seriously needs to be reviewed and revised.

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville? Please be specific.

Affordable housing to me means that someone working or generating income from other sources can and should be able to find dwelling in this city. The stock of housing in Charlottesville is already adequate, but the idea that Charlottesville is in a "housing, and land crunch has" falsely inflated the prices of rental and ownership properties in our community.

It is essential that we recall and review the recent comprehensive plan.

The city must also work hard to attract new and higher wage industry to this area, and insure training for these jobs are readily available.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the city schools?

My stand on providing all students from K-4 with a solid core based curriculum in reading, writing math and social skills would allow for the achievement gap to be closed. It would give educators a chance to pinpoint individual student's weaknesses, and strengthen those weaknesses through study and other interventions. This also gives the student a solid foundation for grades 6-12 and beyond.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the bus lines on Sundays? Why or why not?

My decision on extending the hours of busses and adding on another day would greatly depend on the number of patrons that would utilize its services, as well as the cost effectiveness of this endeavor.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents (including felons coming out of prison)? What are your goals for economic development?

City Council has the unique position to be at the forefront of low-income and high-risk citizens. It is council's job to improve and strengthen its community and its citizens. By attracting new and better wage industry, strengthening existing businesses, and promoting positive views on those individuals in these classes and training them to handle today's workforce, we have the ability to make these individuals a productive and viable part of the Charlottesville community.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who are not registered?

It is imperative that as politicians we get out and involve those in our community in the decision making process. We must help them to understand how government works, and that their voice and opinions count. As to the rights

Do you need information on restoration of your voting rights?

New procedures have been put into place to make restoration of former felons' voting rights easier in Virginia!

Call the registrar of voters at 970-3250 for more information!

of felons to vote, if voting is a right and not a privilege, can it ever be taken away? And if it can be taken, what other rights that we hold so dear are in danger of being taken?

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

Being one of those one in four myself, I can relate to this question quite well. But I feel that this is best addressed by the responses to questions 2, 3, and 5 as well as working on a health-care plan for ages 20 to 50.

This is simple; one a healthy and well-educated individual can work harder and better. And the expansion of existing businesses and the incorporation of new businesses would allow for better more lucrative jobs. A strong diverse training program would make for better-trained and valuable workforce.

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services for their clients?

I would first want to sit down with supervisors and workers of effected agencies, and find out what shortfalls the proposed cuts would effect and how. Then I would take said data and meet with both state and federal representatives and find out what steps could be taken to alleviate any negative short falls caused by decreased funding.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

This information in some form is kept and can be accessed, for several reasons, either to ensure that, certain officers are not using profiling; or to verify where, when, and what transpired at a certain period and who was involved.

What are your positions on the following:

- *Moving city council elections to November?*
- *An elected mayor?*
- *A ward system?*

I'm in favor of moving elections to November, it offers larger voter turn-out, and

reduces cost significantly saving thousands of tax dollars.

I am for elected mayor, for at least a minimum two-year term. The mayor is the person who set the council agenda, and should be elected by the people, to ensure that the citizens have a strong and positive voice, and should be accountable to the citizens.

I favor a six to one ward-voting system. In this system it would offer citizens greater candidate choice; by reducing the now 15,000.00 to 20,000.00 dollar cost it takes to run a campaign, to 1,000.00 to 1,500.00 dollars. The new system would allow two minority-populated areas greater control over electing representative officials, as well as allow greater input from low-income and working class. Finally, it would make representatives more answerable to the citizens who have elected them, being as they are elected from their own community in which they live.

Is there anything you would like to add that is not addressed in the above questions?

It is imperative that citizens take part in the decision making of their representatives and voice their concerns, dislikes, and favorable opinions. It is also just as important that they have a government that will listen and act on them.

My theme is, "Working Better Together"; it is my belief that government is of, for and by the people, and must work with and for the betterment of its people and all of its citizens. But it can not do this unless we communicate with one another.



Kevin Lynch

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the

neighborhoods? What is your opinion regarding gentrification?

There are three main reasons for increased housing costs in the City: First, the University has not built enough housing to keep up with the increase in students. These students are competing with residents for rental housing. Second, the City has become the place of choice where many people want to live. This increases the sales price of homes. Third, interest rates are low, which increases the amount of money which people are able to invest in housing. These factors bring new residents and new investment to City neighborhoods.

Gentrification has a positive side and a negative side. New investment is good for City neighborhoods. Houses get fixed up. Substandard housing is replaced with new housing. The wealth of existing homeowners increases. However the negative side is that people, especially renters, can be displaced. This is one of the reasons that the City has been encouraging renters to become home owners. Because interest rates are low, it is often cheaper to own a house then rent. The neighborhood can benefit from the new investment of home ownership without the loss of existing residents

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville? Please be specific.

Affordable housing is housing that takes up no more than a third of a person's paycheck. Each person's definition of affordable depends on how much he or she makes. It is useful to note than in Charlottesville, more than 40 percent of renters spend more than a third of their paycheck on rent, while only 14 percent of homeowners spend more than a third of their paycheck on a mortgage.

I believe that Charlottesville could continue to work with groups like Piedmont Housing Alliance, Habitat for Humanity, AHIP and others to increase the supply of affordable housing. We should follow Albemarle County's lead and require developers to build affordable housing when they request rezoning from the City. We should make it easier to build more affordable housing types, such as condos and townhouses. And we should expand our programs to assist City residents with home ownership.

Using existing home ownership programs from VHDA, a person making a living wage of \$9.00 an hour, or \$18,720 per year can afford to purchase a \$95,000 house, which is difficult to find. We will need more condos and townhouses to meet this demand. A person making \$12.00 an hour or \$24,960 a year can afford to purchase a \$125,000 house and a person making \$30,000 a year can afford a \$150,000 house.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the city schools?

This is one of our most difficult problems. Getting kids started with a good educational foundation is the first step. On a personal level, I've been a first grade reading tutor, first at Johnson, now at Clark, for 12 years and my first Book Buddy is on track to graduate this Spring. Most of the kids who fall behind have the mental ability, but they lack support and often individual attention. I would encourage anyone to get involved as a tutor or mentor.

At the school system level, I think the decision to move the preschool into the elementary schools was a good one. It gives the principals the ability to recognize children who need help when they are still in preschool, so that they can get the intervention they need by the time they get to kindergarten and first grade. Establishing more consistent teaching programs across all of the elementary schools should also help. We have recognized that children whose families move the most (who tend to be low income) have the most problems. By keeping instruction at each elementary school as consistent as possible, we can reduce the difficulties that children encounter when moving to a new school. I would support taking this a step further and allow children to remain at the elementary school where they first enrolled, even if their family moves. This would require some additional transportation expense.

Finally, we need to use our early grade SOL testing scores to target remediation and intervention. This will require help from the State. So far, the State's use of SOL has been mostly punitive (children and schools systems are punished if kids don't pass). The SOL needs to be used as tool to make sure that children who need help get it.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the bus lines on Sundays? Why or why not?

Yes. I have been promoting a plan to completely reorganize the way in which the bus system would work – with a high speed backbone (busses coming every 8-10 minutes) traveling on West Main Street and Rt 29 and neighborhood routes with smaller busses coming every 15 minutes, bringing people from the neighborhoods to the backbone. I believe that this could be implemented for not much more cost than our current system. I would like to see this system run later and run on Sundays.

I've always been in favor of improving our bus system, for a number of reasons. First, it makes living in the City more affordable – not just for low-income people, but for many working class and middle class people who can save money by having one car in the family instead of two or more. Second, getting more people to use transit reduces the congestion on City streets. Third, I believe that if we can provide good transit service in our commercial corridors, we will encourage new development and job opportunities along these corridors.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents (including felons coming out of prison)? What are your goals for economic development?

Since being elected to City Council, I have favored a "grass roots" approach to economic development, which focuses on raising the productivity and wages of City residents, through support of living wage, workforce development programs and small business development. My top two priorities which I put forward when City Council was developing its economic development strategy were: (1) Create a 4 year workplan to raise the incomes of lowest quartile of City residents by 10 percent over inflation and (2) Double enrollment and graduation rates in biotechnology training center. I believe that if David, Kendra and I are elected, we can achieve these goals.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who

are not registered?

Restoring the voting rights of felons has been a top priority of Virginia Democrats, working at the State level for some time. Because of the State constitution, restoration of voting rights of former felons can only be granted by the governor. Since 2001, Mark Warner has worked to streamline the re-instatement process, reducing the waiting period from seven years to three and cutting the amount of paperwork required. Governor Warner restored voting rights to more former felons in his first year than Republican Jim Gilmore did in his entire four year term.

In 1999, an attempt by Democratic State Senator Mary Whipple to enable the legislature to pass laws restoring voting rights was stopped by the Republican Attorney General, Mark Early. In 2000, passage of a bill sponsored by Democrat Jerrauld Jones, allowed most non-violent ex-felons to petition the circuit courts, for restoration of rights although the governor must make the final approval. In 2003 a disenfranchisement bill, sponsored by Republican Robert Bell, added a long list of crimes – including burglary, pandering, and obstruction of justice – to the category of violent offenses, thus making it harder for these types of offenders to regain their right to vote.

For non-felons, the motor voter act (another Democratic initiative) makes it easy for residents to register to vote. City Councilors have supported a number of voter registration drives. Personally, I organized a "rock the vote" event in 2000, which drew several hundred people and resulted in nearly 40 new registrations.

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

Dealing with poverty in Charlottesville is one of our most pressing issues. I would put it second in importance behind education. I believe the best way to address poverty is by increasing wages, through initiatives like living wage and job training. We also need to make day care more affordable and more available, improve public transportation and stabilize housing prices.

In order to make sure that we are making a

dent in the problem, we have to have a better way to track poverty. I'm not sure where the one in four figure comes from, but it is probably from the 2000 census. The 2000 census states that 25.9 percent of individuals in the City (not workers) live in poverty status. It is hard to make a true measurement of poverty using individuals, because this number includes UVA students. Also in 2000, the number of City residents was overstated by 5,000 people because UVA students who live in the County were included with the City's numbers. A more reliable figure is to track the number of families living in poverty, which is 12 percent, or the number of children in poverty, which is 20 percent. This is still very significant as it represents 935 families in poverty.

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services for their clients?

This is a tough problem. The fiscal mismanagement of the Gilmore administration and subsequent refusal of the Republican legislature to deal with the problem have caused a budget crisis, which the State is balancing on the backs of local government. Not only is the state cutting local service agencies, but it is also cutting money in the City budget for schools and public safety. For the past several years, the gap has mostly been made up from increased income due the increase in residential property values, however this is causing increasing hardship on residents. We have seen some new business investment in the past year and if the economy improves, we should get some relief in the form retail and commercial growth. We are actively encouraging businesses like Best Buy to locate in the City. If the State does not get its house in order and the economy does not improve, the City may have to balance reduction in some services against further raising of real estate taxes.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

I am convinced that Chief Longo is committed to the eradication of biased based policing. There are a number of ways to make sure that the entire force is operating in a professional and unbiased manner. Racial tracking of

stops might be one way, although I'm not sure it is necessarily the best. The Chief has recognized bias based policing as an issue and recently held a neighborhood forum on how to best address it. Now that the forum is over, I would ask the Chief to propose how to best safeguard against bias based policing before making any specific proposal.

What are your positions on the following election-related issues?

Moving city council elections to November?

- I support this

An elected mayor?

- I am willing to consider this, but it seems to me to be a solution in search of a problem. Our existing system is not perfect, but I think it is better than Richmond and Alexandria (which elect the mayor). I have a few concerns with an elected mayor. Because of the costs of running a mayoral campaign, elected mayors are more likely to be subject to big money interests (which may be why the Republicans favor this approach). Also, under our current system, the mayor must be able to assemble a majority coalition of council to get elected. Therefore, he or she can generally get things done. In Cities where the mayor and council are elected separately, if the mayor does not agree with a majority of council, the result is often two years of gridlock.

A ward system?

- This is a flat out bad idea. A ward system is less democratic. Right now every Charlottesville voter has the ability to elect five Councilors. This gives a voter many opportunities to find one or more Councilors which whom he or she agrees. In a ward system, every Charlottesville voter will only be able to elect one Councilor from that voter's ward. If you happen to live in a ward with a popular incumbent, whom you happen not to like – too bad. You are stuck. Or you can move.

Ward systems also dilute the power of minority constituencies. For example, African-Americans make up 22 percent of Charlottesville's population. That is enough of a percentage that any candidate must take the concerns of this group very seri-

ously. In a competitive political contest, any group that accounts for more than a few percent of the population must be taken very seriously by all the candidates, especially if the group contains swing voters. However, in a ward system, two things could happen to minority constituencies. First, they could be lumped into one or two wards. In this case they might have more influence in one or two wards, but they would have less influence in all the other wards. Overall, they would lose influence. Alternatively, they might be spread around in different wards. Depending on what other types of voters are in that ward, they may not be able to influence the outcome of elections in their ward. Without the ability to organize across wards, their influence would diminish.

Add to this the periodic battles over redistricting and it is hard to see how a ward system could have a net benefit.

The only reason I can possibly imagine for going to a ward system is to make it easier for individual councilors to run and easier for incumbents (one in particular, I suspect) to keep their seats. This is a terrible reason to change our electoral system. Charlottesville is a small enough town that there is no excuse for any Councilor not to get to know the concerns of every City neighborhood.

Is there anything you would like to add that is not addressed in the above questions?

Sure, but that can wait for another time.



Anne Reinicke

How are increasing costs of rental housing and home ownership changing the neighborhoods? What is your opinion

regarding gentrification?

Increased cost of housing is the main force behind the gentrification of our neighborhoods.

How do you define affordable housing and what steps will you take to increase the stock of affordable housing in Charlottesville?

1. I define affordable housing as a house that a schoolteacher, police officer, nurse or office worker could afford to buy.
2. I would charge current programs to look at new opportunities in financing, grants and to work with developers to create high-density housing in the available space we have.
3. I would promote public and private partnerships to assist prospective homeowners through the process of homeownership.

What would you do to help close the achievement gap between low-income and middle class students in the city schools?

1. I would identify children at risk early in grades K-5 and provide more concentrated time of instruction.
2. I would also involve the parent/s and provide them with the tools to help encourage their children to succeed in school.

Do you support expanding the hours of buses in the city, including running the bus lines on Sundays? Why or why not?

1. If the demand is there I would support expanding hours.
2. I would also support smaller buses with routes and times to meet the rush hour and commuter demand.

How would you use your position on City Council to assist low-income and high-risk residents (including felons coming out of prison)? What are your

goals for economic development?

1. I would work to make Charlottesville a friendly place for business' to locate which would create more and better paying jobs.
2. I would work with private and non-profit groups to help empower people to succeed in the workforce.
3. Charlottesville is rich in opportunities for training and I would ask private and non-profit groups to vigorously invite poor and disenfranchised people to their workshops and to work with city programs to provide the information to the people they work with to enable them to obtain the skills they need to secure better paying jobs.

How could you use your position on City Council to increase voter registration of former felons and others who are not registered.

1. I have been door-to-door in my neighborhood and as I am campaigning across the city and have registration forms with me and will assist anyone who would like to register.
2. I also have a link on my website for non-registered voters to be able to register.
3. After I am elected, I would continue to work towards encouraging citizens to register to vote.

Did you know that one in four workers in Charlottesville lives below the poverty line? How will you address this situation?

Yes.

1. By working with educating our children for success.
2. Creating more and better paying jobs.
3. Working with agencies currently in place to address workplace training, we can raise the income level of our citizens.
4. I would like to find a way to connect our citizens to local opportunities already in place to enhance their employability.

How are you going to support local service agencies whose funding has been cut by the state? How are you going to make sure we continue to have services to their clients?

The more we create opportunity for business, job training for the workers, the less we will have to depend on the state for funding.

Would you be in favor of the city police keeping track of ethnic and racial information every time someone is stopped?

Yes. I believe the police need this information to monitor themselves in order to protect all citizens from racial profiling. I don't know of any other way to document what is or is not happening.

What are your positions on the following election-related issues?

Moving city council elections to November?

I support this for two reasons.

1. It would save roughly \$30,000 to the city.
2. It would increase the voter participation in the elections.

An elected mayor?

I support an elected mayor. This should be up to the citizens he/she serves to decide.

A ward system?

I support this suggestion. It would create true representation for each neighborhood and give citizens a specific councilor to communicate their concerns to who would be accountable to their constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project, Ann Reinicke, www.allhookedup.com/reinicke.

The committee would like to express our gratitude to:

Laura Ramirez, VOP Office Manager and Editor Extraordinaire, Monticello Event and Conference Center, and 92.7 Kiss FM.

How Important is One Vote?

In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1839, one vote elected Marcus Morton Governor of Massachusetts.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1876, one vote changed France from a Monarchy to a Republic.

In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency of the United States.



"The Courage To Make A Difference"

What Is the QCC?

The Quality Community Council, Inc. is a citizen governed non-profit coalition working to improve the quality of life in targeted Charlottesville neighborhoods. Join us and show your **COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

QCC Groups Focus On:

- ◆ *Public Safety (Community Policing/Law Enforcement)*
- ◆ *Academics/Youth*
- ◆ *Economic Development & Neighborhood Revitalization*
- ◆ *Prevention and Treatment*
- ◆ *Housing Issues*

*For more information, please call
977-3045
Or visit us at 327 W. Main St., Ste 101*



***Together we can make
Charlottesville a wonderful place to
live for ALL of our citizens.***

When you have a legal problem...

Call the
LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER
first.



LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER

*Free legal assistance in civil cases
for low-income households.*

1000 Preston Avenue
Charlottesville, Virginia
434-977-0553

Education Committee:

Joy Johnson, Chair
Jewel Mason
Emily Dreyfus
Joe Szakos
Pam Benton
Cathy Treasure
George Loper
Connie Jorgensen
Alex Gulotta
Brynda Loving-Kotter
Nicole Lloyd
Jessica McGrane
Audrey Oliver
Karen Waters
Sherri Iachetta

Registration/Mobilization Committee:

Karen Waters, Chair
Cyndi Richardson
Harold Folley
Jane Foster
Edith Good
Lori Krizek
Sherri Iachetta
Susan Dalebout
Nila Saliba
Anne Brown

“Freedom unexercised may become freedom forfeited” – Margaret Chase

The Loper website applauds the
**Voter Education, Registration
and Mobilization Project**

for its efforts to get out the vote.

*Vote early and vote often.
Then click onto <http://george.loper.org/>*



**The Charlottesville Public Housing
Association of Residents**

a proud supporter of

**The Voter Education, Registration and
Mobilization Project**

“NO VOTE... NO VOICE”

Register today and we'll see you at the polls!



The Virginia Organizing Project (VOP) is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. As a non-partisan organization, VOP especially encourages the participation of those who have traditionally had little or no voice in our society. By building relationships with diverse individuals and groups throughout the state, VOP strives to get them to work together, democratically and non-violently, for change.



Virginia Organizing Project

703 Concord Avenue • Charlottesville, VA 22903-5208
(434) 984-4655 • Fax: (434) 984-2803
www.virginia-organizing.org



As a member of the Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization Project, Edith Good applauds its exciting efforts to produce this comprehensive Voter Guide.

Frequently Asked Questions

When Do Elections Take Place?

General Elections are held in Charlottesville every November on the second Tuesday after the first Monday. If the political parties call for Primary Elections, they are always held on the second Tuesday in June. Presidential Primaries are held on the fourth Tuesday in February in Presidential election years. Special Elections are held as necessary. City Council Elections are held on the first Tuesday in May on even numbered years.

When Are the Polls Open?

All polling places are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on election days.

Do I Have to Show Identification at the Polls?

Effective July 1, 2000, all Virginia voters are required to show some form of identification when they go to the polls to vote. You can use your voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; social security card; any identification card issued by a federal, state or local government agency; or any employer identification card with a photograph. If you forget to bring your identification to the polls, don't worry, you'll still be permitted to vote! You just need to sign a statement affirming your identity.

What Do I Do if I've Moved or Changed My Name Since I Last Voted?

If you haven't updated your voter registration record since your move or name change, please complete one of the steps below to assure your voter registration record is properly updated. Remember, to be eligible to vote, you must be registered at your current residence address.

- **Complete a new Virginia Voter Registration Application:** If you have been registered in another state and have moved into Virginia, you must complete the Virginia application to register in Virginia. Virginia registrants can also use this application form to update their name or address within Virginia.
- **Download the Address Change Form (Charlottesville Registered Voters ONLY)** located at www.charlottesville.org (click on Residents and then Register to Vote) If you are currently registered to vote in Charlottesville and have moved within the City, you can use the form below to update your name or address. You can also use the change of address form on the back of your voter registration card.
- **Mail or Fax the Changed Information (Charlottesville Registered Voters ONLY):** Please include your name, social security number, your old address and/or name, your new address and/or name, and the date of your move. You must SIGN your change request. Please fax to (434) 970-3249 or mail to the address at top right corner of this page.
- **Please note:** Virginia law requires all changes to voter registration records to be authorized by the voter's signature. The Office of Voter Registration cannot update your record without your signature. For that reason, address changes by e-mail cannot be accepted.

Office of Voter Registration Charlottesville, Virginia

**120 7th Street, NE, Room 122
Charlottesville, VA 22902**

**434-970-3250 - Voice
434-970-3249 - Fax**

Office Hours - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Our office is located in the City Hall Annex,
on the corner of East Market St. and 7th St, NE.

We are on the ground floor in Room 122. Please contact us for
Voter Registration Applications, Absentee Ballot Applications, or
any other information on voter registration and elections.

General Registrar

Sheri L. Iachetta

Deputy Registrar

Lori P. Krizek

Assistant Registrars

Patricia Hamlett Evelyn Perry Margie Garmey

Electoral Board Members

Chairman

Richard E. Sincere

Vice Chairman

Joan Schatzman

Secretary

B. Stephanie Commander

Getting Involved

Get involved in the process . . . Be a City of Charlottesville Election officer!

The Charlottesville Electoral Board is actively looking for registered voters to become involved in the electoral process.

There are 8 precincts in the City of Charlottesville, each requiring a minimum of 6 election officers. A total of 125 election officials are needed to maintain a high level of control throughout Election Day. This is an opportunity to assist in the democratic process. For more information please call 434-970-3250 or visit the Office of Voter Registration at 120 7th Street, NE, Room 120.

Compensation

- \$135 for a full day (5 a.m. - Close)
- \$8.28 an hour for 1/2 day either 5 a.m. - 1 p.m.(am shift) or 12:00 - Closing (p.m. shift)

Requirements

- You are a registered voter.
- You are "people oriented" and enjoy serving the public.
- You must attend a brief training class prior to Election Day.

- You must be available to work the entire day on Election Day.

Responsibilities

- Report for work at 5 a.m. on Election Day.
- Prepare the polling place for voting.
- Set up voting equipment.
- Demonstrate voting procedures.
- Close polling place.
- Certify work done at polling place.

Schedule

Primary elections are scheduled to be held in June and general elections are held every November. Work one or both according to your schedule.

Polling Place Locations

Polling places are located in public buildings, schools, and churches. The Office of Voter Registration tries to assign you to locations close to your home.

Training

Attend an instruction class held prior to each election.



Some members of the Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization Project met at the Virginia Organizing Project office.

Front L-R: Sherri Iachetta, Joy Johnson, Karen Waters

Rear L-R: Jewel Mason, Edith Good, Stratton Salidis, Cyndi Richardson, Lori Krizek, Pam Bressan