

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS



Scott Bandy
Independent
Challenger



Brandon Collins
Independent
Challenger



Bob Fenwick
Independent
Challenger



Kathy Galvin
Democrat
Challenger



Satyendra Huja
Democrat
Incumbent



Dede Smith
Democrat
Challenger



Andrew Williams
Independent
Challenger

VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8



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by a generous gift from **Dominion Virginia Power**

This 2011 Charlottesville Voter Guide has been co-produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow and The Daily Progress. It is intended to help residents make an informed vote on issues primarily related to growth and development in Charlottesville-Albemarle.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website includes the complete audio and written transcripts of our interview with each candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of the voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review their verbatim responses before publishing.

Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level. While The Daily Progress endorses candidates on its editorial page, its editorial staff have not been involved in the selection of questions or candidate responses in this voter guide.

Charlottesville Tomorrow, a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization, is a community news platform covering growth, development, and local politics. We connect you to vital information for making informed choices about our community's future.



The Daily Progress

2011

CITY COUNCIL

CANDIDATE PROFILES

(Three Seats Available)

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included

- **The Meadow Creek Parkway**
- **Cooperation between the city, county and the University of Virginia**
- **The city's Comprehensive Plan?**
- **Ward-based elections for Charlottesville City Council**

Throughout the guide, you'll notice QR codes. If you don't already have one, you can download a QR reader for free to your smartphone. When you scan these codes, your phone will take you to a webpage with more information on that candidate or issue. All of the information is also available via our website (www.cvilletomorrow.org).

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/elections) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate forum transcripts, audio and video recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide. Visit our website for an easy way to identify and contact your current elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels.



Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

With the exception of having resided one year (1986) in Orlando Florida, I've lived in Virginia throughout most my life. Moved here to Albemarle in 1989 and then to where I live on Cherry Avenue in 1993. Most of the jobs I've ever had were not of employment in anything particularly significant. That'd be mostly retail, food service and the oddity of having been a personal assistant. I've been a mascot once too and it wasn't as Santa Claus. Though no indicator of further accelerated reading, I have a course completion certificate from Eveyln Wood.

Education: High school graduate

Occupation: Between unemployment and retirement

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 50

Neighborhood or area of residence: Fry's Spring Neighborhood

Family: My housemate John and an adopted mutt name Dusty

Interests: The Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association, Guided Walking Tours, Walking, Blogging, Photoshop Indulging, Chewing Tobacco, UVa Clinical Trials, Science Fiction, Gastronomy, anime/manga, humor and keeping young at heart

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Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

Brandon Collins is a native of Charlottesville, a parent, musician, music teacher, restaurant worker, personal care attendant, and committed activist. He has experienced all of the great things as well as the difficult circumstances and situations that Charlottesville has to offer. He has been employed at poverty wages, but has organized for economic and social justice in Charlottesville. He frequently addresses City Council, played a large role in the Save WTJU campaign, crafted a resolution unanimously adopted by City Council, and has engaged in many forms of environmental, workers rights, civil rights, and anti-war activism locally, statewide, and nationally.

Education: Graduate Charlottesville High School (1991), Courses at Piedmont Virginia Community College

Occupation: Kitchen worker- Blue Moon Diner

Previous political experience:

Board Member- Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice Secretary- Socialist Party of Central Virginia Co-Founder- Cville Workers Action Network Co-Founder- Virginia United Against Oppression (a lobbying group) Delegate- Industrial Workers of the World, Richmond Branch National Committee member- Socialist Party USA

Age on Election Day: 38

Neighborhood or area of residence: Meade Ave

Family: A 15 year old daughter at CHS

Interests: Activism, Music, History

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Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Experience: 7 years Corps of Engineers, served in Vietnam, Central Highlands, Infantry Brigade Engineer, Combat Engineer, experience in dredging, designing, building, repairing bridges, designing community water and waste systems, 38 years VA General Construction Contractor, residential and light commercial construction. Writer, web master, community activist and organizer.

Education: BS Physics, Georgetown University; Undergrad and grad work in Civil Engineering and Engineering Management, George Washington School of Engineering, Wash, DC

Occupation: Self employed, sole proprietor Fenwick Construction

Previous political experience: Candidate for City Council, 2009, member of Citizens for a Sustainable Water Supply, McIntire Park Preservation Committee, several community clean up groups, Rock Hill Gardens, etc.

Age on Election Day: 66

Neighborhood or area of residence: Martha Jefferson neighborhood

Family: 2 sons, Austin and Ross, both educated in Charlottesville public schools, both serving in US Army as commissioned officers. Ross has been to Afghanistan as an engineer, Austin will deploy overseas soon. Married to Victoria, a graduate of UVA Law School, for 44 years.

Interests: Writing, videography, trying to learn to play the guitar

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Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

My father was a disabled WWII veteran, making my mother the bread winner on a school nurse's salary. I saw the impact of sprawl and "renewal" on my hometown, but also beautiful parks and museums in Boston with my mother. I watched the Friday Night Fights with my father too. (Guess that primed me for a life in architecture, planning and politics.) These experiences, plus managing assisted housing in Boston, being chair of an Albemarle growth management committee and an elected Charlottesville school board member shaped my convictions about regional stewardship, effective government, managed and equitable growth and community design.

Education: B.A. (Economics and Geography) 1978, Boston University; MA Architecture 1986, UVA.

Occupation: Architect and Urban Designer, Galvin Architects, principal

Previous political experience: Elected member of Charlottesville School Board, 2008-2012. Current School Board representative to the Housing Advisory Committee, the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) Redevelopment Committee, and the City's Capital Improvement Program Committee.

Age on Election Day: 55

Neighborhood or area of residence: North Downtown

Family: Married to Michael Costanzo (24 years); two sons, Patrick (20) and Kevin (16).

Interests: Singing (Irish Traditional to Classical,) cycling, traveling, seeing and sketching great places, reading, conversation with friends and loved ones (including my dog Fenway)

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Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

I have been a resident of Charlottesville for the last 38 years. The first 31 years as Director of Planning and Community Development and then Director of Strategic Planning. For the last four years I have been a member of City Council. I bring a long record of public service and have expertise and experience to finding creative solutions for the needs of our community. I will work to improve the quality of the environment, promote a balanced transportation system, improve deteriorating infrastructure, promote quality education, diversity and targeted workforce development and provide for safe and decent housing and neighborhoods.

Education: Masters in Urban Planning, Michigan State University, 1968

Occupation: Retired community planner and adjunct faculty at the University of Virginia, School of Architecture

Previous political experience: Member of Charlottesville City Council. Founded -Meals on Wheels, Mediation Center, Alliance for Interfaith Ministry, etc.

Age on Election Day: 69

Neighborhood or area of residence: Meadowbrook Heights

Family: I am married to Irene Huja and have two sons, Uday and Ajai, and one stepson, Ben.

Interests: International affairs, sculpture, poetry, travel

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Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

Deirdre “Dede” Smith moved to Charlottesville with her husband Tim Wilson in 1979. They have lived in the Fry’s Spring neighborhood for more than 30 years, where they raised two children. Dede has been active in civic affairs for decades, with a particular interest in environmental and educational issues. She has won numerous awards including the Distinguished Dozen in 2003 for her work at the Ivy Creek Natural Area and as a member of the Charlottesville School Board. Dede’s civic involvement now includes the Virginia Master Naturalists, Tree Stewards, and advocacy for a 21st century vision for the city.

Education: B.S. in Microbiology, University of Michigan, 1978

Occupation: Former Director of the Ivy Creek Foundation: 1993-2007

Previous political experience: 2 terms, Charlottesville School Board 2000-2006; Co-founder of Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan

Age on Election Day: 56

Neighborhood or area of residence: Fry’s Spring neighborhood

Family: Married 30 years to Tim Wilson, Sherrell J. Aston Professor of Psychology at UVA; son Chris, age 28, senior editor at Slate.com, and daughter Leigh, age 23, graduate student in Social Work at University of Pennsylvania.

Interests: Community engagement; Nature trails; Engaging children in art and nature; Amazing Trees Project

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Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

I grew up in a diverse environment, which gave me the luxury to identify with people from different backgrounds. I’ve benefited from the opportunities of the upper suburbs as well as the lessons of challenged communities. I’ve learned that understanding, identifying one’s own potential and utilizing skills that benefits others most certainly goes a long way in every aspect of life. This is the reason that the core of my platform is to give our people back a large chunk of government, all while attempting to inspire my fellow peers to take the initiative and work towards our collective success.

Education: Currently working on a degree in Human Resource Development. Received various certifications and currently licensed in two States (NC and DE) as an insurance claims adjuster.

Occupation: My employer is State Farm
Previous political experience: I represented the Virginia Community College System at the general assembly on a few occasions; shortly after representing Piedmont Virginia Community College. I was also PVCC’s Virginia 21 Representative (A political education group). I also served as a liaison between the VCCS and more than 200,000 students in Virginia by actively participating (by appointment) in the VCCS Strategic Planning process.

Age on Election Day: 25

Neighborhood or area of residence: Belmont

Family: All who considers me a member.

Interests: Consulting, Brainstorming with friends, advocating for higher educational opportunities, ending a long workweek with X Box, reading, nature trails, developing plans, executing plans, adjusting plans and spending time with family.

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Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on City Council?

Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

I started out on a platform of not being experienced, so I'm not going to claim any titles or accolades or any experience as far as that goes. It's up to the voters, you know, from what they find out whether I'm qualified or not. I'm just running as a plain citizen. That's how I want to be perceived and if honesty accounts for anything, that would be a consideration for the voters to mull over.

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

I am a lifelong resident of the City of Charlottesville....I have always considered Charlottesville a great place to raise my daughter. Having grown up here and lived here, I have seen some of the great things about Charlottesville and some of the worst things about Charlottesville and I think I can relate to a lot of the folks out there that are struggling, that are suffering, and that have been through hard times.

What basically qualifies me to be on city council are my politics, and that is that I place the needs of human beings and people over the needs of developers, or markets, or business. That's where I am coming from politically, and I think that it's ultimately what we should all look for in a city councilor—somebody who is looking at the people of Charlottesville, the residents of Charlottesville, rather than other interests.

Specifically though, I have been an activist in this community, and also at the state and national level.... I have been involved in the anti-war movement for quite some time. I have been involved in a lot of labor activism, immigrants' rights activism, a lot of environmental activism....[W]hen you participate in these things and you devote your life to being active...you get a very real understanding of how different systems work....

Philosophically, I believe whole-heartedly that people should lead from the bottom up and I hope to be a councilor that will listen to all our residents and respect democracy and respect that I am not here to lead, that the people should be here to lead me.

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

As a member of the Army Corps of Engineers having studied civil engineering undergraduate and graduate level at the G.W. University School of Engineering and passing the

engineering training exam, and a Virginia Class A Licensed general construction contractor, I have dredged, I have built, designed and repaired bridges, managed construction projects, built and repaired roads, designed community water and sewer systems and would be very competent and comfortable overseeing these city projects and ensuring the citizens of Charlottesville are not fleeced.

In the worst recession in our country's history, Charlottesville is poised to borrow massive amounts of money for capital expenditures....First, the bond is borrowed money. We are proud of our AAA bond rating but the only reason you borrow money is when you don't have any money. Second, several of these items we don't need right now. The dam, reservoir, and the pipeline at and to Ragged Mountain, the Belmont Bridge which can be repaired, not to mention financing a new botanical garden at a YMCA in McIntire Park and the city's portion of the Meadow Creek Parkway. If the citizens decide to proceed with these projects in the face of the recession, I believe my background and experience provides a unique opportunity to properly oversee the management and cost of these projects.

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

Well by profession I am an architect and urban designer. That inherently means that I look at things comprehensively, I don't look at anything in isolation because one thing is related to the other. If I did that when I designed a building that building would fall down.

Having said that, I am also very civic-minded, and that goes way back to the kind of commitment my parents instilled in me to do public service. It began when I lived in Boston, I worked on feasibility studies for the Boston Housing Authority and we looked at how to improve the quality of life for residents at the same time giving them more opportunities. ...

So then I decided to become an architect because I do understand the impact of the physical environment on people. I come to Virginia, go to UVA, and immediately after graduation I am plugged in to the social development commission, the Charlottesville Housing Foundation, for the Charlottesville Housing Improvement Program. I also later became the assistant director of the Design Resource Center.... In that capacity I was very much involved in the Eastern Planning Initiative which gave me a regional approach to planning, particularly transportation planning....

Throughout all that, I was also a mother of two young sons, became the PTO president of Johnson Elementary School, became very involved with ...the PTO council...I wind up becoming a candidate for the Charlottesville City School Board in 2007 and ... am just completing my four year term. That gave me an incredible opportunity to understand the interface between policy and action....

I can bring a lot of my skills to bear in a bigger arena and that's why I am running for city council...

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

I am a 38-year resident of Charlottesville, Virginia. The first 31 of those were as director of planning and community development, and strategic planning. So I think that provides me with some background in our community. I also have been serving on the city council for the last 4 years. I am adjunct faculty at the University of Virginia School of Architecture. I have expertise and experience in finding creative solutions to the needs of our community, so I think with my background and experience, I should qualify for the position.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

What I believe I bring to city council is a long experience here in Charlottesville. I have lived here more than 30 years and have been very active in the community.

First and foremost, I bring a background in research. One of my platforms is accountability and using good up to date information. I believe I have a strong background in how to not only get information but how to know what is good information and I am very comfortable with numbers and data.... That's one of my reputation points—evidence-based decision making and data.

Furthermore, I bring a long experience as a director of a non-profit. The reason that's relevant is that I have a strong background in environmental protection as well as historic protection. I was the director at the Ivy Creek Natural Area, which of course is a park...and we do a lot of environmental education and stewardship. But it's also an African-American heritage site which I spearheaded in getting that designation. I have done a lot of research in the local African-American history, not only for that site, but in this community, and I think that brings an interesting skill to the council.

Furthermore, I have a very strong, really 20 years, background in education in this community, not only as a volunteer, as a PTO leader, as a strong voice, but also six years on the school board. One of the things that that has taught me—because I was a volunteer and PTO leader at a high poverty school—is what poverty and some of the struggles that our families have here in Charlottesville, what impact that has on education as well as other social issues.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

I served on a strategic planning taskforce for the Virginia Community College system, and the primary focus was education and workforce development. It was statewide, and I was one of two students appointed by Chancellor Glenn DuBois, statewide, to serve at that capacity. I went to the general assembly and represented Piedmont Virginia Community College a number of different times. I also represented my employer to an extent, State Farm, in that capacity.

So I've always been an advocate for good initiatives or good ideas without being a lobbyist. I just want to represent,

I don't want to be a politician. And also, it's my belief that just because you don't have a college degree, which I'm still working on, doesn't mean that you aren't educated. I know a lot of people that are very educated that are very able and willing to work and to work good.

What Charlottesville City Council needs at this point in

time is a different perspective, and I think that have that. And I know how the system works, and while I am sincere and I am confident that my overall goals will serve the Charlottesville resident. I believe that partisan politics isn't necessary at the local level, and I believe that in this election, we can change that....

I'm committed to continual personal development which will enable me to serve my community better, and I have a sincere desire not to become Charlottesville's next politician, but the little guy who helped a large chunk of government, or put a large chunk of government back into the hands of the working class here in Charlottesville....

What is your top priority for action by City Council if you are elected?

Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

Reaching some sort of place where environmental consciousness does not conflict with common sense. We have a very zealous pedestrian and bike community but at the same time, look at our city streets and thoroughfares. They are dangerous and have become unsafe while we have made tremendous and most impressive strides in trails and bike lanes, why have our streets become unsafe?...

We've got to come to a place that we understand, that you know, we will compromise and we will balance things out so that everyone wins. Where everyone can walk away satisfied. No, you're not going to get everything that you want. Nobody ever does in this life. But if we don't, if there are some groups and some interests that are bound and determined it's their way or the highway, things are still going to get progressively worse in the city and that's unfortunate because to have the high standard as we do living in this city, it would be a shame to lose that and to people to further suffer than they already are.

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

I think we need to do something about poverty. This is a multi-faceted issue and that is basically my main focus. When we talk about poverty, it's not always just the people who are unemployed or the people who get food stamps, sometimes it's our teachers who are working and they are not making enough money to live here. There are so many things to look at. There's employment and there's wages. There's housing, there's transportation, it's a multi-faceted problem.

I think I've got things in my platform that focus specifically on housing, jobs, public transportation, and the environ-

ment. I think in a lot of ways how we deal with our planet also effects how we deal with people. One thing that's going to be a big issue is how the city grows and are we pushing poor people out of town because it gets so expensive. I don't think we should. We have established neighborhoods here and I'd like to see our residents be able to live and work here. But to be able to do that we have to do something meaningful to make their lives much more meaningful economically.

Approaching poverty, homelessness, yes at the bottom, joblessness, the working poor, addressing our housing needs, those are my priorities. There's a whole lot more to it than just saying we are going to pass a few resolutions and we're going to get some programs going, but that's going to be the main focus that I have going in to city council.

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Well, I've been through a few of these recessions and this is by far the worst. The worst one before this was the Carter-Reagan recession and it's going to take us a long time to work our way out of this. So for the next few years, I would take care of the basic necessities for the city and fulfill our social safety net obligations and responsibilities. We are very fortunate to have the University of Virginia as an economic base for our community but this recession is eating businesses and devastating families and the city council has to recognize that words alone will not be helpful. We need action.

There's a ton of political fat in the budget that can be trimmed. Streamline the real estate assessment and appeals process and give a clear explanation of why assessments keep going up in the face of a declining real estate market.

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

...I want to focus on the families and the neighborhoods of our children who are living in poverty so that at some point they are going to see their parents independent and also successful. That's one of the best ways to influence a child's own motivation is to see that their own parents are successful.

I look at the city council's goals, and I feel like I might just want to change emphasis....[W]e have an odd situation where we have not enough housing for the people that work here and not enough jobs for the people that do live here. So when we look at our affordable housing goals...let's diversify that diet of housing, make sure we get the workforce housing that we need, and get it distributed around the city, get affordable housing distributed around the city so that we are not concentrating poverty as we tend to do....

When I looked at the economic development section of our budget...it's tiny. I think we need to be more aggressive in looking and going after work. We need to be more aggressive in getting a regional transportation network that gets people to where the jobs are currently growing. It does mean being very aggressive about doing adaptive reuse and sensitive infill along our corridors and former industrial sites, and maybe some of those industrial sites should remain industrial sites....

I would like [to make it such that] our individuals in need are moving towards more opportunity—access to jobs, access to education, access to the transportation that's going to get them there, and access in neighborhoods that have the kind of viability to them that only comes with having a variety of people with different income levels that can sustain a variety of businesses to service those households....

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

First, transportation. I would like to see an interconnected network of bicycle lanes built so we can have a safer place to ride. Also, an interconnected network of sidewalks. As you know, every trip begins as a pedestrian, even if you go by car you need to first walk to the car. So a good system of sidewalks, especially to schools. I also would like to see improvement in our transit system. It needs to be restructured and be more frequent, so that we have 15 minute headways [at bus stops]. Right now we have 1 hour headways and most people don't want to wait for an hour and you're going to have an effective transit system it needs to be more frequent and accessible. Right now there is no transit system in the northern part of the city and I think we need to have that there too and that would be good for the environment and good for our transportation.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

I am quite intrigued with the city council’s new priority, which I think you can sum up with “mutual respect.” It’s an issue that I’ve been very involved with over the years that I’ve been in Charlottesville particularly as it relates to education. That is issues of race, issues of poverty.

That goes back to as we update the comprehensive plan, I think we need to be very aware of what the implications are for our families that struggle. Of course we have many more now with the recession, the economy as it is, and we need to be very cognizant of the impact that our decisions have on all of our families here.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

First off, I don’t like the idea that mayor is not elected at-large. I think that as far as checks and balances is concerned, Charlottesville’s government has none. There’s no separation between the legislative branch and the executive branch and I think that that that would improve a lot of the process as well.

Balancing the representation, also in discussion, there’s been a lot of talk about a ward system and that was certainly my mind-set back in 2009 and something I’m still considering. The unfortunate truth is that if the council remains – I don’t think that the Democratic Party would favor that. I think that that would be them admitting losing power

or creating an environment that another party or Independents can maybe get the majority, and I think that that’s where politics can maybe cloud judgment.

I’m in favor of a balanced Charlottesville. While they’re trying to unite the Democratic Party, I’m trying to unite Charlottesville. I think that a ward system would be a good idea. And if not a ward system, maybe something that’s similar, to where there’s always representation in all the areas in Charlottesville. One may say, ‘well, what if someone within a ward system, or what if in this particular ward system there’s no one to get elected, or there’s no one who wants to run?’ Well that’s fine, because we can also have at-large elections, and everything can be managed on a case-by-case basis. But all of the neighborhoods in Charlottesville should have some form of representation. When it’s at-large, government can be as convoluted as it is here in Charlottesville.

What is your transportation agenda for the city? Does it require more money? How will you fund AND implement it?

Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

...I think the challenge for the upcoming council is going to be just maintaining, maintaining things as they are. And that definitely would include transportation.

My impression as far things go was that the council struggled just to maintain a budget without having to raise further taxes. Certainly no one wants higher taxes. The current transportation in place, well, transportation, you break that up into different items. The [Charlottesville Area Transit], roads which I’m of the opinion that some people have never seen a road here that they didn’t like.

It’s difficult to pin down where this is going to be headed. The challenge will be to fund it within the constraints that we are limited to and to keep services as they are at a sufficient rate. You know, to satisfy, getting the buses running on time.

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

My ideas on transportation are almost wholly centered on

public transit and expanding public transportation. Of course we need to do much more to increase pedestrian transit. When we talk about pedestrian transit I think one thing that people aren’t always aware of is that it’s also how people with disabilities get around....

I think there is a great interest in the city in expanding our bike lanes and doing much more for bike transportation, and I’m all for that, but I’m basically focused on a city that is built and based on public transportation rather than automobile-based transportation. I would like to see a great expansion of public transportation...

At any cost, we should not be looking to build too many new roads and instead always be looking to see how we can expand public transit, see how we can get more people on the bus, and see how we can plan our city to be based on our bus routes, some of that may require rearranging some of how we deal with our bus routes. With this, I think if we can use our transportation grant money that we get from the state for public transportation, we should always be looking to do that....If we are going to have to use funding from the general fund, I am completely in favor of that. I think public transportation is one way we can really work towards having a sustainable city.

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Well, our community transportation is puzzling at best. Our political leaders say one thing: let’s make the city pedestrian friendly, encourage mass transit, bike travel and so on, but their actions speak otherwise. We have bumper-to-bumper traffic into and out of town in all directions....And the best road planning the city and county can offer is two huge bypasses/parkways directly into the urban ring. Who benefits

from that?

...We do not need another elaborate transportation plan. We need some common sense and some action. First, our community needs true bypasses much further out that takes traffic around the city to be fed into smaller roads directly to the place of work or study....

Second, our city needs to utilize the transportation assets we already have, namely buses—much better....Before we add more bus routes and/or buses, I propose filling our buses with more riders. How to do that? We have two examples right in front of us: the UVa bus system and the trolley and the common denominator is both are free. It is fair to say that very few people think of bus transportation as their first option. We can change that....

And, of course, this move wouldn’t be free. Someone would have to pay and it would be all of us through taxes and fees but remember, we are already paying 80% of the costs for these empty buses. If we have the money for outside consultants and experts, we have the money for a more efficient transportation system. The alternative is to keep circling the city with empty buses and what sense does that make?

Third, open up the county’s completed portion of the Meadow Creek Parkway for an entrance to the downtown area for pedestrians, bikes, and handicapped citizens. That part is there and in place. Let’s use it.

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

...[M]y transportation agenda is tied to a housing agenda. ...Currently we have on average 5...dwelling units per acre. I hear a lot around town—when I go to town halls, and when I talk to residents and citizens—they would really love to see

a street car system. That takes 10 dwelling units per acre to sustain just basic ridership and an efficient bus service needs about 7 dwelling units per acre. So you can see why we don't have a very efficient bus service and so we need to get the ridership up to start supporting that, but we need to also think about our connectivity.

If we start increasing our ridership without thinking about additional routes, then you are going to get congestion, more so than you have today. So it's this balancing act of wanting to give greater connectivity, increasing the housing opportunity so people get off the road, and then at the same time also putting in place a sequence of investments to go from more efficient bus service to hopefully bus rapid transit....

Finally, looking at bike-[pedestrian]...I am a cyclist...but the thing is that if you are going to get serious about that, you have got to look at places like Madison, Wisconsin that have a real bonafide alternative, parallel network of bike routes and then when they get the bikes on the street everyone understands the rules of the road.

But one thing I have noticed keenly as a cyclist is that we don't have good access management on our corridors. By that I mean the interactions between cyclists, pedestrians, and cars is more frequent than just intersections with roads, it is the curb cuts to the driveways and into the parking lots....So it gets down to the regional level as well as down to the detail and the quality of the streetscape.

To be effective we have to get to the point that we have a regional transit authority. I have looked at the [city's capital budget], we have made increasing investments in transportation, but we are not going to get to the point where we could have an overlapping bus system without some vehicle, like an authority, that can start giving us dedicated funds. If we can't get that, then I do think we need to look at our own infrastructure bank....

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

We need to develop a balanced transportation system. Currently there's too much orientation towards the automobile. We need to do other modes of transportation equally well. I'll propose an interconnected network of pedestrian ways and trails with a special emphasis on safe access to schools. I would also propose an interconnected network of bikeways, on and off streets.

I plan to propose restructuring our transit system to be more customer friendly and to be more frequent, every 15 minutes. With those initiatives, and other highway improvements, I think we'll have better transportation. I also support the Meadow Creek parkway, Hillsdale Drive [Extension], Belmont Bridge [replacement], and [Route] 250 bypass ramps [at Best Buy]. I feel that if you add good safe pedestrian, transit, and bike [facilities] to the roads you will have a balanced transportation system.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

Well what I am seeing happen in Charlottesville is that we have a number of initiatives for transportation, whether it's public transportation with buses, bicycling, and pedestrian. They are all very much alive and being discussed here and what I would like to see is a more comprehensive plan looking at all three of those and how they network with each other.

This came up recently in a meeting about the Belmont Bridge. Citizens were saying, "You know we need to be able to get our bikes to the buses." All the busses will accommodate a bike, and I thought that was a really interesting comment, that again we not only have a good bike infrastructure but that that bike infrastructure actually interfaces with other forms of alternative transportation.

The other thing that I think we really need to be focusing on as we look at a comprehensive plan is not only being sure that we're getting people where they want to go, but let's

think about where we would like to see people go. We'd like people to see people come downtown—and be able to come downtown by alternative transportation, not just cars—as well as other city tax bases, there's Barracks Roads, there's Whole Foods and some of the places that...if we want our citizens to be able to patronize our city amenities, we need to make sure they are able to get there.

As we look at the whole picture, we need to look at all those pools of money that we currently have, and quite frankly I don't know how that will play out. I do think it's a strong priority for this community and basically where those funds will come from, I am just not in the know enough to know where those pots of money are, I just think it is a high priority for really a lot of our citizens here in Charlottesville.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

...I think that it would serve the resident better, it would alleviate traffic stress in the long run if we did have a bigger public transit system. It's simple, but although it could be complicated to actually move forward with an initiative of that nature...I want to do everything that I can to make sure that that vision is manifested.

[I]f we scrutinize our budget first off, and take monies away from maybe programs or initiatives that aren't working, which of course is somewhat controversial but it is what it is, if you look at it from a business standpoint, if a department wasn't producing as much as it should, in all reality, it would be either downsized or it would be contracted or what have you. I'm not saying that we need to do that for any department in particular, but we need to have that flexibility, or at least be willing and able to appropriate funds where the needs are....

We need to be more efficient, we need to stop throwing money at the problem, we need to throw some intellect at some of these problems. But not solely book smarts, real world working-class experience, which Charlottesville could use a different perspective in my opinion.

Last month the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce reported that Charlottesville lost 3,248 jobs during the years 2000 to 2010. What specifically should City Council do to promote employment?

Scott Bandy (I)
Challenger

The regulations in this city, and I'm going to borrow from another candidate...Mr. Fenwick.... He said at his initial announcement that this isn't a business-friendly city. It's not. With regulations in place and ordinances as they are, they are not conducive to businesses, and I mean both commercial and industrial....That has got to be amended, that has got to be addressed, and it's got to be changed....We are pinched for jobs. People are out there economically hurting like no time before in the history not just of this city, but of this country.

We must do what we can, not just to only encourage entrepreneurs and small businesses, but to be a welcoming place where we can attract those businesses that will complement, not go against, the grain of what this city is. We are a very environmentally conscious city, we are a very knowledgeable city. You can't ask for a better place to live, but we are struggling. People like I said before are moving not just into nearby counties, but into counties in the region, into counties outside the region, because we are not providing our citizens with sources of income to supplement their families. We are not providing that economic highway to prosperity and self-sufficiency. We must take it head on. We must grab this bull by the horns.

Brandon Collins (I)
Challenger

Well it's a hot topic and I am glad to bring this consistently to council's attention and I have been raising this a lot in the campaign. I feel like we have a duty to do everything we can to get people jobs that pay a living wage, and if not, then we have a duty to directly employ those people. There is a lot of movement in this city to have a much more sustainable city, to improve our infrastructure, improve our neighborhoods, and we can put a lot of people to work doing that. We can get outside funding to do some of that stuff.

Overall, I would like to be at a point four years from now where we can begin to consider guaranteeing that every resident can get a job. The way we can get there is by working to reverse the balance of jobs to workers, providing a lot more jobs, to the point where the market on human labor begins to shift in favor of workers so that all workers are beginning to earn a better wage.

My plan for getting started on this is to get a job center open in downtown Charlottesville. Not to mimic the Virginia Employment Commission, or the workforce development center, as it's called now, but to supplement that. This would be a central location that can coordinate different agencies, different offices and a wide range of private business and human resources here in Charlottesville to make sure that people have access to jobs that they have access to job training....

I think we can greatly expand public works. We can expand public transportation. We can really do a lot with parks and recreation. We can expand our parks. We can greatly upgrade our city to set the bar high and say we are going to make every city-owned piece of property energy self-sufficient....

Again, attracting new [business], perhaps industry that hires great numbers of people that are going to greatly benefit our community, is something we need to be looking at and we need to be very careful about what those businesses are.

Bob Fenwick (I)
Challenger

Well, workforce development/jobs, I'd turn this wording around. Jobs come first. Any jobs, not just high level green jobs or white collar jobs. Any jobs. Our national and local economy is stuck in the trickle-down economic mode which leads to a boom and bust recurring cycle and the biggest developers justify this because they provide jobs and housing stock.

Well, how's that working out? Just look around and you can see the vacant buildings, residential and commercial, that are keeping real estate prices depressed. Or the number of real estate owners who owe more on their property than the market value. Personally, I'm tired of waiting for the trickle to get down to my level. I would advocate for a bubble-up theory in which every class of work is respected.

Our largest developers and real estate brokers are in trouble, not because they don't have enough businesses or houses to sell. They don't have enough customers to buy them.

In the past seven months, I have come across any number of men and women who wake in the middle of the night wondering when this economic malaise is going to end. There is much our city can do and we should get to it.

Kathy Galvin (D)
Challenger

That's a two-fold issue. You've got the need to create the

jobs, and then you have to have a workforce that is ready for those jobs. That statistic that you just relayed is all about the loss of jobs, it doesn't even talk about whether or not our workforce is matched up to the employment opportunities that we currently have or that we're gearing our economic development strategies to attract certain jobs to match our workforce skills. So I believe we need to...look at our workforce readiness....

...[C]lose to 30 percent of our population in the city do not earn enough money to cover basic expenses. They are always catching up. That's partly because one of the growth sectors in the city is hospitality. That is excellent for the tourist industry, but it doesn't necessarily mean that you are going to be able to support a family on that. The other important growth areas has been the medical profession. You need a high level of skill for that and I think we need to be very candid that some of our adult population probably have literacy issues....

So we need to grow. We need to grow our industry. We need to support our existing industry. We need to make sure we have a workforce that's ready for these jobs and currently that's not totally lined up.

I think the other important thing to keep in mind, is that the city has been investing in a lot of job training programs.... I am not clear yet how they've been measuring progress. I am not sure how we as a city are holding our own efforts accountable to a goal....Are we really achieving our goal which is to deal with the chronic unemployment, the structural unemployment....I want to make sure that we are all not just duplicating efforts again. What is the goal? What is the next step? Who is going to implement it?

...That's the kind of thing we need to be doing. It's multifaceted, it's got to be coordinated, and it's got to be held accountable. And that means some one entity needs to be responsible for it, and right now I don't see exactly who that is.

Satyendra Huja (D)
Incumbent

The city can do a number of things. One of the things that we can do is a targeted workforce development programs so the citizens can have qualifications for well-paying jobs in our community. When the jobs come, citizens need to be trained and ready for those jobs. A good job as you know is the most important anti-poverty program there is.

We need to work also with the university to locate new technology [businesses] in our community. We can also assist small businesses and minority [owned] businesses because most of the jobs are created by the small businesses and we need to assist them with their venture. We can also provide some financial incentives to locate new businesses [in the city], like tax increment financing, where we can encourage a business to locate in our city. For example, CFA located in the Martha Jefferson [Hospital] property because of tax incentives we provided them.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

This is where I think it would be interesting to work with UVa, to promote industry, whether we are attracting it from elsewhere or whether we are growing it ourselves, that really grows an identity. The biomedical technology is one that people often cite, and it's very real and it's very promising, but there are other promising industries that are really being incubated at UVa. Whether it's energy-based or education-based, I think it would be a good idea to really look to what kind of support those kind of industries need and then work around that. It would also take, if our citizens aren't the ones getting those jobs it's not going to help us that much, so certainly from this perspective, we need to ensure we have training in our community to support those kinds of industries.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

We need to attract new employment, and encourage the support of existing businesses here. We need to move forward with vocational training and stop throwing money at the problem. I want Charlottesville to find a cure to this economic problem and not just something that people are able to just live with.

We need to find a cure for this economic issue, and going back to an educated population, or an educated people, people will create jobs. I'm not undermining the potential of our Charlottesville residents as well. It's just that some appear to have less of an advantage or less of an opportunity. Even the mere idea that they have an opportunity sometimes escapes them.

I think that Charlottesville needs to invest a lot of time into the weak links in Charlottesville. That's the underrepresented communities. While we need to support public housing, we need to equally support vocational training, we need to improve the dropout rate by getting parents involved, and we need to practice what we preach and really try to move forward and try to help every citizen. Now to an extent, because it's families, and you can't take a student and say it is the teacher's responsibility or the school or they system's responsibility to raise that child, it starts at home. But we need to provide homes with the opportunity to generate more income and I think that a lot of people would be a little happier if they had money in their pocket to buy groceries and to get gas....

What would you improve with respect to the city's parks and recreational facilities?

Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

I'm sure there are some voters and some interests out there that are worried I would do just the opposite. [I'm] going to be trying to maintain the high service, the desirable, quality of things as they are now. No, not everything is perfect, but I mean, gosh, all these accolades that the city has gotten for being so livable. It would be a shame to fly in the face of convention, to back pedal, to do something that would harm our cities and parks.

I know there are people against the Meadow Creek Parkway. It's been charged time and time and time again that that parkway, and I use that hesitantly, quote-unquote parkway, is going to be a detriment to the park. Well, how would we know if we don't have that throughway?

I think it will improve access to the park. And what about these meetings that have been held, say at the Martin Luther King Junior Center for the getting access into the east, the part of the park divided by the railway coming through there.

No, I don't want to do anything that harms our parks and recreation facilities....Yes, improvements are still needed but we are in a time of budget constraint. We have to be frugal

and we have to be very cautious and most discerning how we apply what limited funds we have. We have to be sure we're getting the most bang for the buck that we can.

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

I'd like to see us seeking out and gaining more park land. I know we're not necessarily getting too much more space inside of our 10 square miles, but you know we might be able to repurpose some of these things. I would love to see our parks upgraded. I would like to see for public use, or even as a works program, an urban farm if we can find the land and if the neighborhoods that have places where this might happen are comfortable with it. We need to complete trails. We should have a lot more trails. I have been to other cities and I have seen some amazing trail systems and this is a great thing.

We need to protect our parks as well. That means not bulldozing them, not running roads through our parks. When we look at McIntire Park, and everything that's going on there, I'm happy to see that the renovations of the park are a public process. I hope a lot of people will participate in that as there's going to be some tough decisions when it comes to what the park is going to look like in a few years, road or no road.

I would like to see more park land. I would like to see more public space being used for something other than parking or various things that we don't necessarily need. It's not the easiest thing to expand park land, but we should always be on the lookout for ways we can create new parks.

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Well, for a couple of years now I've been advocating to save McIntire Park. It is a jewel that businesses and families enjoy, people of all ages. When we tried to recruit businesses, we take them by McIntire Park so they can see what their employees have to look forward to, whether it's the picnic shelters or the adult softball, both men and women, the Little League t-ball and just Little League baseball and the fast-pitch softball for the young girls. I think they go as young as six years old and it's a delight to see these little kids playing, so for the last couple of years, my advocacy has been to save McIntire Park.

We can integrate the trail system to include the parks, McIntire among them, and the gardens at Rock Hill which is right down from MAACA which is off Park Street. A group of volunteers opened up Rock Hill gardens and the gardens themselves are across the Route 250 Bypass from the Rescue Squad at no cost to the city. This could be one of our park system's crown jewels right behind McIntire Park, a jewel with stone-lined terraces, plantings of original American Chestnut trees, cultivated area and wild areas, which are home to deer, fox and many smaller animals.

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

I would like to improve the planning process. I am actually looking forward to...the east [McIntire Park] plan, but as I have looked at some of the documents on the web, I am concerned again that it's not being viewed in the context of

a bigger picture, both of the entire park as well as all the neighborhoods surrounding it.

...[W]hen you look at, say, the potential for a botanical garden, it is going to be right at the nexus of all of our trails, hiking trails that then lead to that nice network around the city. We...also need to make it part of our brand, part of our awareness as a city that we have our own central park.

And I look at that almost in the context of a campus. Now you will have [the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center] (CATEC), the [Charlottesville] High School, possibly a future YMCA, all within easy biking distance, hiking distance, of a botanical garden. A botanical garden can then feed into a horticultural program at CATEC.... So I think again it's a problem of looking at things in isolation both in terms of ...how we can connect them to other parts of the city, as well as see how the programming ...can ...improve the use of both ...the park and the schools.

I have already mentioned the need...for walkable parks more pervasive throughout the city so that we have a goal so that every resident can get to a park within a five to ten minute walk. That's the half mile, quarter mile walking distance....

I think that's a selling point for the city, is that we are compact, we have great potential for more connectivity for bike-[pedestrian], and if we have a connected park network, a green infrastructure if you will, then we're really going to be able to encourage more families with children, and businesses will be very excited to come here because their employees will want to live here too.

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

The city has a very good park system. There are needs for more planning in terms of, maybe doing more planning for McIntire Park. I would like to see some more open space acquired in the northeast part of the city. [I would like to see] land acquired for trails around the city because we need to have a complete network of trails which could be used by citizens. Acquiring land for those [things] would be very helpful. We also have a Smith Aquatic Center and I think we need to operate it in an effective manner so that it will be a good service for our community.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

Well I think the city's parks and recreation department is fantastic. I have had a lot of involvement with them over the years, having run a park, which was a city-county park. I am a great admirer of city parks and rec. If I had to pick something, and there's certainly a lot of interest, and a lot happening right now, with trails. The city is becoming more involved with the trails system. It's been a kind of volunteer Rivanna Trails Foundation kind of effort up until now, but the city is really partnering well with Rivanna Trails.

I think parks and rec can really help to integrate our transportation alternatives. Trails will be a very big part of that. We are seeing it with the green belt trail over at Riverview Park. It is being used for transportation. I find this absolutely fascinating. People will walk to Pantops from Riverview Park along the multi-use trail. So multi-use trails will be something I think we will see more of and again I

would hope that those will be well thought out in terms of transportation as well as recreation.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

I would improve the number of visitors, I think. I would try to find initiatives that would encourage people outside of Charlottesville to visit our parks. Because if they come visit our parks and walk our trails, they're going to come purchase items in our stores and support our small business owners, maybe on the downtown mall. I think that we need to do what we can to preserve our parks because in the near future, while everyone has a concrete jungle Charlottesville can still have that green element, that homely earthy feel. I think that we need to do what we can to keep our parks alive, do what we can to make sure those parks are well-managed...

I also believe that it promotes good health. It's fresh air. I think that that would help a lot of people's attitudes in Charlottesville. Because when people have to work 12-15 hours a day, they have every right to be upset at life and have a chip on their shoulder. But I think when people can come together as a community or a city and wind-down and share a park that we chose not to demolish, that we chose not to let another Wal-Mart come in and take that land and build some other infrastructure or what have you, I think that that is definitely good. ...

Are you planning to seek a new vote by the council on the previously approved 50-year water supply plan and how would you change the plan, if at all?



Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

[N]o, I would not seek a new vote by the council if elected but I'm going to stipulate this, though--That does not mean that I am against dredging. The Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan have used that straw argument to further their agenda. I don't understand why.

In June, ... the RWSA, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, [budgeted] funding to the tune of \$3.25 million the avenue towards dredging. That's a certainty in my mind right now. We're not going to veer in any direction away from it. It's going to happen. It's been put in place. We're moving towards that. What this has become now is a campaign against the dam. I'm not necessarily for the dam. I'm certainly not for a 45-foot, 50-foot raise in the dam.

But what about water supply? I haven't heard the Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan saying that they will commit to supplying water. What if Mr. Fenwick and Ms. Smith are elected to the council? Well, it's going to be there turn to see where the funds go. Are most of those funds that are going to be available, are they going to be put toward dredging? Certainly, I understand their interest. There is no doubt what their interest is.....

We need to move beyond the plan. You know. If we're going to try to encourage more business to come to the city, as Mr. Fenwick said, if we're going to be a business-friendly, enticing and welcoming city, aren't we going to encourage perhaps industry and commerce that doesn't necessarily conflict with the way we would like to see things done? If they need water, don't we want to supply that so that we can entice them? Have them establish and put roots here for the jobs that it can provide the residential base of this town....

There's got to be some way to move beyond this impasse. That's why I think from the very start this should have been a referendum...

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

I am. I hope that, no matter who gets elected, that in January they will at least take a straw poll to see where people stand on the water supply plan. If there's support for changing the current plan, I would definitely be seeking an official vote and work towards getting to a place where we can take a much longer view and a much healthier approach where we consider conservation and use of existing resources as the norm.

Which means dredging to meet our water needs, and when we have to revisit the plan 10 years from now we can reconsider the dam or not. We may find that our demand has continued to go down as I think it will. I think we can dredge now and we can consider damming much later in the future. We are in no danger of running out of water. By the [Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority's] own admission, there will be times, no matter what happens, where restrictions because of drought will kick in and it doesn't really matter what's going on. We are not in any danger in the near future of running out of water, we are not in any real danger of running out of water during a drought. I think we should dredge and consider damming decades down the road. I don't think that's a decision we need to make right now and it's going to cost a lot of money if we move ahead with the dam....

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Yes, I would seek a new vote. It's pretty obvious at this point that the community water supply plan as pushed by the county and three city councilors is fatally flawed. Every justification it was based on has changed from the demand which has plummeted because of every-day conservation measures and which is now a trend to supply. We have much more water than we thought and we'll have much more when we dredge and just as an aside, the county alone has five reservoirs, the biggest of which—Beaver Creek Reservoir—can hold over a billion gallons of water. The design itself we all know last year changed overnight from a reinforced concrete dam to an earthen dam so it's obvious nothing is set in stone and dredging has been shown not only to pay for itself, but to be a revenue stream for many years but selling the top soil sediment and composted marine vegetation mix just as Lowe's sells it for \$12.00 a cubic foot bagged.

Dredging improves the water quality, the recreational uses of the Rivanna Reservoir, the surrounding property values and is another untouched jobs machine.

My priority would be to concentrate on dredging first and repairing the spillway at Ragged Mountain . If we need a dam, whether a new dam or the repair, the increase in height of the existing Ragged Mountain Dam, if we need that sometime in the future, so be it, but not now in the depths of a lingering recession that will take years to recover from.

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

I'm not going to seek a new vote. I believe that water plan is an important piece of infrastructure to support the 30 years of growth management that the county and city have been trying to do....

When you provide public water and sewer, you are saying this is where you want your growth to happen, and by providing a reservoir for that, you are saying that in the urban ring, and in the city, this is where we want most of that growth to occur—as well as in Crozet [which] has its own water supply, and Scottsville. So, if we don't provide adequate water for...these designated growth areas, we are setting ourselves up for what I call sprawl development into the rural areas of the county....

So I think that the water supply plan is really an important aspect of smart growth in the community, and it's not talked about that way, but ultimately that's what it's trying to do, it's trying to service that growth area.

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

No I am not seeking a new vote on the water system because I think we have a very good water plan which includes a new dam, a 30 foot [taller] dam, conservation, and part one of dredging. The combination of this strategy I think will provide water for the future of our community. As you know, water is one of the basic commodities we need to have for the future. When you turn the water on you need water not hot air.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

I don't think it's necessary to look at this as seeking out a vote. There will be a number of issues that this council has to vote on in the next months to year, and I don't know what the timing will be on that. I am well known as opposed to the current water supply plan. I would vote according to my well established platform on this which is that city interests must be protected and city ratepayers must be protected.

This issue crosses not only environmental issues, there is a social justice issue here about how much can our families—many of whom are struggling, more of whom are struggling than used to be—really how much more can we ask them to pay to support a plan that's really not going to help them. It's those kind of issues. There will be issues of giving up city resources.

Again, I do not support the fifty year water supply plan as it is now. How would I change it? I would want it to be more of a restoration-based, preservation-based, and conservation-based plan than it is now. I think we absolutely need to maintain the resources we have, and that of course includes dredging the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir. I look forward to hearing the bids that come in in the next months hopefully, from outside markets, the market-based approach.

How would I change it? I would try to get it to be more flexible, so that we can anticipate, or kind of a wait to see how population plays out, but more importantly how water use plays out. So I am more for the flexible plan. I supported not only dredging-based [plan], but the incremental increase [of the dam height] at Ragged Mountain Reservoir, not only in order to be able to adapt to changing times, but also so that the cost of the plan isn't front-loaded onto our current ratepayers.

Should City Council support moving the Rivanna Sewer Pump Station from its current location in Woolen Mills even if it will cost city and county ratepayers an additional \$15 million to \$18 million to do so?

Scott Bandy (I)

Challenger

Short answer, yes....The people over there have complained about stench. It's not just the pumping station. It's the infrastructure of that sewage system all together. It's not just the water lines. The water-sewer stormwater drainage infrastructure in this town, again, councils have struggled with the funding to bring this up to date for improvements. This past winter, my god, how many times did we hear about pipes breaking all over the place? There is no, there is no justification ever for spending even one cent of taxpayers money, but if you got to do it, do it for something sensible, for something the people are behind....

The right thing should have been done from the get-go but it wasn't. Well, before another dime or another cost increase to moving that thing across the river occurs, by God let's do the right thing. Move the thing over there! Find some way to cooperate, to get on line and in line with Albemarle County where they will be receptive to receiving this overall on their side.

Citizens particularly in Woolen Mills do not want that over there any longer than the day is. Let's do the right thing. It pains me that such a thing could lead to an increase in

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

I am tired of talking about the water plan, I really am. Oh my God. The water plan was being talked about and discussed before I was born in 1986, so if I had the option as I said back in 2009, I would support dredging first. I don't think that we need to throw a lot of money at the problem.

I think in some form there's a lot of special interests

taxes or costs for, you know, paying water bill or your sewage bill but we could have done the right thing from the get-go, and we failed to. Don't compound and complicate a problem even further by allowing it to go on....Let's move forward.

Brandon Collins (I)

Challenger

I think it's time for that pump station to be dealt with. I live close to that area and you get the smell from over there and we need to do something about that pump station anyways. I think the question is where do we put it, and that's the important thing to consider. I think, yes, it does need to be moved from the Woolen Mills neighborhood, but where are we going to put it? I am in favor of spending the money on that. I think that it needs to be included in our plan.

We can do a lot when it comes to how ratepayers are treated in the city. I think one thing that's very interesting is the tiered rate system that we might consider to encourage conservation. I think we can do a lot more to ensure that people don't have their water service cut off when they can't pay their bills. And this whole thing, they've got this fund... that offsets what's really going on, it really obfuscates the cost of everything we do. But I think the real money drainer on ratepayers and taxpayers is going to be this new dam and new pipeline. Moving a pump station that we need to do something about is not our biggest problem for ratepayers.

Bob Fenwick (I)

Challenger

Well, a couple of things to remember. First of all, these are consultant figures and personally, I don't have a whole lot of confidence in the consultant [cost estimates] that the RWSA puts out. Secondly, the citizens of Woolen Mills have been rebuilding their community for years. That was a very distressed community and a very distressed neighborhood in our community and they've done a remarkable job over there and that's with the existing sewer plant that has affected property values. Now, they have borne this burden for I believe 40 to 50 years. I think it's time for the county to step up and start bearing part of the burden as well and one of

involved with actually building the new dam, perhaps Nestle Corporation has something to do with that, but whatever the case, I would support a reasonable initiative to dredge, because I believe that it will be consistent with the idea of long-term sustainability due to the fact that we only need so much water, and I don't understand why we need so much extra water, and I would question everyone who supports the water plan for what is their rationale for supporting the plan when we really don't need that volume.

the options is to have it across the Rivanna River from where the existing station is down on the flood plain basically below the insurance company....

[I]f we go ahead with it, this will do for 50 years, so that figure should be prorated over that time to get a true cost to the neighborhood and I believe that neighborhood will recoup that amount and the city will recoup that amount just when you run it out 50 years, so I would look very carefully if I had to prioritize where the sewer pumping station would go, I would probably rate across the Rivanna as my first choice. Tunneling under the railroad bridge which is mentioned here as a second choice and I really would oppose increasing it where it stands right now because that's right smack in the middle of the [Riverview Park].

Kathy Galvin (D)

Challenger

I have looked at the various scenarios of what to do with that pump station and the most expensive one is \$40 plus million. Having said that, it is a very valuable neighborhood to the city of Charlottesville. It has seen some of the most creative infill development and it has also seen some of the most successful public processes, working with [the Jefferson Area Board for Aging] (JABA), for example, meeting their goals of developing affordable housing for seniors, but also working with the community.

So you have got a community that is willing and able to work with change. And what I have seen unfortunately is a lot of broken promises and broken agreements, over the years, with this neighborhood. So I have not made a decision on this. I am not dismissing it out of hand. It is extremely expensive. I see it as competing with things like creating a better middle school, and a state-of-the-art early childhood development center.

It is fundamentally a storm water problem. The reason they want to expand it is because of what happens during peak overload during storms. So my question is why don't we start looking at a much more progressive "green" stormwater system, that is very much akin to what's going on at UVa right now, with the Dell for example and [the John Paul Jones arena]....

... Again I need to look at all of the options on the table, fully cognizant of the fact that Woolen Mills is an asset to our city. It has been doing innovative, creative development over the years, on its own. I don't want to squander that trust or that creative energy....

Having sewage go into the river is unacceptable...That river is our asset. I would love to see more access to the Rivanna [River].....and we're just looking at it as if it's just a Woolen Mills problem. It's a city-wide problem, so that's why we have to take it very, very seriously.

Satyendra Huja (D)

Incumbent

I think we should support it because you do not want to have that kind of facility near a residential neighborhood. If you were to live there and had to smell it every day of your life, I think you would appreciate that there ought to be a better location for a pumping station.

Dede Smith (D)

Challenger

First and foremost I do believe we should move the sewer pump station from Riverview Park. It should never have been there, although I think the park sort of came a bit after the pump station. It's an inappropriate place for it. It's certainly an inappropriate place to enlarge it.

My bigger concern about this issue, and the way this [question] is worded is that I don't think we know what each of these options will cost. I have got a long history with working with, or certainly observing, the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority and I happen to know the point at which these de-

cisions are right now are very preliminary numbers. It looks very favorable to keep it at Riverview Park but I am not at all convinced it is.

Will we ever know that it costs really \$15 to \$18 million more, it's a way of framing it that I think biases the decision a bit. I do think that when you make a mistake, sometimes you have to undo that mistake. The pump station in that location is a mistake, and we need to fix it.

Andrew Williams (I)

Challenger

That's something I'd certainly like to look into. It does appear somewhat reasonable given the nature and the magnitude of the project. We need to reduce the level of raw sewage reaching local rivers. We need to make sure that we have safe drinking water, we need to make sure that all of our systems work, but our system, our infrastructure, would crumble if we don't maintain it, and sometimes it does take an investment, sometimes it does take a large check being written.

But what we need to do is look at the way that we're spending monies in general and making sure that we put monies where they are needed, such as the sewer infrastructure and not building a new dam, that's one example of how we make mistakes when it comes to appropriations and as far as a special interest concern, I don't see any potential for special interest oriented with the sewer infrastructure. I think it's a lot less risky than building a new dam. But we need to reduce the amount of wet water inflow as well. So that's certainly something that I would be more apt to supporting, but of course, everything is on a case-by-case basis, so I would have to address that circumstance at the time upon a successful election.

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