

We invite the 2025 Mount Pleasant Mayoral and Town Council candidates to respond with their views and plans to support a thriving, diverse local economy, back local businesses and entrepreneurs, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Please include your responses below. Responses are due no later than 5pm on Friday, October 17 and will be posted to [Lowcountrylocalfirst.org/news](https://lowcountrylocalfirst.org/news) and shared digitally the week of October 20. Please email Jordan@lowcountrylocalfirst.org with any questions.

1. Supporting Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs

What specific policy or program would you champion to reduce administrative burdens (such as complex permitting processes or restrictive zoning) for new and expanding small, locally-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, especially those creating a more diverse mix of retail and services in Mount Pleasant?

I love shopping and buying local and would support our locally-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in any way I possibly can. I believe these businesses should take priority in permitting and zoning processes. Further, I don't think our local businesses should be required to pay absurdly high impact fees.

2. Quality of Life for Residents

Mount Pleasant's growth has intensified traffic congestion and contributed to high housing costs. What is your plan to improve the daily quality of life for residents by addressing the intersection of transportation and housing, specifically to enable local workers to afford to live closer to their jobs and reduce reliance on long-distance commutes?

Our growth has gone on unchecked. If we continue to bring in fast food chains and big box stores, we will continue to have more people who cannot afford to live here commuting to the area. I propose we build a strong economy by encouraging employers who are willing to pay their employees enough to live and thrive in our town.

3. Maximizing Local Impact of Town Spending

How would you reform the Town of Mount Pleasant's purchasing and procurement policies to prioritize and increase the percentage of municipal contracts and purchases awarded to qualified local businesses and suppliers, thereby recirculating tax dollars within the local economy?

I am not familiar with all the purchasing and procurement policies in place for the town currently. My stance, however, would always be to award municipal contracts to local businesses first whenever possible. I would want a mix of local and non-local quotes on any town funded work to ensure we are getting the best possible price for taxpayers.

4. Diversifying the Local Economy

Beyond retail and services, how will you use your elected position to attract and retain high-wage, diversified employment opportunities, such as small-scale manufacturing, technology, or

creative industries, ensuring these sectors can afford to operate and grow within Mount Pleasant?

My answer to this question is very similar to my answer for question two above. These are the employers we should be encouraging to come and do business in our town. I would love to talk with some existing local business owners in these areas and see what incentives the town could offer that would benefit them the most.