

We invite the 2025 City of Goose Creek 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.

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 Goose Creek?

I have served on Goose Creek Council for the past seven years. I have already championed the reduction of administrative burdens for new, small businesses. I have approved policy that streamlines the development/permitting processes but also ensures quality outcomes, i.e., Creek Compass, which is part of the budget for which I voted. I have voted to ensure that Lowcountry Local First receives significant funding from our city budget because I support its mission to help create a more diverse mix of retail and service businesses in Goose Creek. I have also voted to approve a joint initiative between the City of Goose Creek and the CLIMB Fund called “Kickstart the Creek” which helps small businesses and start-ups obtain funding to launch or grow in Goose Creek. Specifically, the CLIMB Fund offers low-interest, working capital loans for those who don’t qualify for traditional loans, and Kickstart the Creek provides loans to small businesses inside City limits. Additionally, the City of Goose Creek has hosted the Community Business Academy classes and its graduation ceremony.

2. Quality of Life for Local Residents

The region'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?

Promoting policy to ensure a range of housing types is available is an absolute necessity to meet the variety of socioeconomic circumstances of all of Goose Creek's citizens. I have already worked with Council and city staff to allow more housing units with lower price points on smaller lots while, at the same time, ensuring that quality units with architectural interest are built. Goose Creek is a business friendly city and we are attracting more businesses every day which will help our citizens to obtain jobs within the city, close to their homes; thereby, negating a long commute to work elsewhere.

3. Maximizing Local Impact of City Spending

How would you reform the City'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?

Working with Council and our city administrator, our policy is already in place to prioritize and increase the percentage of municipal contracts and purchases awarded to qualified local businesses and suppliers although that prioritization must be balanced with our policy to obtain multiple bids in most circumstances.

4. Diversifying the Local Economy

The City of Goose Creek is booming, but the combined pressure of high commercial prices and rents and rapid growth are making it difficult for local, independent businesses to compete with big brands and national chains. What policy or incentive would you support to ensure there is attainable commercial space for local businesses, and to ensure that the City builds and maintains a healthy balance between national chains and home-grown businesses?

Over the past seven years of my service on city council, I have supported policies and incentives to bring about a balance between national chains and home-grown businesses, principally through zoning and land use policies, such as mixed-use developments, adaptive reuse of already existing buildings, and relaxing parking space minimums. And, as previously mentioned, I have voted to implement and fund Kickstart the Creek which targets help to the startup of local, small, independent businesses.