

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 believe small businesses are instrumental to our community. The owners of these businesses pour their heart and soul into them. They put so much time and energy into them, as well as put their name on the line and take on the risk of owning and running them. I think a specific policy or program would need to be made with the input of these local businesses and entrepreneurs as they directly affect them everyday. Citizen input and involvement is everything to me, and I would like to work together to figure out what the priority is and do everything possible to make that happen. I would love to look at impact fees and look to see if we can get rid of them for these small business owners as I have seen how they deeply impact owners. Also, I would like to work on speeding up the process and figuring out what we can do to make it more streamlined and efficient. Mount Pleasant is a unique town with so much culture and history, and it is important that we keep it that way. Small businesses are a highlight of this. Most importantly, a healthy relationship needs to be maintained between the council and these businesses.

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?

I think we need to utilize mass transit. I think bus routes from the surrounding areas that have routes around our town would help. Attainable housing is such a complex and nationwide issue with so many layers. I like what Charleston has done with a Charleston Workforce Housing Fund working with private entities in order to obtain housing and making sure there are restrictions in order to make sure they stay attainable. I also think it is important to ensure any new development has a greater percentage of attainable housing as well. I am fully on board with looking at creative ways to make this happen. This is why it is so wonderful to have a town council filled with a variety of backgrounds and varying levels of experience. The whole point of the council is to represent the entire community but also to work together, and I think it is important to have different perspectives in order to tackle solutions like this.

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 think we need to look at the budget as a whole and figure out where our money is going and what we can do to maximize it all. We need to make sure we are prioritizing things that are important to the town and that the funding is getting where it needs to go. This is an area I would like to investigate more. I think that it is important to make sure that we are being thorough in our analysis and maximizing what we can. Once again, communication is so important, and I would like to interact directly with local businesses to see what the problem is with the percentages and see what we can do to ensure that people are satisfied with the end goal. Compromise and balance are so important to have and is something I constantly think about. I do fully support shopping local and recirculating tax dollars within the local economy. Nothing would make me happier! I also personally shop local every chance I get.

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?

I think places like the Harbor Entrepreneur Center are such wonderful assets to our community. I am open to any community input related to new employment opportunities such as these as long as it is beneficial for the community. This is once again why I think it is so wonderful to have such a diverse community filled with so many different levels of expertise. The main problem is that we currently have limited community involvement in the Town Council, and that is why we need to bring the healthy relationship back. My goal is to get people back to being involved and work with them. In order to do this, we must get their attention first by reaching out to them in innovative new ways. It is so important to work cohesively, and I think that our own citizens can assist in this area as Mount Pleasant has evolved and changed into people from all over the world living here. What better way to get these sectors to Mount Pleasant than from the citizens themselves getting them here?