



We invite the 2025 Town of James Island 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 encourage new and expanding small, locally-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, especially those creating a more diverse mix of retail and services in the Town of James Island?

I want to see James Island take care of its own. We've got so many people right here with good ideas who just need a little help getting started. I would like the Town to make it easier for small business owners to work with the Town. Where they can share information, hold meetups and open doors for people who do not always have connections. I am big on keeping business local. We need to support the ones who live here, raise their families here. We need to pour back into our community. That is how we build a stronger and more diverse island.

2. Quality of Life for Residents

James Island'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 commutes?

A lot of people who work on James Island cannot afford to live here anymore, and traffic's only getting worse. We need to do something about that. I want to push more affordable housing so our teachers, nurses, and everyday workers can actually live close to their jobs. We also need safer streets, sidewalks, bike paths, and better planning before new neighborhoods get approved. Growth is inevitable but it has to make sense for the people who already live here.

3. Maximizing Local Impact of Town Spending

How would you reform the Town of James Island'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 the Town is doing some good things, but we can do even better about keeping our money local. We have so many skilled people and small businesses right here on James Island. I would like to see us make it easier for them to know about opportunities and get involved when the Town needs work done. Maybe that is through workshops, better communication or a list that highlights the island businesses. It is not about blaming anyone but making sure our dollars come back around to support the same families and neighborhoods that make James Island.