

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?

When Commercial business space is available for new builders or in an existing lot, it is imperative to fully review the company who has bid on putting their business in that space, and to keep them small and local rather than large chains. We need to consider what is valued on James Island by current residents, not what we think will draw more people to move to James Island for convenience. Locally owned would be a big selling point, with "locally" meaning local to James Island. Craft fairs, markets, and special events highlighting these businesses would be continued, but we can create more with different days of each month, some being focused on specific services and products. We can encourage the employment opportunities that would be made available by these locally-owned businesses, and perhaps we can find a way to commend these businesses for hiring James Island residents with an effort to Benefit Your Business by Benefiting the Community - Hire Local, Shop Local.

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?

James Island needs affordable housing. We were made into the Town to reduce development and high rising costs of living back in 1993 by Mary Clark and her constituents. Short term rentals are making home values sky rocket, so we certainly need to make a strong effort to keep those at bay and work with the City to stop allowing these Air BnB's to continue growing. We need more sidewalks so people feel safer walking to and from work and to make public transportation known as environmentally and economically positive, with island transportation stops spruced up a bit so people feel valued. We would need to ensure that all disaster recovery efforts are fair and equitable, and to increase resources for Federal Affordable Housing programs.

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?

The Town needs to ensure the best value for our residents, with the most advantageous balance of quality, performance, and fair pricing. Knowing these businesses will help to minimize negative impacts that may happen by new and existing companies. Keeping it locally owned - James Island and Charleston County owned businesses - focusing on value but not being cheapskates, upholding grant compliances, expanding vendor diversity and interest in our economy, and maintaining a modernized procurement process for all businesses. If residents will shop locally on James Island instead of in other areas of Charleston County it would make the expenses circulate and help circulate, perhaps lowering taxes. We need to value the five basic structures of procurement policies, being the right Quality, Quantity, Time, Place, and Price which will benefit the businesses and residents alike.