



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 propose to review licensing and permitting regulations to ensure a streamlined, fast-tracked process to approval, particularly when businesses are a good fit for our largely residential community and invested in the longterm health of the island.

In terms of marketing, additional opportunities to promote locals-oriented businesses include participation in the ever-growing James Island Town Market and callouts on social media feeds as well as town emails and newsletters. And finally, at the startup level, the Town already sponsors an entrepreneurship class each Wednesday at Town Hall, which can always benefit from increased promotion.

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?

I support a fresh look at ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units), particularly in terms of zoning and permitting. By enabling homeowners/residents to more easily rent out both attached and detached living spaces, we can increase housing for local workers, create financial opportunities for residents and minimize environmental impact.

Issues to consider are the current prohibition of a secondary kitchen for attached units and the requirement for elevated construction for detached units.

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?

First, there can and should be a comprehensive, regularly updated database of local businesses and the services they provide. This database would be alerted to all new RFP's from the Town as a first step in the bidding process.

And since not every expenditure rises to the level of the RFP process, it should be made matter of course to use local small businesses to provide services and supplies needed by the Town on a more daily basis, including everything from printer paper to catering.