

2025 Charlotte City Council & Mayoral Candidate Survey

Hosted by Sustain Charlotte

As a 501c3 organization, Sustain Charlotte does not endorse candidates. The survey was sent to all Charlotte City Council and Mayoral candidates prior to the general election. We are sharing the answers we received verbatim from candidates who responded. Several of the seats this year are uncontested.

Kimberly Owens, Democrat Candidate for District 6

1. Transportation Sales Tax

Do you support the proposed one-cent sales tax referendum for transportation?

Answer: Yes, strongly support

Explanation: "While imperfect in that we are burdening people with a regressive tax that gives more to roads than is ideal, it is a start to a future, sustainable, vibrant city where commutes are reimagined and our businesses can count on reliable transportation for their employees who cannot often afford to live where their jobs are."

2. Transportation Investments (Choose 2)

Which TWO transportation investments should be the city's highest priority?

Answer:

- ✓ Expanding bus and rail service
Making streets safer for walking & biking / Improving accessibility for people with disabilities
- ✓ Reducing traffic congestion for drivers

3. Safer Streets

Do you support traffic calming measures such as lowering speed limits, adding crosswalks, and building protected bike lanes?

Answer: Yes

Explanation: "I support efforts to make our traffic corridors safer for pedestrians and bike riders and to move us toward the 10 minute city that we aspire to have --- where folks can live, work and recreate in greater proximity and with less reliance on single occupant vehicles."

4. Parking Minimums

Do you support eliminating parking minimums for new development?

Answer: Unsure

Explanation: "I need to understand how these play out and where they have been used elsewhere to limit vehicles. I would assume this would be most appropriate where there is a proximate rail or bus line because without such proximity, it will be hard on residents to get around without designated parking."

5. Affordable Housing (Scale 1–5, 5 = strongly support)

How strongly do you support policies that expand affordable housing near transit and job centers?

Answer: 5

Explanation: "This is the key to it all. We have to have housing, ideally, inclusively zoned housing, proximate to where people need and want to be."

6. Equity Investments

Do you believe Charlotte's transportation and land use investments should prioritize historically underinvested communities?

Answer: Yes

Explanation: "The corridors of opportunity approach is a start but all initiatives should look to historical inequities and ensure that an approach is taken that remediates previous harms or at least does not continue to perpetuate them."

7. Public Engagement

How would you increase opportunities for residents to have meaningful input in city planning and decision-making?

Answer: "We have to provide a broad range of opportunities for input. Different times, different areas of the city and different means of connecting with the lived experiences of our neighbors. Decisions cannot be made in a vacuum, and the people need to be heard and input received, acknowledged and acted upon. As I did during my campaign, I will continue to be out in the community, attending meetings, connecting with neighbors and being a receptive ear to what is and is not working in our community."

8. Environmental Priorities (Choose 2)

Which TWO environmental investments do you most support?

Answer:

Expanding parks, nature preserves, and greenways (in coordination w/ Mecklenburg Park and Recreation)

- ✓ Preserving and expanding tree canopy
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation
- ✓ Supporting policies to incentivize redevelopment

9. Climate Leadership

How should City Council align its policy and budget decisions with Charlotte's Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP+) to work towards meeting Charlotte's adopted goal of becoming a net zero carbon city by 2050?

Answer: "City Council needs to be aligned with the needs of the people and sensitive to the environmental reality of climate change. I would like our procurement policy to be reimagined from requiring 'lowest responsive bidder' to 'lowest responsible bidder' to incorporate metrics for vendor selection around what vendors are paying a family sustaining, living wage and what vendors are prioritizing sustainability and forward thinking strategies to prepare Charlotte for the future and to meet the net zero carbon goals. Our current procurement process is ill suited to hiring vendors who may be higher upfront cost but more sustainability and wage friendly."

10. Accountability

Should City Council hold departments accountable for implementing adopted plans and ordinances (e.g Strategic Mobility Plan, Unified Development Ordinance, Strategic Energy Action Plan)?

Answer: Yes

Explanation: "You only prioritize what is measured. Each department should have a set of metrics against which its performance to target goals is measured. Without accountability, there is not incentive to adopt measures in furtherance of mission."

11. Candidate Statement

Why should voters who care about sustainability, equity, and livability support your candidacy?

Answer: "I have had a lengthy legal career as a visionary and a problem solver and wish to bring my legal and business acumen to the Dias. I have lived in Charlotte for 30 years and am running to simply make it better for my children and the families of those who love the city as I do. We have challenges and with additional growth, more challenges will come, but people of good values and commitment to the generations who follow us can work together to build a city that truly works for us all. I am clear-eyed about our history and committed to remediating our failings, especially along the 6 identified 'Corridors of Opportunity' where equity has not been the focus. I am committed to leaving our city better with my every act and will put people over party and city over self-interest."