

# CHARLOTTESVILLE TOMORROW

## 2007 City Council Voter Guide

### Charlottesville City Council Elections



**David Brown**  
(D)—Incumbent



**Holly Edwards**  
(D)—Challenger



**Barbara Haskins**  
(I)—Challenger



**Satyendra Huja**  
(D)—Challenger



**Peter Kleeman**  
(I)—Challenger

## VOTE on Tuesday, November 6th

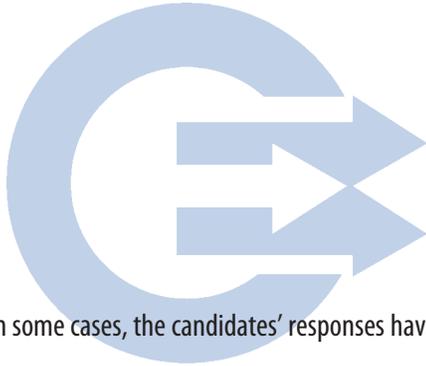
Charlottesville Tomorrow's *2007 City Council Voter Guide* is intended to help residents make an informed vote on issues related to growth and development in Charlottesville-Albemarle. Our website includes audio, video, and written transcripts of every candidate forum and our interview with each candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of this voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review his or her verbatim responses before publishing.

**Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level.**

Visit [www.cvilletomorrow.org](http://www.cvilletomorrow.org)

Charlottesville Tomorrow is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to informing public opinion and policy on land use, transportation, and community design issues to ensure sensible growth and to realize the best possible future for the Charlottesville-Albemarle area.

## 2007 City Council Candidate Profiles (Three Seats Available)



In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this voter guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included

- The community water supply
- Funding water and sewer infrastructure
- Building heights in downtown Charlottesville
- Economic sustainability
- The Meadowcreek Parkway
- Funding transportation infrastructure
- Cooperation with Albemarle County and UVa



**David Brown**  
(D)—Incumbent

A native of Virginia's Eastern Shore, David Brown received a BA in history from the University of Virginia in 1977. He graduated from Western States Chiropractic College in 1981, and returned to Charlottesville in 1982, where he continues in private practice. He is a member of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Virginia High School League, and served on the Virginia Board of Medicine from 1989 to 1997. He is a past president of Offender Aid and Restoration of Charlottesville, and directed the SOCA Outreach program from 2000 to 2003. He was elected to City Council in 2004, and serves as mayor.

**Education:** BA in history, UVa, 1977. Doctor of Chiropractic, Western States Chiropractic College, Portland, Ore., 1981

**Occupation:** Chiropractor

**Age on Election Day:** 53

**Family:** Married to Jean Hiatt, teacher at Cale. Two sons: Greg, 4th year at Earlham College; and Evans, 2nd year at Macalester College.

**Favorite Volunteer Activity:** Coaching outreach soccer

**David Brown's website and contact info:**

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[dbrowndc@gmail.com](mailto:dbrowndc@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (434) 971-3537



**Holly Edwards**  
(D)—Challenger

Holly Edwards moved to Charlottesville in 1991 after accepting a nursing scholarship at UVa. Born to retired physicist Rudolph Kerr and his late wife, Bernice, an educator, Holly was raised in Washington, D.C., and lives in Belmont with her husband, Kendrick; and daughters Christen, Shelby, Bernice, and Jean.

**Education:** BA in psychology, Hampton Institute, 1981; MEd in counseling psychology, Howard University, 1984; BS in nursing, Hampton University, 1990

**Occupation:** Public Housing Association of Residents—Program Coordinator. UVa School of Nursing—Research Scientist

**Age on Election Day:** 47

**Family:** Husband—Pastor Kendrick Edwards, Union Grove Baptist Church, Keswick. Children—Christen and Shelby, 12; Bernice and Jean, 22 months old.

**Favorite Volunteer Activity:** Quality Community Council's (QCC) Prevention and Wellness Committee, acting as parish nurse for the QCC Walks! Program to plan and implement health screenings at the Westhaven Clinic, including blood pressure, weights, and BMI assessments.

**Holly Edwards's website and contact info:**

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Charlottesville Tomorrow's website ([www.cvilletomorrow.org](http://www.cvilletomorrow.org)) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate forum transcripts, audio and video recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this voter guide. Visit our website for an easy way to identify and contact your current elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels





**Barbara Haskins**  
(I)—Challenger

I have lived here for twenty-six years. I was an RN when I moved here for medical school. The charm and beauty here compelled me to stay. I have worked in public-sector mental health for twenty years, am on the clinical faculty in the medical school, have been president of the local psychiatric society, and have chaired various national committees in my profession. I served more than ten years on the Medical Executive Committee of Western State Hospital, and developed expertise for administrative and bureaucratic issues. I was pulled into this election because of my dismay about this year's budget process.

**Education:** B.S.N. from Georgetown/valedictorian; M.D. from UVa; Psychiatry residency from UVa; board certified in psychiatry and in forensic psychiatry

**Occupation:** Psychiatrist and works for the Commonwealth of Virginia at Western State Hospital; clinical faculty in the UVa medical school

**Age on Election Day:** 56

**Family:** Big sister to her siblings; godmother to her niece; innumerable cousins; pal to her mom; and devoted companion to her dogs [rescue dogs]. She has been married; it was a life-transforming experience.

**Favorite Volunteer Activity:** Hosting exchange students; cleaning up in the kitchen after friends' dinner parties

**Barbara Haskins's website and contact info:**

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Phone: (434) 296-0027



**Satyendra Huja**  
(D)—Challenger

Mr. Huja is the president of Community Planning Associates, focusing on planning, design, development, and management consulting. He was director of strategic planning for the City of Charlottesville from 1998 to 2004. Prior to that, he was director of planning and community development for the City of Charlottesville for twenty-five years. His experiences are in the area of downtown revitalization, housing, historic preservation, transportation planning, art and culture activities, and neighborhood revitalization. He also has been a consultant to the City of Plevn, Bulgaria, for economic development and tourism marketing.

**Education:** Master's degree in urban planning, B.A. in psychology

**Occupation:** Retired community planner; adjunct faculty at UVa School of Architecture.

**Age on Election Day:** 65

**Family:** Wife, Irene. Two sons: Uday, 35, and Ajai, 32; and one stepson, Ben, 33.

**Favorite Volunteer Activity:** Soup kitchen

**Satyendra Huja's website and contact info:**

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**Peter Kleeman**  
(I)—Challenger

I have been a resident of Charlottesville since 1981, when I joined the faculty at the UVa School of Engineering. I have since grown to love Charlottesville and am an active participant in local arts, cultural, social, and government activities in our community. I am committed to making our city a leader in managing regional growth to meet the needs of all Charlottesville residents. I continue to attend university classes and seminars in planning, law, and engineering, and share my knowledge, experience, and ideas with local decision makers to help identify creative solutions to our community's challenges.

**Education:** Ph.D., environmental science and engineering, Harvard University (1978); S.M., environmental science and engineering, Harvard University (1973); S.B., civil engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1969). He also continues to attend classes in transportation engineering and urban and regional planning through the Citizen Scholar Program at the University of Virginia.

**Occupation:** Self employed—independent transportation and environmental consultant—licensed in Charlottesville (trading as Techniquet)

**Age on Election Day:** 60

**Family:** Single. Four siblings living: Massachusetts (2), California, and Tennessee. Father and stepmother live in New York. Cousins, nieces, and nephews scattered around the U.S.

**Favorite Volunteer Activity:** Jefferson-Madison Regional Library—Monticello Avenue Computer Laboratory, helping library patrons and visitors from around the world connect to job opportunities, educational resources, and other public information available through library Internet facilities

**Peter Kleeman's website and contact info:**

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# Please describe your past political experience and what qualifies you to be on City Council.

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## David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, I've lived in Charlottesville for thirty-one of the last thirty-five years. I went to UVA; spent four years in Portland, Oregon, going to chiropractic school; and since 1982 I've lived here continually. I've been involved with this city in a pretty wide range. I'm a small-business person as a chiropractor. Both my children have been educated in the City schools. They're both now in college. I've been on the boards of a number of organizations. I was president of a neighborhood association. I ran a soccer program for low-income kids, and on top of that, I've now spent almost four years on City Council.

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## Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

I have been on the front line providing community outreach support and leadership since I arrived in Charlottesville fifteen years ago. Currently, I'm the program coordinator for PHAR, the Public Housing Association of Residents, and I've developed the leadership internship program. I've been providing public housing residents with life skills so that they will one day be sitting in this same chair. I'm a community activist. I'm a nurse and I've been involved. I really wanted to take my commitment to the community to the next level by running for City Council.

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## Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

I would say there are three elements of my experience that are relevant to that question. First of all, I've been head of my treatment team for twenty years. I've worked in an actual state bureaucracy, so I have decades of experience of having to interface with a variety of regulatory agencies, a variety of funding streams, a variety of rules, and a variety of constituent groups and have had to work in that model to get things done. . . . I've worked in the state system, and am very familiar with competing constituencies and conflicting needs and priorities. . .

Then the second piece is for many years at the [Western State] Hospital I was chair of Medical Quality Insurance, and I think there's some important constructs that are relevant. Namely, if you look at the whole idea of TQM, total quality management, the core idea there, or one of them, is that the people who are closest to the process are really the experts on how to improve the process. And what we have in the city are a lot of City staff and hired consultants who spend many, many, many work hours on a given assignment or project or idea or question, and generally speaking, they're the closest to the process, and then they bring their recommendations forward to groups like City Council. I think sometimes City Council overreaches itself in questioning the work product of that group. I just think that one should be very wary of doing that, because generally speaking, those are the people who are on the ground, in the trenches, who understand the ins and outs of the question at hand. . .

And, then thirdly I've also been on the Hospital Medical Executive Committee for thirteen years, and it was our job, again, to look at policy recommendations, look at problems in the system, look at coming regulatory changes or mandated changes or changing populations, and really figure out the best solution for problems that are often thrust upon us rather than generated ourselves.

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## Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

First of all, I think it would be a great honor and privilege to serve my community where I live. I've been living here for thirty-four years. I believe I can make a contribution, a significant contribution, to the improvement of the City of Charlottesville because I have the experience, I have the creative skills, and I care for this community a great deal, and I have a proven record of service to this community for the last thirty-four years. I also have served on a number of boards and commissions over the years and [worked with] non-profit agencies like the Piedmont Housing Alliance, Jefferson Board of Aging, Art in Place. The most rewarding job I had was at the soup kitchen, running the soup kitchen.



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## Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger

I have a broad background and experience. I've worked in many different capacities and I have been very active in local issues, primarily in the last ten to twelve years. I have experience working in the areas of transportation planning, environmental protection, some things having to do with city planning, sustainable development. I am a strong advocate for public involvement and have exercised my role as a citizen in many of these areas. [I frequently attend] City Council meetings and I am fully up to date on what they have done, are doing, and I have clear ideas on what they could be doing, so I bring that kind of experience.

My professional experience has included work . . . at the federal level in energy areas and in environment, public health. I have been an educator. I taught at the University of Virginia. I have worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation as an environmental engineer and a transportation planner, so I have a variety of professional experiences working on issues from a different perspective, but all of these issues are key issues in City Council deliberations, so I feel I bring a breadth of perspective that few of the other candidates have and enough experience and contacts and I've worked with people around the state and around the country.

# Q What is your top priority for action by City Council if you are elected?

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## David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, you know, the thing I'm most interested in is seeing the City move forward on the commitment to the [U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement]. We signed that a year ago and we committed ourselves to decreasing carbon emissions, basically energy use, in Charlottesville to 7 percent below 1994 levels . . . by the year 2012. . . . It can't just be City action that affects that. It has to be the idea of being responsible with energy use. It has to include everybody. It has to include the private sector, the building community, businesses, and it has to include individuals, and so we have to somehow get people to realize this is actually a win/win. Not only do we do our part to help the environment, but we all save energy and we all save money. Part of the challenge, I believe, and what I want to see us really make sure we do as we take steps toward that, is to make sure that those benefits of saving energy and saving money extend into the low-income community so that all of Charlottesville participates and benefits.

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## Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

I come from an entirely different perspective than my other candidate counterparts in that my orientation will be different as a new councilor. I think that because I have so much to learn as a freshman councilor, it's almost a delusion of grandiosity to think that I'm going to come in and create this top-priority action plan without the understanding of everything that goes into creating those action plans. I guess if there's one thing that I'd like to do in that role is to make sure that I create an awareness and appreciation for health and wellness in our community and to really create a culture where health and wellness is an equation—is part of the equation—of every decision that we make, even going back to the Biscuit Run question. How will that development impact the health and wellness of our neighbors? Will people will be able to navigate in the same way? Will the construction change things in the way that the neighborhoods look? You know, so that's what I'd like to be able to do.

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## Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

Tax relief for homeowners. I just think we have had too many tax increases. I think that the way tax relief is handled in essence comes back to one's political philosophy. It appears to me that the philosophy of City Council as a group is in our wisdom, we will elect those to whom we will give the benefit of tax relief and that's not my philosophy. My philosophy is everybody gets it because the people who earned the money are the people who should decide how to spend the money, not a governmental agency. If you look at this process the City Council has come up with, they've got the

*Continued on next page*



eight-point program [to determine if] you might be eligible. . . . It's too detail-driven and it's not user-friendly. No one should have to sit down after they have paid double-digit increases in their tax assessments for the last five or six years and say, Let's see, I've got one, two; I don't have three; I've got four and five. That's ridiculous. And then they came up with this thing they wanted to model after a Tidewater kind of program where you could defer [the rising tax bill] until you sold [your home], but then they decided it was too hard. Again, this is where I would step in and say, Oh, okay, that's too hard, why don't you just simply cut the rates, you know, just stop taking it. That's pretty simple and pretty straightforward.

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### Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

[One priority] is the environment. And to deal with the environment, many things can be done. The most important thing I'd work on is the transit system, because I think it has an impact on the traffic, an impact on the environment, quality of our air. So I feel that if you can improve a good transit system, it would be a good way to improve the quality of life in our community. . . . I would [also] like to see energy conserved, up to 25 percent reduction in energy used in the city. As you know, 30 to 40 percent of the energy is used in buildings, and we can set a good example with our own fleet, our own buildings, and provide incentives. For example, we could give free audits to residents so they could know where their energy is being wasted and how they can improve that.

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### Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger

I think that we really need to refocus. City Council needs to look inward and say, "What is our appropriate role in guiding the City?" We really need to, I think, take on that role of being the board of directors, redefining what it is that City Council should be considering, how it brings issues forward, how it spends its time, basically, and how much it will delegate to professional staff. . . . City Council has recently been evaluating how well a particular project fits our vaguely defined comprehensive plan. . . . Now clearly, council has a role in that. But I think it really needs to take those conversations as a way of refocusing what the guidelines are for the Planning Commission or the Board of Architectural Review and say we shouldn't have to be reviewing each and every one of these things. We should be setting better guidelines. All the people that we appoint or hire to do the primary decision making in those areas and then come forward and defend why it is that this is a good idea and if there's no good reason to the contrary, I believe council needs to have the confidence that the people that they hire and they appoint are doing a professional job; and if they're not, they could be replaced. But if they are doing a professional job, their judgment should be taken into serious account. Only if there are conflicts between various goals and objectives, where clearly a decision by a body like the board or the council is necessary to balance out these competing views, I think at that point, they should take more action, but I really believe that that is one of the key issues.

## How would you define quality growth for our community?

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### David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, I would define it as growth that embraces sustainability, both economic sustainability and environmental sustainability, which means attention to energy efficiency, water use, storm water management, that embraces low-impact development, preserves or plants trees, is accessible to transit. That's how I would define it.

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### Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

Quality growth for me means expanding in a way that's healthy for the environment and all of the inhabitants in our community. I'm saying all of the inhabitants because even skunks have moved into the city because they're being moved out of the areas where they usually lived because of the development. I think quality growth means growth that respects the character and historic value of the community and that lowers the impact on the environment. Growth that welcomes the pedestrian and bike traffic and public transportation. Quality growth means a perceived improvement in the quality of life for the people that live here, and that includes affordable housing, better schools, better-paying jobs, and quality health care.



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## Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

This question comes up over and over and the more I've thought about it the more I've decided that there's no such thing as quality growth, per se. And I would say somewhat ironically and facetiously is that quality growth is like Prince Charming for women. Women might have an idea in their mind of who Prince Charming is, and he would have a hundred positive attributes, none of which you'd argue with and you'd want all one hundred. But you're not going to meet Prince Charming, and quality growth starts to approach that. It kind of starts to get to the level of an oxymoron, because people have so many strong opinions about change and development that hardly any kind of growth is going to be quality growth. . . .

There's not going to be a lot of consensus on most projects. I would contextualize that further by saying that in our economic system there are real constraints on that notion because we have an economic system set up on the rights of property owners. And that's just the way it is. Maybe people don't like that, but it's true. So, if property owners have within their zoning laws an ability to do what they want with their property, then of course they're going to make decisions that other people don't like.

I think if you were going to try to capture the notion of quality growth, you would be talking about infrastructure support, and aesthetically pleasing, although again, just think of the Picasso statue in Chicago in front of the office building. You know, they put out this radical statue and half the people hated it, half the people loved it. So even if I say quality growth should have an aesthetic component, there are still going to be disagreements. Certainly for me, I would hope we could maintain some of the visual quality of our area. . . . I hope that there can be preservation of our canopy and some feel for natural spaces within the development that occurs.

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## Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

Growth which is sustainable, which can be sustained for the long run, and not just for today, which is harmonious with existing development. We live in, especially in the City of Charlottesville, we live in an old community, so when you do a new development it has to fit in. You have to think of Charlottesville as a quilt, and we need to fit each new patch into the quilt in a harmonious way and quality way, and not just dump in some new development. Also, I think we need to protect new development and natural and manmade environment, and development needs to be affordable. We need to have development which will meet the needs of all our residents, not just the richest of our residents, so that kind of development I will promote, and I will support that kind of development.

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## Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger

Well, clearly, there could be many different definitions. I'll make a simple definition I think is workable in this context and that if we think of growth as being an investment in residential, commercial, and industrial construction, that's going to be adding population and economic activity to our community, I think we need to ensure that ... all the supporting infrastructure that we just talked about and the increased needs for schools, parks and recreation facilities, transportation facilities, utilities, etc., are somehow rolled into that growth. Again, the issue is that if we are going to be a sustainable community, where the quality of life is not diminished by growth, we need to have growth that is an added feature to our region. The concept of a growth tax could apply here if in fact we are encouraging growth and we don't ask those people to pay a fair share of the added infrastructure or recreation, schools, etc.

Quality growth means that the growing elements in our community are not causing a real downside cost or an increased cost on all the other existing facilities who would prefer to welcome them in as a part of the community rather than an invasion in the community, so my feeling is that quality growth requires that there's a strong dialogue between the developers or the growing entities, whether they're industrial or government or whatever it might be that's moving into our area, and the community that it's a clear agreement that they are participating in the ways that they can participate, and perhaps overparticipating in some area like providing transportation amenities, etc., where they can't necessarily provide some of the other needs, so that would be a sharing, a balancing among the portfolio of demands in the region. So, I think that anything that fits into that and is generally acceptable by the community as a positive benefit would qualify as quality growth.





## The County Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing the proposed Biscuit Run development. At 3,100 homes, this would be the largest single development in the county's history. Do you believe Biscuit Run will be quality growth in our community? Why or why not?

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### David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, I think it's hard for Biscuit Run to meet my definition of quality growth—environmentally sustainable and economically sustainable—so I'm not a big fan of what's going on at Biscuit Run. I think it's certainly overwhelming the natural environment that existed there and I think it also has potential to overwhelm the built environment—the roads and the infrastructure that it's going to—That's a lot of houses and that's a lot of people. I mean, compared to the size of Charlottesville, it's—I don't know, there are 10,000 homes in Charlottesville and some fifteen—I don't know how many thousands there are, but 3,100 homes is a lot of homes.

And I kind of disagree a little bit with the premise that [underlies] a lot of the growth in the county, which is the idea that, well, we're growing at a certain rate and we need to provide adequate homes for these people to live, because I think part of what happens when you have a development like this is they advertise themselves, they promote themselves, and you end up attracting more people moving here because you've now planned this development. So I think that I'm worried in the zeal to anticipate growth that the County is also contributing to growth.

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### Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

I think that it has the opportunity to be quality growth and I think the concerns that I would have would be the same concerns that my friends over in the Fry's Spring neighborhood have had about it: whether or not it will be able to handle the increase in transportation, the increase in the volume of people, and whether or not the infrastructure is really there. Does it have the ability to negatively impact? Yes. If it's not done well and if everyone isn't on board with every part of the process and because the development is so large and because it's new, it's really scary, because it is a new change, but I think we all have to somehow or the other wrap our brains around the idea that change is coming and we may not be able to always control every aspect of that change, but we have to be aware and we have to be ready.

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### Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

Well, I've already told you what I think: Quality growth is like—Prince Charming. You're not going to find it. It's certainly beyond my capacity to just picture 3,100 residential units. I don't know what that looks like. The problem is, again, we can have these discrete discussions, but they're embedded in a certain political economic matrix. Our matrix is that the people who own that property—I guess they needed to sell it because the heirs wanted their assets—are allowed to sell it and so that's the done deal, is that private property owners can sell and everything else is secondary to that. . . .

I think the big nightmare is traffic. Well, there are two nightmares. One is just loss of canopy and unpaved areas and all that, but that's going to happen. . . . To the extent Biscuit Run is cleared a lot, that will be really a negative in the equation. I know they're putting in or want to put in a 400-acre park, etc., etc., but I think there's a lot of gratuitous losses of natural habitat. So there's the habitat issue and all the effect that has on water absorption, and then you have flooding and you have erosion and all the habitat kind of questions. The other is traffic. . . . Where are all these travelers going to go? You know, they're talking about putting that connector road over to the Sunset/Fontaine Connector Road. My thought on that is that's really great if when you get to Fontaine you turn left and get on the bypass and the interstate, but if you turn right, it's right back to nightmare. I understand that JPA is supposed to have widening but it hasn't yet. . . .



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## Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

Well, first of all, it's a large development, so I'm concerned about it in the sense that it has an impact on the City of Charlottesville, especially the southern part of the City of Charlottesville, the Fry's Spring neighborhood. And, I want to make sure that the transportation access is provided. It could be a good development if they provide first for appropriate amenities for the area, and most importantly, that they provide transportation improvements like east-west Sunset-Fontaine Connector, and those kind of improvements, so traffic is not going through the City of Charlottesville.

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## Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger

Well, I believe according to my just proposed definition of quality growth that Biscuit Run is not really a quality development the way it's currently proposed. . . . I think it's not really paying its fair share of the growth infrastructure needs, which implies that it is going to put a huge burden on the existing populations and clearly on some of the populations in the city.

Although it's a county development, we'll be adding many more commercial—or trips for commercial—activity in the city, more cars driving in. It's not going to be a transit-linked development. It was proposed at some point as a transit-ready development, meaning that at some point in the future, transit could be put there, but basically if there's no real linkage to providing transit at its outset, it's going to attract a number of people who are going to go there and they're not going to be moving there because it's transit-connected. It's close to the city, but it's not connected well enough that this will just add to the automobile travel burden of the city and the county, so in that regard, I think that it really needs to do more.

I am not a fan of having very large developments, rezoned in an area that's so close to the city, but it's really not in any meaningful way connected. It's a little island of a community. I've done some personal investigations in what some of the situations are and the connecting roads, and I think some of the concerns that are expressed by citizens who live in various neighborhoods about the increase in traffic and the reduction in quality of life in their community are certainly worth considering, so my feeling is that a broader discussion of what the actual impacts of such large developments are and how mitigations can take place. If this means some rethinking of how people can get to and from where they need to go on a daily basis, whether it's transit or better bicycle connectivity, whatever, that needs to be part of the conversation and it really hasn't been. . . .



At their meeting on September 12-13, 2007, after Charlottesville Tomorrow's interviews with each candidate, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Biscuit Run rezoning.





# What are your overall transportation priorities for the City of Charlottesville?

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## David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, I think to improve transit—and I think we’re moving in that direction with the regional transit authority to improve the walk-ability and bike-ability, if those are words, within the city—and I think that that not only means infrastructure changes, but making sure that development and density occurs in the right places. It occurs in places where people can reasonably expect to walk and improving connectivity, not just looking at the Meadowcreek Parkway, but looking at the Hillsdale Drive connection, looking at the Fontaine connection between Sunset Avenue and Fontaine Avenue, looking at the southern connector and eastern connector.

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## Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

It’s my understanding that a consultant is looking at best practices to create a regional transit authority and I just heard on WINA this morning that UVa has decided not to be as active a participant in that process as everyone had hoped. So given that in mind, we need to use the resources that we do have between the City and the County, but the bottom line, I think, is that the goal should be to revolutionize the transportation system. Reduce the barriers for people that do have cars and increase the incentives. For example, sometimes the scheduling can be a disincentive for people. Create pedestrian pathways, and I like the sound of having biking boulevards and to create commuter lanes.

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## Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

Everything comes back to this, which is the second piece of my campaign: Do we want to keep the city-county boundaries that we currently have? Do we want to continue to do business as two largely separate entities? I know that there’s some cooperation, but there’s a lot of non-cooperation and you know, That’s mine, not yours, and No, I’m not paying for that because you benefit. So, are we going to look at this question and say specifically only in the City of Charlottesville, on the transportation issues, or is that kind of silly, and really what we need to be talking about is a regional priority for transportation?

In the city, I was bike-riding this weekend and I went to look at a development, Cherry Hill. When you get near UVa, the bike paths just disappear and there are certain big intersections where you really lose that non-vehicular right of way. If you’re not in a vehicle, you’ve lost your right of way and you’re sort of back to taking your chances. So, I think that there’s a few intersections—same thing when you’re going past Snyder Tennis Courts, you’re kind on your own, crossing your fingers until you get to your bike path on the other side. Those would be city things.

I know that there’s a part of the strategic plan to have all of the schools have sort of non-vehicular trails for a two-mile radius, I think, so that children within two miles could get to school using bikes or on foot if they wanted to; that’s a wonderful plan. And God bless the Rivanna Trails Foundation for all the work they’ve been doing in making a loop of trails around the city and the county.

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## Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

My most important priority is to improve the transit system. We are not going to be able to build, or want to build, too many new roads in the City of Charlottesville. So, the alternative is, how do you handle the traffic situation? Transit, in my mind, is a good way to deal with it. But it needs to be very efficient, frequent, every 15 minutes or so, so it can be predictable and customer friendly. So we can use it, accessible throughout the city. . . .

Another thing I also support is a streetcar on the corridor from downtown to the [Route] 29 North through the University and Barracks Road, because I think it will provide a good way for high-density corridor development. Another area of transportation which is important to me is an interconnected network of bikeways. Right now, you have pieces of bikeways, but they are not connected, and they are not available, and they are not safe. So, it is important that they are interconnected. I would also like to see a very good pedestrian network, especially in residential neighborhoods. I would urge there be sidewalks on at least one side of every street, or at least main streets in neighborhoods and major streets.



Besides that, I would like to see if we could do some traffic management on existing streets so that you improve the quality of transportation and access and movement on existing right of ways, and I think there are things that can be done through traffic management. The other thing which is important to me in transportation is that the County needs to also build some roads in surrounding areas, so that traffic that is now going right through the city, for example, the Sunset-Fontaine Connector, would be a good example of that connection.

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### **Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger**

[M]y idea of the transportation priorities we have is to be able to serve the full range of people who are moving in and about our community, so I am strongly in favor of development of a regional transit authority that—I think transit is our future.

Viewed by Charlottesville, we need to be able to get people from the outlying areas into Charlottesville without asking them to drive their cars. It'll keep us from needing to build so many parking garages. It'll reduce energy consumption and pollution, a variety of the impacts of mobility by automobile, so my position on the regional transit authority is that it needs to be a combination of all of these regions in one body, that we need to have representation of the outlying communities—We may not have transit service provided to them on day one of the existence of this facility, but that they need to be at the table—they need to be part of the discussion. They can actually do better planning for their growth if they are connected to transit opportunities for the future. . . .

Certainly, in conjunction with a transit authority idea, I am certainly interested in enhancing flexing of road dollars that could be used for transit, biking and walking paths, providing better commuter bicycle ways, commuter pedestrian ways in and out of where the residential areas are that are bike-able and walkable to various buildings that are employing large numbers of people or commercial/retail areas, so it's a combination of issues. Thinking of ourselves as clearly the center of a region and that when people get here by other than their own automobiles, that they have ways to get around to do the things they want to do here, so I think it is a regional issue. I am going to be strongly promoting all of those—bike, walk, transit, and regional connectivity.

**Q Do we have appropriate resources in City government to achieve the objectives in our strategic plan? In what way, if any, do we need to make changes? What impact will your recommendations have on staffing and the annual budget?**

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### **David Brown (D)—Incumbent**

That's a good question and you can kind of look at it in two sections: resources being people and resources being money. On the people side, you know, I feel like we have a level of staffing that's adequate and we have some really good people who work for the City. . . . There are some areas where I feel like we might need to expand a little bit. If the pace of development continues to be as high as it has been, I feel like it overwhelms Neighborhood Development Services, our planners . . . and it may be, to really do a good job, we need more in that department.

The second thing we need to do is we need to put the resources in so we can compete for and attract police officers. We really need a fully staffed Police Department to handle our growth, to handle traffic.

The second part is spending, and where we mainly will be challenged with money issues is in our infrastructure, whether it's in managing storm water, roads and sidewalks, aging buildings, those are the issues I think that are going to be a challenge for us financially and we may find ourselves having to increase our spending. Hopefully, we can offset it with efficiencies in other areas.

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### **Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger**

Do we have the appropriate resources? No, but we certainly have the foundation. More than any community, we have the intellectual resources and the dedication and the talent of the City staff. It's ambitious and the key will be to operate smarter with the dollars and leveraging resources from private, state, and federal resources. I guess in terms of what recommendations would I have on the staffing and the annual budget, as a new

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councilor, I have to be really strategic about following the dollars. And what's going to be different, more so about this election, is that everything's happening in November, whereas before new councilors had from spring until the end of the year to prepare for the budget, but that budgeting process will happen right away, so I have to be really strategic about following the numbers from this budget to determine what's going to happen for next year.

[F]rom listening to some of the concerns that people had during the campaign, I heard a lot about people wanting more, people feeling that they weren't involved as much as they wanted to be in the budgeting process. It sounded like people wanted to have more information about how the budget process works. There were a lot of concerns about how the budget seemed to be so out of balance with the priorities, as the way they had hoped they were. A lot of it had to do with people not having enough information about the thought process that went into some of the decisions. Granted, everybody's not going to agree with everything that's handled, but I'd like to see a way that people don't feel as if it's the City's budget, but it's our budget and that we all feel as if we've taken a part in that plan. I think if I could change any one thing, and that is one thing that I've learned over the past few months, that would be one of the things I'd like to see.

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### **Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger**

This strategic plan is a mix of reasonable, highly desired goals that are probably achievable and some very blue-sky kind of goals, like Wouldn't it be swell if we had this, and I'm not sure that—you know, it's nice to have dreams, but if you spend too much of a city's planning energy on the dream side of things when they're very likely not realizable or perhaps should not be pursued, then I think you divert attention from what you can do, the more achievable goals. . . .

But my global answer to this question is I think it's backwards. I think, you know, you've taken what you want and then you're going to figure out how to pay for it and that's that consumption-oriented ethic . . . where our culture has evolved into one where we define ourselves by what we consume and what we surround ourselves with rather than any sort of inner space, our inner lives . . . rather than starting the other way around, which is saying, Here's my cash flow. This is what I have to spend. What are my budgeting needs? Am I going to have savings? Am I going to have retirement? Am I going to have a college education fund? Am I going to use infrastructure repair and be aware that my roof is going to run out in two years? And then what's left over? Do we get one flat-screen TV, one private-school tuition, you know, whatever?

So I feel that embedded in your question here is the reverse direction. It should be what are our economic resources and then, given the constraints of reality about our economic resources, what are our priorities. I think that the strategic plan is the opposite.

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### **Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger**

I believe the City does have enough resources to meet its strategic plan goals. We can't meet them all overnight. I think it will take some time and we need to phase the most important priorities. I do support funding for environmental sustainability, affordable housing, and recreational facilities. I think we can use our resources effectively in meeting strategic goals.

I don't think it will have a significant impact on the budget or staffing, because I think that we have an adequate staff right now to deal with problems and issues and needs of the community. We are a small community. We are not growing in population. We are growing quite a bit, staffing-wise, and so, especially, I would focus more on service provider staff than administrative staff.

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### **Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger**

Well, we have a great deal of resources in the city. I think when I go over to City Hall, I see there's an awful lot of people working there. Many of them are professionals and they have good credentials to look at how we can move our city forward, so I think that from a point of view of intellectual and human resources, I think we have a fairly good opportunity to do a great deal of strategic plan satisfying, so one of the things that I believe needs changing is I believe that we as a city council need to do less of what I consider micromanaging of the decisions in the city and adopt the role of being more of a board of directors for the city. . . .

We could rely less heavily on consultants if we have a better development of our own personnel, our own City professional staff. I think that in the end, the impact on our staffing and budget I think may actually be positive. We'll maybe get more value for the dollars that we're spending on human resources. I think that we'll even get more-satisfied staff, lower turnover, and I think a better understanding and continuity from year to year of what has happened, what has worked, who are the primary stakeholders and actors in making our community decisions. My feeling is that we just need to redirect some of our resources, and I am optimistic that redirecting is possible and will lead to more efficient solutions, and I think better solutions, to our emerging problems.



# Q What are your priorities for improving the City's public recreational facilities and urban green spaces?

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## David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, I think we need to make sure that we maintain the neighborhood focus of our recreation facilities. I think we need to look for partnerships, such as with the Boys & Girls Club and potentially the YMCA. We need to look to make sure that our investment in recreation meets the needs of city residents, not regional residents, but city residents, and, in particular, meets the needs of kids. I think we need to work hard to protect the urban green spaces because a lot of the spaces that we've taken for granted as being green and wooded are now being developed and so the places that are publicly owned need to be protected.

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## Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

In my priority for the public recreational facilities, as we talk about the need to upgrade, the need for creating new facilities, is that as we have the conversation about the development of those facilities, there's also a partnering conversation about the access and the utilization of all those facilities to make sure that we're creating public recreation facilities that are going to be inclusive of all our residents, that they have times available and programs available, they're going to reach a truly diverse population of the city. I think that as we are now in a place where we have to upgrade those facilities, we're really in a unique place that we should take advantage of all the technology that we have to make sure that we're doing it in an environmentally responsible way as well and to take advantage of everything that we know now to lessen the impact as much as we can on the environment as all those things are taking place, but I don't want buildings to take place without the building of the programs to take place at the same time.

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## Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

You haven't seen much in the paper lately about the YMCA and the pools. Again, it brings up this whole—Let's see, the City and the County are supposed to pay equal amounts. We have less than half as many people as the county. We're giving the land and this is fair? Why? You know, if we were doing the YMCA project, we're going to cut down our trees in McIntire Park and match the County dollar for dollar, so I'm not thrilled about that. . . .

I understand that the mayor has said—I think he said that he wants at Smith to have both a lap pool and warm water pool or a leisure pool. That's fine. I don't have a problem with that. If we really need to get rid of both or change the lap pools because they're so aging, then I would support doing it that way, I think, and pairing up with the Boys & Girls Club more so than the YMCA project.

Other than that, I know there's a lot in the strategic plan about just building fitness in throughout the city more, whether it's in the school system or having fitness courses and what-have-you and those all make sense, assuming that the marginal cost is not prohibitive. Urban green space—I know in the strategic plan they're talking about having arborists as consultants to private citizens and what-have-you. To the extent we can . . . when there's development, trying to maintain some kind of people-sized space. People do relate to the green spaces, to natural vegetation as well as to water and things like that, sky, so the more we can maintain our canopy and our green space, I think the higher our aesthetic quality of life here.

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### Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger

Well, I think it is important to augment and increase spaces for recreation, open spaces are like breathing rooms for our community, and we need to have good spaces like that. It adds to our community. It's a more pleasant community to live in if you have good spaces. Plus, there's a need, for health purposes also, for recreational activities. I would first of all encourage acquisition of land in the flood plain so that we can protect the open space around the river, around other areas, and would also like to see that some of the open spaces are well scattered throughout the city. I would also promote a lot of tree-planting, tree cover in the parks rather than the streets, because I think that would improve the quality of life, quality of our environment for us. And I think that we have a very good parks and recreation department, and I think that we need to maintain our facilities so that the facilities could be improved upon, for example, the swimming pools, at the Buford site, or the Crow site.

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### Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger

I think running [the Meadowcreek Parkway] through our premier park is more than I could really support. I think that McIntire Park is one of the great resources that the City has in terms of parks and recreation. It provides some of the great opportunities for new, expanded parks and recreation activity, so my feeling is protecting the parks that we have now is really important, very important, but I think expanding—If we are going to be a growing community, and have more people living and working and wanting to have their lunch sitting outside, the more green spaces that we can provide as a counterbalance to some of the higher-density development that's taking place is a wonderful combination. . . .



## What do you see as the primary responsibilities of City Council?

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### David Brown (D)—Incumbent

Well, probably I would narrow it to two. One is setting policy and providing direction to the City, figuring out, you know, establishing priorities, getting input from residents on the priorities and setting the budget, being one. But secondly and just as importantly, is being sort of the conduit between staff and the public. I think that—Sometimes I think people feel inhibited from bothering City Council when they have a problem or an issue or they think there's a neighborhood issue or a neighborhood problem or something they think needs to be addressed and they're inhibited from contacting City Council. I actually feel like that that's our big role, a big role for us—Being on City Council is not a full-time job and I think it's intentional that we be citizens who are overseeing the working of the government.

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### Holly Edwards (D)—Challenger

I think the primary responsibility of City Council is to guide policy with an open government and then to support the City staff in making sure that it happens.

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### Barbara Haskins (I)—Challenger

It's sort of an obvious thing that we have disparate constituencies in the city and so City Council is supposed to represent all of them. I personally would . . . I think that you have to be a scrupulous steward of your cash flow and so, again, I think the homeowners have just been abused and disrespected and sort of it's been highway robbery with the tax increases in the last five or six years, so I think you have to have stewardship of your economic underpinnings. To a large extent, that's homeowners, and, secondarily, it's the commercial base, and so you have to do things to protect them. . . .



I think the tension and the responsibility for City Council on the one hand is to do this right and to trust their advisers. On the other hand, though—and this is the subtle part and the judgment part—there're also dialectical forces of business as usual, protecting sacred cows, protecting turf, and so there are going to be recommendations that appear that in fact are not so much based on expert opinion as inertia or turf protection, so City Council has to somehow have the collective wisdom, or the emergent wisdom, to figure out when it's one and when it's the other, because they're very, very different and you end up wasting a lot of money for the latter but not for the former. . . .

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### **Satyendra Huja (D)—Challenger**

I think City Council can provide to set the tone and the leadership for the development and growth of our community, as well as the maintenance and protection of our neighborhoods, because our neighborhoods are an integral part of our community. We need to maintain their integrity and their quality, because this is where we live. Other things that are important for City Council are listening. Listening skills are crucial because there are citizens who have ideas, who have concerns, and City Council needs to listen to them and try to respond to them in a positive and meaningful way. And I think most importantly, I think I can provide some leadership because of my experience and because I feel public service is an honorable duty for each citizen.

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### **Peter Kleeman (I)—Challenger**

In my view, City Council really needs to be outreaching to the community in many different ways, basically getting the pulse of where this community is going, re-evaluating what our current view of our future is and continuously checking in with the community: Are we on the right path? We have changes in the population all the time. . . . [W]e need to keep on checking in as to what are the kinds of goals that we need to be considering as new goals, vetting them through all the various stakeholders, so I think that the City Council really needs to accept as its primary responsibility being the facilitator to fulfill the goals of our business, residential, commercial, University, other retirement, entertainment communities and try to find what is the workable balance that seems to be something that our entire community feels is constructive and everybody is participating . . .

I've been a public involvement advocate and practitioner for years, and I just feel like we need to open those doors. We have so many talented people in our community that I think could provide huge benefits that everyone in the city—If we opened the doors to them, allowed them to come forward with new and challenging ideas and to participate in designing potentially hugely beneficial solutions for the future, so I think it's just a matter of just paying attention. We need to do a better job of paying attention.





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Questions about Charlottesville Tomorrow and this voter guide may be directed to  
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