



Charleston County MAP Commission

Charleston County Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance

MAP Commission

CITIZEN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Dr. Mark F. Hartley, Chair

July, 2004

Cary Chastain

Kenneth Donaldson, Jr.

The Charleston County Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance (MAP) is conducting a **Citizen Public Opinion Survey**.

Charlotte Gillespie

The closest look in decades at how county government operates is under way in Charleston County. Modeled after Governor Mark Sanford's Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance, the bipartisan and independent Charleston County MAP Commission was formed earlier this year by a unanimous vote of County Council. Thirteen commissioners, plus dozens of task force members from the business community and governments, are working together examining the way Charleston County does business. The end result will be a series of recommendations on ways to reduce costs and duplication, increase efficiency and accountability, and improve productivity and delivery of services.

Stephen E. Gonzales

Helen T. Hill

James J. Kerr

Gary McJunkin

Robert Miller, Jr.

To fulfill its purpose, the MAP Commission **NEEDS YOUR HELP!** Through a county-wide survey of residents and businesses, the Commission is soliciting input on customer satisfaction with services provided, and public perceptions of the county and its government.

Warren Moise

James V. Piet

If you live or work in Charleston County, please take a few moments to share your suggestions or concerns about the way county government operates. Like Governor Sanford, we're asking, "Is there a better way of getting the job done?" Please help us find the answer.

Joan K. Ustin

Keith Waring

The **Citizen Public Opinion Survey** is for any resident or business person in Charleston County. Citizens are urged to complete the survey on-line, or by filling out and mailing this paper copy. There are 64 questions, which will take approximately 15 minutes to answer.

To participate electronically, go to www.charlestoncounty.org and follow the MAP Citizen Public Opinion Survey link. Additional information about the MAP Commission also is available on-line. However you choose to participate, please submit **only one** completed survey per citizen.

All data from the survey will be reported in a compiled format. Information from the reports will be used by the MAP Commission and Charleston County to improve County Government.

Please complete and submit your survey before **August 8, 2004**.

Questions can be addressed to 202-6005, or publicinfo@charlestoncountv.org.

The MAP Commission thanks you for taking the time and providing valuable input in this process.

Mission Statement

The Charleston County Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance will examine Charleston County Government and recommend changes that would reduce costs and duplication, increase efficiency and accountability, improve productivity and delivery of services, and, where appropriate, consolidate similar functions and/or return functions to the private sector, with the overall focus of improving customer satisfaction.

**CHARLESTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE
CITIZEN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Zip Code: _____ (required)

1. The quality of life in Charleston County is
 Excellent Good Fair Poor Very Poor
2. County Government preserves/improves the quality of life in Charleston.
 Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree
3. I trust County Government.
 Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree
4. County Government does an effective job of balancing growth and environmental concerns.
 Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Listed below are services provided by Charleston County Government. Rate your level of satisfaction for those you have used within the past year. *(Mark all that apply – continues on next page.)*

<u>Service</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Didn't use</u>
5. Emergency/Disaster Response Services					
6. Court System					
7. Emergency Medical Services					
8. Law Enforcement					
9. Planning/Land Use Services					
10. Building/Construction Permitting/ Inspection					
11. Alcohol, Drug Abuse Services					
12. Public Works (Roads, Drainage, Mosquito Control)					
13. Recycling, Garbage Disposal					
14. Finance Services (Procurement, Controller)					
15. County Council/Boards/ Commissions					
16. Business License					
17. Tax Office Functions					
18. Service Center Functions					
19. Library Services					
20. Property Records					

21. Election/Voter Services					
22. Human Resources					
23. Job Training/Community Development					
24. Economic Development/Business Support					
25. On-Line Web Services/Public Information					

26. Charleston County Government provides the appropriate type and level of services to county residents and businesses.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

27. The services provided by Charleston County Government are better than they were 10 years ago.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

28. I receive good value for the portion of my taxes I pay for County services.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

29. When I use County Government services, I receive efficient, friendly service.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

30. What one change would you most like Charleston County Government to make to its services?
(Limit your response to 50 words or less.) _____

31. Charleston County includes 16 municipalities, three major Public Service Districts (PSDs) and other agencies that provide government-related services. Some services, such as law enforcement or garbage/recyclables collection, may be provided by both the County and cities/PSDs. The County and the cities/PSDs should consider consolidating/coordinating many of these services.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

32. Charleston County Government operates more efficiently than other area governments.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

33. I live in:

a municipality a public service district unincorporated county don't know

Charleston County Government maintains a Web site (www.charlestoncounty.org) for public information and county business. Listed below are activities and services that can be performed on-line. Rate those you have used in the past year

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Excellent, Easy to Use</u>	<u>Good, But Want More Info On-Line</u>	<u>No Opinion, Can't Recall</u>	<u>Access & Navigation Need Updating</u>	<u>Didn't Use</u>
34. View maps/property ownership information					
35. View court records					
36. View deed/lien records					
37. View business records					
38. View marriage/estate records					
39. Pay a tax bill/View tax information					
40. Renew a business license					
41. Request a building permit inspection					
42. Get information about county bids					
43. Get contact info. - phone numbers, addresses, area links					
44. Get meeting and agenda information					
45. Learn about County services					
46. Learn about County events/activities					
47. Get statistics and other area information					
48. Find out about job openings					
49. Get election/voter information					
50. Research County ordinances and laws					
51. Learn about area elected officials					
52. Find recycling and drop site information					
53. Get emergency/disaster information					
54. Download a County form					

55. I expected to find the following information on the County Web site, but could not find it:

56. In addition to County Council, there are eight countywide elected officials (Auditor, Clerk of Court, Coroner, Probate Judge, RMC/Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Solicitor, Treasurer). This number of elected officials is appropriate for the County and results in efficient government.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

57. What are the three most important issues facing Charleston County Government over the next five years (*check three*).

<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic Congestion, Road Improvements/Construction, Road Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage/Flooding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growth, Land Use Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preserving the Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime/Public Safety/Jail Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Job Opportunities/Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Preparedness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication/Community Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Affordable Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

58. Charleston County Council has maintained a consistent tax rate even though the costs to provide services have increased. Which of these services/projects would you be willing to help fund through additional taxes? (*Mark all you would be willing to support. Continues on next page.*)

<input type="checkbox"/>	New detention center/jail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road maintenance/drainage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new roads
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation/preservation of open space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansion of emergency medical services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansion of County's library system
<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher level of law enforcement/public safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansion/improvements to online Web services
<input type="checkbox"/>	More affordable housing

	Improvements to the court system
	Emergency response/homeland security
	Growth management
	Garbage disposal facilities
	Reducing litter, controlling illegal dumping
	Other _____

59. I have lived in Charleston County:
 Less than 1 year 1-5 years 6-15 years More than 16 years Since birth
60. My age is:
 Less than 21 21-35 36-55 56-72 Over 72
61. Please indicate which one best describes you:
 White African American American Indian/Native Alaskan
 Asian Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl'r Other Hispanic or Latino
62. Please indicate your gender: Male Female
63. Please indicate your highest level of education
 Some high school High school graduate Some college
 Undergraduate degree Some graduate education Graduate degree
 Post graduate work
64. Are you a registered voter? Yes No

6/29/2004

FAX TO 843 958-4004, or fold, tape and mail to address below.
 If faxing, don't forget to include all five pages (back and front) with survey responses!

Place
Stamp
Here

Charleston County MAP Commission
 Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building
 4045 Bridge View Drive
 Charleston, SC 29405-7464

CHARLESTON COUNTY

Charleston County MAP Commission Public Opinion Survey Results

Total Number of Participants : 1418

1 :The quality of life in Charleston County is

No of answers= 1361 (96 %)

Excellent = 248 (17%)

Good = 863 (61%)

Fair = 220 (16%)

Poor = 24 (2%)

Very Poor = 8 (1%)

[View Graph](#)

2 :County Government preserves/improves the quality of life in Charleston.

No of answers= 1357 (96 %)

Strongly Agree. = 47 (3%)

Agree. = 508 (36%)

Neutral. = 494 (35%)

Disagree. = 252 (18%)

Strongly Disagree. = 58 (4%)

[View Graph](#)

3 :I trust County Government.

No of answers= 1356 (96 %)

Strongly Agree. = 30 (2%)

Agree. = 344 (24%)

Neutral. = 541 (38%)

Disagree. = 310 (22%)

Strongly Disagree. = 133 (9%)

[View Graph](#)

4 :County Government does an effective job of balancing growth and environmental concerns.

No of answers= 1343 (95 %)

Strongly Agree. = 23 (2%)

Agree. = 264 (19%)

Neutral. = 381 (27%)

Disagree. = 470 (33%)

Strongly Disagree. = 207 (15%)

[View Graph](#)

5 :Emergency/Disaster Response Services

No of answers= 1302 (92 %)

Excellent. = 249 (18%)

Good. = 401 (28%)
Fair. = 109 (8%)
Poor. = 17 (1%)
Didn't use. = 528 (37%)

[View Graph](#)

6 :Court System

No of answers= 1301 (92 %)
Excellent. = 66 (5%)
Good. = 332 (23%)
Fair. = 227 (16%)
Poor. = 94 (7%)
Didn't use. = 584 (41%)

[View Graph](#)

7 :Emergency Medical Services

No of answers= 1303 (92 %)
Excellent. = 267 (19%)
Good. = 346 (24%)
Fair. = 91 (6%)
Poor. = 22 (2%)
Didn't use. = 579 (41%)

[View Graph](#)

8 :Law Enforcement

No of answers= 1307 (92 %)
Excellent. = 167 (12%)
Good. = 447 (32%)
Fair. = 207 (15%)
Poor. = 85 (6%)
Didn't use. = 403 (28%)

[View Graph](#)

9 :Planning/Land Use Services

No of answers= 1284 (91 %)
Excellent. = 35 (2%)
Good. = 206 (15%)
Fair. = 295 (21%)
Poor. = 302 (21%)
Didn't use. = 448 (32%)

[View Graph](#)

10 :Building/Construction Permitting and Inspection

No of answers= 1294 (91 %)
Excellent. = 42 (3%)
Good. = 225 (16%)
Fair. = 278 (20%)
Poor. = 186 (13%)

Didn't use. = 565 (40%)

[View Graph](#)

11 :Alcohol, Drug Abuse Services

No of answers= 1268 (89 %)

Excellent. = 30 (2%)

Good. = 162 (11%)

Fair. = 131 (9%)

Poor. = 78 (6%)

Didn't use. = 869 (61%)

[View Graph](#)

12 :Public Works (Roads, Drainage, Mosquito Control)

No of answers= 1333 (94 %)

Excellent. = 52 (4%)

Good. = 352 (25%)

Fair. = 464 (33%)

Poor. = 340 (24%)

Didn't use. = 127 (9%)

[View Graph](#)

13 :Recycling, Garbage Disposal

No of answers= 1353 (95 %)

Excellent. = 353 (25%)

Good. = 655 (46%)

Fair. = 194 (14%)

Poor. = 58 (4%)

Didn't use. = 95 (7%)

[View Graph](#)

14 :Finance Services (Procurement, Controller)

No of answers= 1262 (89 %)

Excellent. = 38 (3%)

Good. = 239 (17%)

Fair. = 200 (14%)

Poor. = 50 (4%)

Didn't use. = 737 (52%)

[View Graph](#)

15 :County Council/Boards/Commissions

No of answers= 1255 (89 %)

Excellent. = 25 (2%)

Good. = 227 (16%)

Fair. = 351 (25%)

Poor. = 201 (14%)

Didn't use. = 453 (32%)

[View Graph](#)

16 :Business Licenses

No of answers= 1271 (90 %)
Excellent. = 34 (2%)
Good. = 241 (17%)
Fair. = 170 (12%)
Poor. = 46 (3%)
Didn't use. = 782 (55%)

[View Graph](#)

17 :Tax Office Functions

No of answers= 1300 (92 %)
Excellent. = 132 (9%)
Good. = 546 (39%)
Fair. = 270 (19%)
Poor. = 95 (7%)
Didn't use. = 259 (18%)

[View Graph](#)

18 :Service Center Functions

No of answers= 1250 (88 %)
Excellent. = 59 (4%)
Good. = 336 (24%)
Fair. = 145 (10%)
Poor. = 24 (2%)
Didn't use. = 688 (49%)

[View Graph](#)

19 :Library Services

No of answers= 1328 (94 %)
Excellent. = 465 (33%)
Good. = 521 (37%)
Fair. = 101 (7%)
Poor. = 23 (2%)
Didn't use. = 220 (16%)

[View Graph](#)

20 :Property Records

No of answers= 1288 (91 %)
Excellent. = 201 (14%)
Good. = 534 (38%)
Fair. = 156 (11%)
Poor. = 46 (3%)
Didn't use. = 353 (25%)

[View Graph](#)

21 :Election/Voter Services

No of answers= 1313 (93 %)
Excellent. = 195 (14%)
Good. = 602 (42%)

Fair. = 246 (17%)
Poor. = 97 (7%)
Didn't use. = 175 (12%)

[View Graph](#)

22 :Human Resources

No of answers= 1259 (89 %)
Excellent. = 43 (3%)
Good. = 222 (16%)
Fair. = 168 (12%)
Poor. = 47 (3%)
Didn't use. = 781 (55%)

[View Graph](#)

23 :Job Training/Community Development

No of answers= 1258 (89 %)
Excellent. = 28 (2%)
Good. = 140 (10%)
Fair. = 148 (10%)
Poor. = 82 (6%)
Didn't use. = 862 (61%)

[View Graph](#)

24 :Economic Development/Business Support

No of answers= 1263 (89 %)
Excellent. = 28 (2%)
Good. = 199 (14%)
Fair. = 197 (14%)
Poor. = 108 (8%)
Didn't use. = 733 (52%)

[View Graph](#)

25 :On-Line Web Services/Public Information

No of answers= 1289 (91 %)
Excellent. = 207 (15%)
Good. = 487 (34%)
Fair. = 185 (13%)
Poor. = 48 (3%)
Didn't use. = 364 (26%)

[View Graph](#)

26 :Charleston County Government provides the appropriate type and level of services to County residents and businesses.

No of answers= 1344 (95 %)
Strongly Agree. = 43 (3%)
Agree. = 532 (38%)
Neutral. = 500 (35%)

Disagree. = 230 (16%)
Strongly Disagree. = 41 (3%)

[View Graph](#)

27 :The services provided by Charleston County Government are better than they were 10 years ago.

No of answers= 1325 (93 %)

Strongly Agree. = 98 (7%)

Agree. = 540 (38%)

Neutral. = 519 (37%)

Disagree. = 140 (10%)

Strongly Disagree. = 30 (2%)

[View Graph](#)

28 :I receive good value for the portion of my taxes I pay for County services.

No of answers= 1346 (95 %)

Strongly Agree. = 55 (4%)

Agree. = 438 (31%)

Neutral. = 351 (25%)

Disagree. = 325 (23%)

Strongly Disagree. = 179 (13%)

[View Graph](#)

29 :When I use County Government services, I receive efficient, friendly service.

No of answers= 1345 (95 %)

Strongly Agree. = 88 (6%)

Agree. = 611 (43%)

Neutral. = 436 (31%)

Disagree. = 171 (12%)

Strongly Disagree. = 41 (3%)

[View Graph](#)

30 :What one change would you most like Charleston County Government to make to its services? Limit your response to 50 words or less.

No of answers= 861 (61 %)

[View answers](#)

31 :Charleston County includes 16 municipalities, 3 Public Service Districts (PSDs) and other agencies that provide services, such as law enforcement or garbage/recycling collection. The County and cities/PSDs should consider consolidating these services.

No of answers= 1343 (95 %)

Strongly Agree. = 304 (21%)

Agree. = 373 (26%)

Neutral. = 307 (22%)

Disagree. = 233 (16%)

Strongly Disagree. = 128 (9%)

[View Graph](#)

32 :Charleston County Government operates more efficiently than other area governments.

No of answers= 1313 (93 %)

Strongly Agree. = 34 (2%)

Agree. = 248 (17%)

Neutral. = 686 (48%)

Disagree. = 254 (18%)

Strongly Disagree. = 93 (7%)

[View Graph](#)

33 :I live in:

No of answers= 1341 (95 %)

a municipality = 827 (58%)

a public service district = 230 (16%)

unincorporated county = 126 (9%)

don't know = 160 (11%)

[View Graph](#)

34 :View maps/property ownership information

No of answers= 1278 (90 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 283 (20%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 348 (25%)

No opinion, can't recall = 63 (4%)

Access, navigation need updating = 102 (7%)

Didn't use = 484 (34%)

[View Graph](#)

35 :View court records

No of answers= 749 (53 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 109 (8%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 191 (13%)

No opinion, can't recall = 44 (3%)

Access, navigation need updating = 48 (3%)

Didn't use = 359 (25%)

[View Graph](#)

36 :View deed/lien records

No of answers= 893 (63 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 121 (9%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 272 (19%)

No opinion, can't recall = 96 (7%)

Access, navigation need updating = 86 (6%)

Didn't use = 320 (23%)

[View Graph](#)

37 :View business records

No of answers= 721 (51 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 45 (3%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 117 (8%)
No opinion, can't recall = 46 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 30 (2%)
Didn't use = 485 (34%)

View Graph

38 :View marriage/estate records

No of answers= 715 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 75 (5%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 137 (10%)
No opinion, can't recall = 31 (2%)
Access, navigation need updating = 28 (2%)
Didn't use = 446 (31%)

View Graph

39 :Pay a tax bill/View tax information

No of answers= 722 (51 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 265 (19%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 138 (10%)
No opinion, can't recall = 28 (2%)
Access, navigation need updating = 34 (2%)
Didn't use = 259 (18%)

View Graph

40 :Renew a business license

No of answers= 717 (51 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 32 (2%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 52 (4%)
No opinion, can't recall = 38 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 9 (1%)
Didn't use = 588 (41%)

View Graph

41 :Request a building permit inspection

No of answers= 716 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 19 (1%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 42 (3%)
No opinion, can't recall = 46 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 14 (1%)
Didn't use = 597 (42%)

View Graph

42 :Get information about County requests for bids for services and/or materials.

No of answers= 716 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 17 (1%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 52 (4%)
No opinion, can't recall = 41 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 21 (1%)
Didn't use = 587 (41%)

[View Graph](#)

43 :Get contact information: phone numbers, addresses, area links

No of answers= 720 (51 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 150 (11%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 210 (15%)
No opinion, can't recall = 45 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 70 (5%)
Didn't use = 247 (17%)

[View Graph](#)

44 :Get County meeting and agenda information

No of answers= 717 (51 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 86 (6%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 141 (10%)
No opinion, can't recall = 47 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 37 (3%)
Didn't use = 407 (29%)

[View Graph](#)

45 :Learn about County services, departments, offices

No of answers= 710 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 119 (8%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 201 (14%)
No opinion, can't recall = 47 (3%)
Access, navigation need updating = 53 (4%)
Didn't use = 291 (21%)

[View Graph](#)

46 :Learn about County events/activities

No of answers= 714 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 92 (6%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 175 (12%)
No opinion, can't recall = 59 (4%)
Access, navigation need updating = 49 (3%)
Didn't use = 341 (24%)

[View Graph](#)

47 :Get statistics and other area information

No of answers= 716 (50 %)
Excellent, easy to use = 68 (5%)
Good, but want more information on-line = 168 (12%)
No opinion, can't recall = 56 (4%)

Access, navigation need updating = 46 (3%)

Didn't use = 380 (27%)

[View Graph](#)

48 :Find out about job openings

No of answers= 713 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 123 (9%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 93 (7%)

No opinion, can't recall = 30 (2%)

Access, navigation need updating = 28 (2%)

Didn't use = 441 (31%)

[View Graph](#)

49 :Get election/voting information

No of answers= 713 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 78 (6%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 120 (8%)

No opinion, can't recall = 50 (4%)

Access, navigation need updating = 58 (4%)

Didn't use = 409 (29%)

[View Graph](#)

50 :Research County ordinances and laws

No of answers= 714 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 47 (3%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 113 (8%)

No opinion, can't recall = 35 (2%)

Access, navigation need updating = 77 (5%)

Didn't use = 444 (31%)

[View Graph](#)

51 :Learn about area elected officials

No of answers= 712 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 50 (4%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 152 (11%)

No opinion, can't recall = 54 (4%)

Access, navigation need updating = 43 (3%)

Didn't use = 415 (29%)

[View Graph](#)

52 :Find recycling and drop site information

No of answers= 704 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 105 (7%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 106 (7%)

No opinion, can't recall = 36 (3%)

Access, navigation need updating = 30 (2%)

Didn't use = 429 (30%)

[View Graph](#)

53 :Get emergency/disaster information

No of answers= 711 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 92 (6%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 105 (7%)

No opinion, can't recall = 38 (3%)

Access, navigation need updating = 20 (1%)

Didn't use = 458 (32%)

[View Graph](#)

54 :Download a County form

No of answers= 713 (50 %)

Excellent, easy to use = 105 (7%)

Good, but want more information on-line = 120 (8%)

No opinion, can't recall = 29 (2%)

Access, navigation need updating = 42 (3%)

Didn't use = 419 (30%)

[View Graph](#)

55 :I expected to find the following information on the County Web site, but could not find it: (Limit your response to 25 words or less)

No of answers= 257 (18 %)

[View answers](#)

56 :In addition to County Council, there are 8 countywide elected officials (Auditor, Clerk of Court, Coroner, Probate Judge, RMC/Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Solicitor, Treasurer). This number of elected officials is appropriate and efficient for the County.

No of answers= 1080 (76 %)

Strongly Agree. = 76 (5%)

Agree. = 445 (31%)

Neutral. = 362 (26%)

Disagree. = 127 (9%)

Strongly Disagree. = 72 (5%)

[View Graph](#)

57 :What are the three most important issues facing Charleston County Government over the next five years. (Mark up to three choices)

No of answers= 1351 (95 %)

Traffic Congestion, Road Improvements/Construction = 1050 (74%)

Drainage/Flooding = 289 (20%)

Growth, Land Use Management = 812 (57%)

Preserving the Environment = 403 (28%)

Public Transportation = 393 (28%)

Crime/Public Safety/Jail Capacity = 440 (31%)

Job Opportunities/Economic Development = 286 (20%)

Emergency Preparedness = 120 (8%)
Community Outreach and Information = 48 (3%)
Affordable Housing = 169 (12%)
Other = 124 (9%) [View Answers](#)

[View Graph](#)

58 :Charleston County Council has maintained a consistent tax rate even though the costs to provide services have increased. Which of these services/projects would you be willing to help fund through additional taxes? (Mark all you would support.)

No of answers= 1171 (83 %)
New detention center/jail = 213 (15%)
Road maintenance/drainage = 487 (34%)
Construction of new roads = 373 (26%)
Conservation/preservation of open space = 476 (34%)
Expansion of emergency medical services = 193 (14%)
Expansion of County library services = 239 (17%)
Higher level of law enforcement/public safety = 283 (20%)
Public transportation = 393 (28%)
Expansion/improvements to online Web services = 77 (5%)
More affordable housing = 194 (14%)
Improvements to the court system = 124 (9%)
Emergency response/homeland security = 184 (13%)
Growth management = 374 (26%)
Garbage disposal facilities = 111 (8%)
Reducing litter, controlling illegal dumping = 292 (21%)
Other = 221 (16%) [View Answers](#)

[View Graph](#)

59 :I have lived in Charleston County:

No of answers= 1347 (95 %)
Less than 1 year = 27 (2%)
1-5 years = 210 (15%)
6-15 years = 375 (26%)
More than 16 years = 439 (31%)
Since birth = 296 (21%)

[View Graph](#)

60 :My age is:

No of answers= 1348 (95 %)
Less than 21 = 7 (0%)
21-35 = 256 (18%)
36-55 = 536 (38%)
56-72 = 409 (29%)
Over 72 = 140 (10%)

[View Graph](#)

61 :Please indicate which one best describes you.

No of answers= 1314 (93 %)

White = 1198 (84%)

African American = 98 (7%)

American Indian/Native Alaskan = 2 (0%)

Asian = 6 (0%)

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander = 2 (0%)

Hispanic or Latino = 8 (1%)

[View Graph](#)

62 :Please indicate your gender

No of answers= 1336 (94 %)

Male = 673 (47%)

Female = 663 (47%)

[View Graph](#)

63 :Please indicate your highest level of education.

No of answers= 1352 (95 %)

Some high school = 10 (1%)

High school graduate = 113 (8%)

Some college = 278 (20%)

Undergraduate degree = 309 (22%)

Some graduate education = 148 (10%)

Graduate degree = 372 (26%)

Post graduate work = 122 (9%)

[View Graph](#)

64 :Are you a registered voter?

No of answers= 1385 (98 %)

Yes = 1329 (94%)

No = 56 (4%)

[View Graph](#)

Charleston County MAP Commission - Citizen Survey Results

Online responses to survey: 786. Mailed responses to survey: 631 (over 4% returned of the 15,000 mailed). Typical respondent: an established resident, middle aged, white, a registered voter. Half were female. 58% live in a municipality, 36% in a PSD or unincorporated area.

Three most important issues facing the County over the next 5 years	Percent Among Top 3 Issues	Services/projects you be willing to help fund through a tax increase	Percent Yes
Traffic congestion, road improvements	74	Road maintenance/drainage	34
Growth, land use management	57	Conservation of open spaces	34
Crime/ public safety/ jail capacity	31	Public transportation	28
Preserving the environment	28	Construction of new roads	26
Public transportation	28	Growth management	26
Drainage/flooding	20	Reducing litter, illegal dumping	21
Job opportunities/economic development	20	Higher level of public safety	20
Affordable Housing	12	Expansion of County library services	17
Emergency preparedness	8	New detention center/jail	15

Q#	General statements concerning various County issues. A positive answer means the respondents "strongly agree" or "agree" and a negative answer means the respondents "strongly disagree" or "disagree" to the statement.	Percent Positive Answer	Percent Negative Answer
#1	Quality of life in Charleston County	81	2
#29	When I use County government I receive efficient, friendly service	52	16
#31	The County and cities/PSD's should consider consolidating services	50	27
#27	Services provided by County are better than 10 years ago	48	13
#56	The number of countywide elected courthouse officials is appropriate & efficient	48	18
#26	County government provides right level of services to residents & businesses	43	20
#2	County government preserves/improves quality of life	41	23
#28	I receive good value from the portion of my taxes I pay for County services	37	37
#3	I trust County government	28	33
#32	Chas. County government operates more efficiently than other area governments	21	26
#4	County government does good job balancing growth & environmental concerns	21	50

Q#	Ratings of satisfaction level for various County services. A positive answer means the respondents rated the County service as "excellent" or "good."	Percent Positive Answer
#19	Library Services	89
#7	EMS	84
#5	Emergency/Disaster Services	84
#13	Recycling, Garbage Disposal	80
#20	Property Records	78
#25	On-Line Web Services/Public Information	75
#18	Service Center Functions	70
#21	Election/Voter Services	70
#8	Law Enforcement	68
#17	Tax Office Functions	65
#16	Business Licenses	56
#6	Court System	55
#22	Human Resources	55
#14	Finance Services (Procurement, Controller)	53
#11	Alcohol, Drug Abuse Services	48
#24	Economic Development/Business Support	43
#23	Job Training/Community Development	42
#10	Building Construction Permitting & Inspection	37
#12	Public Works (Roads, Drainage, Mosquito Control)	33
#15	County Council/Boards/Commissions	31
#9	Planning/Land Use Services	29

Charleston County MAP Commission Public Opinion Survey Results

**Text Question #30: What one change would you most like County government to make to its services?
Sorted by category.**

Rationale for sorting comments

Total 861 comments subjectively moved into categories as follows:

1. Comments are organized by task force, plus grouped into most frequently addressed topics.
2. There are three pages of tax comments, all sorted into the Budget/Finance Task Force.
3. There are three pages of Transportation Task Force related comments, most dealing with CARTA, traffic and roads.
4. A category was created for Solid Waste; litter and recycling comments are most common here.
5. Many comments deal with specific services or departments. An 'Other County Departments, Services' category was created for these.
6. There is a category for school/education comments.
7. The largest category, by far generating more comments than any other, is 'Growth/Planning/Land Use.' Over six pages of comments suggest this topic resonates most loudly with Charleston residents.
8. 'Citizen Services' was created for generic service-related comments.
9. A sizable number of comments are related to social services; a category was created for those.
10. Finally, 'General Government' is a miscellany category.
11. All comments appear as written. No attempt has been made to correct spelling, punctuation, or grammar, or to alter the sentiment.

lgs
12/21/04

Charleston County MAP Commission Public Opinion Survey Results

**Text Question #30: What one change would you most like County government to make to its services?
Sorted by category.**

Organization Structure of Government

Consolidate the duplication of services

Also the positions of Auditor, Treasurer and RMC should be appointed instead of elected especially RMC. Why is it necessary to elect someone to send out tax notices, someone to collect money, and most of all record deeds?

Do as Governor Sanford's MAP Commission did and change some elected positions to appointed such as RMC.

Uncertain. Less overlap? Living in Mt. Pleasant we have seen county government influence where it seems only Mt. Pleasant government should have control.

I wish that the County would work with the larger Cities, (Mt. Pleasant, Charleston, and North Charleston), to have them take over the "doughnut holes" in the county. I am willing to pay more tax money to keep the criminals in jail.

take a leadership role with respect to municipalities to find more efficient means of providing services

As a casual observer of County Government it would seem to me that most elected positions(excluding County Council)do not need to be so. While I strongly believe in democracy, I also believe in running government like a business and believe the most capable people should be put in administrative positions.

incorporate the school district into the county and the parks system to eliminate multiple departments doing same job and hold people accountable for jobs done.

Have all entities combined and the residents would have better services.

consolidate all municipal government into one entity. Thus remove duplication of police, courts, trash, etc.

consolidation of fragmented services

Find synergies between separate entities. Reduce driving from building to building only to regive information over. Utilize a DATA base.(i.e. car tax, why not have the auditors give the DMV, I know it's state, the ability to collect ad volorum.

Must take a concerted, long-term approach to land use planning, transportation (including highway construction) and accessibility to housing and health care particularly for lower income people; this trequires discipline, cooperation among govt. entitites

Consolidation of services with others to hold line on taxes.

I would change the tax system. Pay only for what you use.

Cooperate & consolidate with municipalities where services overlap.

Take a much more active role an a facilitator in inter-agency regional planning. Don't just follow the City of Charleston because it's easier, or more politically prudent to "Just Get Along". In short, "Lead or get out of the way" and consolidate the whole County. sit there and go along; take the initiative an do something worthwhile.

Consolidate county, city, municipal and PSD organizations into a comprehensive service organization. This should reduce duplication of effort.

Share but do not consolidate services

8/8/2005

Consolidation of public services

Take over City of Charleston services.

The county's non-stance on the annexation of properties. The county has traditionally not done anything with regard to this issue. I have not seen anything from Charleston county in this area.

consolidate government w/ Berkeley & Dorchester counties
consolidation

I would change the elected positions to county employee-hired, rather than elected - (all positions other than county council). It seems that elected positions that run county departments are lacking in overall customer service.

Too many offices many could/should be combined to save money to us.

Consolidation of services. I live on James Island in PSD. Some people on my street are city of Charleston. We have two garbage trucks (times 2) every week.

Less elected officials.

Consolidate some services but NOT law enforcement.

Metro government not so many duplication of services

The county & the City/PSD should consolidate services.

Consolidate all functions

Rotation of appointments or annual reappointment for all appointees.

Consolidation of duplicate services within the County & municipalities with one stop shopping and only one law enforcement group for the County and have Al Cannon run it.

Quit spending money wasterfully - when jurisdictions overlap - Town of Mt. Pleasant

"doughnut hole" let the town do everything and the County reimburse the Town

County should follow local town and City growth objectives. Eliminate county government over ten years and have all land incorporated in local towns and cities.

Charleston County has too many bosses. I never thought I'd say this, but it is time to be one - one mayor - one sheriff - etc.

Develop better business relationships with towns, cities, PSD's within the County.

Budgeting, Finance & Accounting

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF??

seperate tax districts based on services provided

A breakdown of where and how my tax dollars are spent sent to me once a year.

Stop trying to raise tax rate

Help reduce personal property taxes.

Remove property taxes would be the number one thing for me. I will never own my home, although I have been paying taxes on it for over 30 years. Let me miss one year of taxes and all is lost.

County needs to raise taxes appropriately--and not taxes that further burden the poor.

County Council--Stop working on silly issues like closing bars at 2AM. Do not vote to raise my home taxes in North Charleston to give Kiawah Island, Folly and downtown homeowners a break.

Give the Cities/Municipalities within the County a tax break on services they don't use.

8/8/2005

stop using tax dollars to create services that inturn are overpriced. because government should not be taking money to open parks and aquariums that loose money, if there was money to be made the private sector would do it without beaurocratic flunkies.

Cut property taxes and install a county sales tax to obtain revenue.

REDUCE SERVICES REDUCE TAXES

Place a cap on property taxes; otherwise we are likely to leave the area

Settle the disparity of property evaluations. Do not use a Tax Cap system, let the "chips fall where they may".

Property taxes are out of control. Services are good but payment for these services is not at all shared in a fair manner

The one change that is needed is balance between services and taxes. The county commission has so mis-managed the property tax cap fiasco that they should all resign in disgrace and all of their advisors and lawyers who let them waste so much money and goodwill should be fired and/or sued.

Either reduce my taxes on Johns Island or figure a way for me to believe I am getting my money's worth

Taxes are off the chart!

Only opportunity to say so: I am thrilled with changes I see in SC in the 30 yrs I have lived elsewhere, but I am surprised at the amount of taxation. Property, income, and ancillary taxes are way beyond what I have been seeing elsewhere. ... Still, glad to be back!

The property tax burden on businesses and nonresidents is extraordinarily onerous and is much worse than the communities with which Charleston is competing. The people at the Tax Assessor's office are genuinely nice but are inefficient and inept. The County is killing the proverbial goose that laid the golden egg.

The taxes charged are WAY too high for the services received!

Something must be done to control property tax increases for those of us on fixed income. We use very few county services;yet pay the highest property taxes as our property increases in value. We will be forced to sell and move from Charleston county if increases are not controlled.

Fairer distribution of tax levies upon county residents, (i.e. Kiawah Island tax increases). Matching tax rev with services. I pay a high proportion to taxes and get very very little for it.

as a Kiawah resident, we pay in taxes far too much and receive almost nothing in services...very poor way to run a government entity

Revise property taxes so that a fair tax cap is established with no distinction made between resident and non-resident and one which considers Kiawah Island's disproportionate tax burden vs conty services utilized.

Quit using sales tax increases as major funding, i.e., find another way to fund programs and quit trying to raise the sales tax every other year.

Lower car taxes.

Fair property taxes for all residents. Kiawah owners pay an outrageous ahare of the total Property Taxes for out-of-state owners are unfairly taxed at a higher rate than in-state owners. This is a violation of the Constitution of the United States. This situation needs to be corrected !!!

eliminate the property tax cap, refund retroactively

8/8/2005

reduce taxes for property owners at local resorts-we are taxed so high and yet do not even use the school system which is where most of our monies go. Us out of towners usually do not use any of the gov services/ programs either, -where does out tax dollars go?

I would like to see an end to property tax or at least an extreme lowering of reliance on it. Cut expenses and reduce taxes

The FOOD TAX is outrageous as is the fact that PUBLIC SCHOOLS are underfunded with teachers poorly paid and supplies/facilities/conditions inferior. Tax gasoline, tobacco and luxury items & get rid of tax on FOOD. Spend money wisely so lost funds are recovered and properly distributed. Our citizens and our children need these improvements NOW.

Departments should find ways to cut spending, (such as using smaller computer monitors,etc.)and not raise taxes.Do not support Carta.I own a business & cant raise rates to pay for spending. I must work efficiently

Lower property taxes

Taxes based on use instead of on current property "value"

Charge direct recipients of services more so taxes could be lowered.

lower property taxes

Too much government and property taxes are too high. Eliminate property taxes and get government out of my back pocket.

Restore real estate tax caps (Constitutional amendment).

Drop the assessment cap and allow the millage to adjust downward to provide funding for county budgeting. Repeal the local option sales tax. At any level, excessive taxation represses economic growth.

Advertise products on buses, trucks etc, use income to lessen tax burden.

value of service to Kiawah Island are not proportionate to property tax collected from kiawah property

Identify each county department service level required to meet community//citizen mid-level needs and fund /tax accordingly. Forget annual no-tax increase concept since it is only politically motived and not based on national/analytical analysis.

Eliminate property taxes on homes.

Get the tax cap straight!!! Stop spending our tax dollars on court battles.

Lower taxes on property & 44.4% taxes for school, people who don't have kids going to school or have never had kids shouldn't have to pay for other people kid in school. (Sale tax is the only fair tax we have.)

To have honest peoplehandling money and laws that will be equal to all rich or poor.

Why not a 7 cents sales tax and abolish car and property tax that would be equal to all - It seems that our freedom has gone for good. I am 77 years old and have seen a lot of unjust done in our county.

Provide some relief from oppressive property taxes

Reduce budget growth to inflation index

My taxes went up from \$10,000/yr to \$17,000/yr in one jump when cap was removed.

I'm retired on a fixed income. This is not fair. FIX IT

Be more responsible, ie taxes, spending

Instead of a sales tax increase with the bulk of the revenue going for roads, increase the tax on gas by a penny a gallon. With the funds dedicated to road maintenance & construction.

8/8/2005

Reduce overhead Reduce taxes

Stop spending money like there is no tomorrow

Taxes should be utilized in a more effective & efficient way. The current distribution of taxes is very poor and doesn't seem to help the elderly or people in rural areas. Taxes increase constantly but services do not reflect these tax increases.

Tax real property more fairly! Especially when higher appraisal values, millage, and taxes for real property result with less service and more bureaucracy. Bureaucracy at local level is now as bad as the national level.

more for the people \$ not as such for what want.

Cut property taxes, prefer to eliminate property taxes and have only sales tax. Council botched reassessment - BAD!!

... backing the 1/2 % sales tax until you can be more specific exactly how the funds would be allocated - you (and you knew what you were doing) have established a "slush fund".

Get rid of taxes on vehicles that was promised and property taxes on primary residents. taxes are too high on I.O.P

I am not happy with anything that I receive for my taxes that I have to pay. No garbage service unless you pay for it and the way that the school systems are being run. Why should we pay someone from out of state 175,000 per year to run our schools. Too much money & could have come from our own people!

More efficient use of our tax dollars. We don't have bottomless pockets for taxes. Be for the people instead of the corporations.

Stop raising cost/our salary has no cost of living increase built in and we make less money than we did 5/6 years ago.

Find some way to lower property tax. (Why isn't 1/2 cent sales tax bill for 2 cents? We have a strong tourist base. I don't mind paying sales tax. I do mind paying such high property tax.)

We pay tax on everything, clothes, food, car, house, land. We only have a break on taxes one weekend a year. That is sad. We need a break from TAXES THANK YOU. even Trash Taxes

Lower and/or eliminate personal property taxes. In any case, have a payment plan for the taxes. A lump sum payment is very harsh on retired folks with a fixed monthly income.

Lower taxes on property. Increase service fees.

Run more efficiently - more control on expenses.

Make more readily available "Detailed" information on when, where and what our taxes are used for.

Credit Kiawah taxpayers for the services not used/or available.

We are paying too much in taxes.

Treat all citizens the same and show no preference for the rich on their tax payments.

Not spend/waste money on downtown projects. For example, bluestone sidewalks on King Street - \$25/SF or \$20,000 Date Palms in Marion Square. Those are excessive expenses that could be used elsewhere.

8/8/2005

Information Technology

Continue to upgrade web site. Older records are slow to be added to the system. ex property records/deeds

I use the Charleston County website every day, but the site has got to be expanded. I constantly am told that there are no sessions available, etc.

Kindly keep the Charleston County Government web site updated with the latest information.

I think the county services should be more streamline. It seems that some of the services provided are frivolous. For example what is the cost in time,development & personnel to maintain this huge website?

Better county tax and information servers . Often overloaded when trying to access information. Varying but long wait times.

GIVE ONLINE ACCESS TO CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS/INFORMATION
Renew Drivers License online.

Get the word out more to the public on what Charleston County Govt is doing for them!!!

More info on properties that you pull up on-line, e.g., pictures of the property, etc.

Not to many changes, but keeping the public more informed of issues that are important to the County Gov. to run effectively and efficiently is a lot helpful instead of last minute blurbs on the 6 o'clock news of the troubles we face, when it's a bit too late.

Continue/expand use of internet

That the different municipalities could interexchange information to better serve the public in areas that have severe spot annexation

Make more services available on-line and make them user friendly

More information online

Your Microsoft only web site is behind the times. It excludes Mac OS, Unix, Linux and others. Use open standards so as not to exclude people intentionally. Government records, paid for by all taxpayers, should not be restricted to users of one company's products. Shame on the person who made that choice.

make the website more user friendly

More information on county services for out-of-state property owners.

Electronic services such as RMC and Auditor are not functional. While plans are excellent the implimentation is poor. Services some times work and often don't. Required programing is varied and applications aree often not compitable. I don't not tie up County employees when it works.

More information available on website in regards to county/city/state projects.

More online options for all services:eliminate lines and staff.

Mine is an almost total ignorance of which government agency provides what services
A better WEB site. See Berkeley Counties property services and GIS web site.

Increase online access to services.

I think you should be able to register to vote on-line.

increase speed/capacity/ease of use of RMC & tax office on-line services

Need more communication with citizens about what is going on and how we can better access services.

i'm confused about the PSD's what i'm in what other people are in and the different services available.

8/8/2005

Provide more data online. RMC and Assessors office is a good start. CARTA needs to provide operating expenses and budget info on their website. Right now CARTA provides NO SUCH INFO, other agencies do, CARTA doesn't.

Making a list of the services available to Citizens easier to find. I have no idea of my full range of services available. I do not have computer access to find such information & a lot of residence do not either.

More on-line services

Get a better Web site ,Particularly as regards property record & gis maping, Charleston county is really lame, use Berkley as a benchmark, Beaufort & Georgetown have goodone also

Continue to place as much information online as possible. Web access to public information is a tremendous convenience and asset to the citizens. Please keep up the good work in this area.

Less paperwork, more on line.

There are a lot of families in the County that do not own or have access to a computer. Need more public information. If you want to get a survey done you at least need to pay to get the answers back. Very cheap!!

I feel the voters need to be better informed. They need to know what will be on their ballot along with descriptions and explanations.

I would like to see as much online services as possible. Great website. A step above other countys.

Improve Search and navigation of On Line Public Information Services.

Improve communications so residents know what type services county government provides vs what other governmental bodies provide.

Make it easy and friendly for residents to get immediate assistance perhaps a directory could be mailed showing all services provided by Charleston County and where to call or email for an immediate response.

Continue easy reliable internet access as it really improves quality of life by not wasting our time w/mail, etc

I rarely come in contact with Charleston County except to pay taxes & transfer property - I guess the question is how well you communicate what you do.

Human Resources

Employees need to realize they are part of the Charleston community, not the managers of the community.

Better customer service

An official system for any procedure. One that all the employees are aware of, instead of getting the run-around. Everyone you ask has a different answer. Depending on how helpful the employee decides to be that day, that's the service you get.

improved customer service to citizens

We need more financial support of personnel in 1. EDUCATION; 2. Library; 3. Police and Fire.

Meaningful on-line efficiency metrics for each and every department in county government. Department head performance should be partially based on how much efficiency improves year after year. This "continuous improvement" mentality is

8/8/2005

something that has been going on in many companies for a long time (Examples: Bosch, Alcoa, Hill-Rom)

Respond promptly to personal inquiries.

Eliminate non-productive employees, unions, and corruption such as the HR Director with the Charleston County Schools. This type of corruption is pervasive through out county government. What a waste of tax payer funds!

The curtesy of employees could improve. They should be more understanding to patrons needs.

More sense of "how can I help you" when dealing with county employees. There often seems to be a sense of being seen as a problem to be avoided rather than a challenge to be met when dealing with some front line employees.

Prompt understandable responses to tax questions.

Employees seem to "do their jobs" and that is all. No real sense they are happy to be employed. Board Members (specifically BZA) are rude.

better communication and accountability from the Council & administrative staff.

easier ways to get information, friendly service.

Improve the quality of customer service. Stop allowing "good enough for gov't work" work ethic.

Review the way the county employees are treated. Some of the employees (law enforcement, EMS, and Fire Dept) do not receive enough pay or annual leave for the jobs that they do for the people of the county.

Need to train people to be more customer service oriented. Tired of dealing with people that would rather be somewhere else than doing their job.

poor attitude of employees in human resource department

Employees could use "public relations" training (courtesy, etc., pleasant attitude)

Teach those interfacing with the public effective interpersonal skills. Inculcate the philosophy that they are there to provide legitimate service and that the citizen/taxpayer is not an intrusion in their stressful day.

raise taxes - keep your good employees by paying them well. The high turnover in some of the county agencies is not good.

Taxpayers pay salaries of County employees. They should in turn treat taxpaying customers with UTMOST respect rather than contempt.

Any time in the past that I have called any department of Charleston County all employees with no exaggeration have been rude. The employees have a tone of being over worked and not interested in customer service. Charleston County employees need to stop and take more time to help customers more thorough, this creates less mishaps and corrections.

Citizens first, county employees second. I would like Charleston County employees, top to bottom, to be mindful that they are subsidized by my salary, my tax dollars, that they are a service industry and want my business.

Boost employee morale.

Hours of service should be more flexible. Limited services are open early. Many people can't get off without taking a whole DAY off. Open offices at 7:30 - til say 6pm Have employees 'flex' in those hours for coverage.

8/8/2005

I was purposely misled when applying for a building permit. I was jerked around and yelled at. I had no idea it was this bad. There is no excuse for this behavior- I pay these people's salaries.

Need to pay county employees what they are worth. We are near the lowest in the country.

Train your staff in customer care. DMV: curt and mostly unpleasant. Tax assessor/Treasurer: usually somewhat pleasant. But often carry on personal conversations & phone calls while we wait. Auditor: I personally heard a woman order a citizen "step away from my desk." Noone was waiting and she seemed not too busy. Citizen just walked up to ask quest

Lines, lines lines. They are not helpful or FRIENDLY!!

There needs to be less nepotism.

Eliminate administrators military payrolls & provide trained employee opportunities proper pay for service to improve it's called job satisfaction, Nothing New

Stop trying to raise taxes on everything - Lots of County employees are getting paid, but they do not have anything to do but stand around or ride around in cars paid for with my taxes.

Courtesy lessons to personnel. Most staff is very good but a few can spoil the reputation of the whole staff by being surly, condescending or rude.

Hire employees who can speak the King's English!

cut red tape-also allow people more direct contact

Have employees who have some knowledge of the matters covered by their departments.

Have employees who want to help answer questions. Have employees who care.

Eliminate 'fiefdoms' resulting from long service by individuals in the same departments.

Be more accountable, and get rid of some of the negative people that only want to look backward and not forward.

A helpful person to talk to not voice mail.

Every elected official and employee needs to understand that they work to serve the citizens. Too often they abuse the people paying their salary.

The ability to reach a human being who is capable of answering questions and does not pass the buck.

To quit shuffling paperwork and get to work. My tax dollars are paying for many persons to goof off.

Better use of time and money. Simpler paperwork that can be done more quickly.

The personality of the people working the desks. Many are uneducated, rude, short tempered and unhelpful. At least the ones I have dealt with.

To have more white employees in the front desks. Black people is rude and hard to understand.

Increase quality and intelligence of employees while reducing number of employees.

Numerous departments were contacted and I was constantly told it was not their responsibility, it was another office's problem.

Hire employees who have a working knowledge of the system. Who are not on a perpetual personal phone call and do not mind if you wait 20-30 minutes for them to finish.

8/8/2005

Better supervise county workers (i.e. county roads are in bad shape) when they are on assignments. It appears that (on the roads, in offices and other places) there are too many people standing around doing nothing.

Transportation

Improve the roads downtown. Improve congestion on the roads in W.Ashley.

Maintenance of roads and highways

IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION

I would like to see better care of our road system. I know this is a combination of city, county, state, and federal service; but the roads in Charleston Country are terrible.

Better road maintenance.

Better traffic control West of the Ashley. Especially the area by the Wal-Mart where numerous accidents occur frequently. The traffic lights at corner of Glenn McConnell and Magwood Rd. needs attention. Cars are passing through the red light because they get tired of waiting on lights to change.

More services to develop safe bike lanes and public transportation

Better public transportation

QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WOULD IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIVING FOR ALL

Improve roads throughout the county.

Get off the dime and fix the transit; it's a disgrace especially for an area of this size.

SPEED BUMPS on residential roads like WEST OAK FOREST DRIVE; we have lots of pedestrians, bicyclists, and children/pets. People who live in the city are getting neglected to outside county home developments.

We need a manageable mass transit system. There has to be ways to fund such an endeavor.

commitment to public transportation

It seems to me that the state funding plan for CARTA and other bus systems should be modified, and that the legislation should allow County Council to be involved/accountable in funding and management of the bus system.

Roads are desperately in need of improvement!

Better public transportation

Better Road across Johns Island

Roads on Johns Island must be improved. River Road and Bohicket Road are killing many people and injuring many more every year. This must be made a priority even if we have to remove some live oaks. One life is worth all the trees in the county.

Road systems should keep up with the allowed building and development. A road to access the islands of Johns, Seabrook and Kiawah should be a priority for safety.

We need better roads and a Bohicket road replacement as well as 526 to James Island.

Provide good, safe roads from Johns/Kiawah/Seabrook Islands to downtown Charleston.

Better roads

Would like to see them concentrate more on road work--regrading and repaving downtown streets.

Improve road system to Kiawah/Seabrook Islands

Bike paths & sidewalks

8/8/2005

Bike and walking paths

create bike lanes and sidewalks

Bike lanes on busy streets

Add bike and walking paths.

The bike lanes along Folly Rd. mean a great deal to me. I'm an older cyclist who is very wary of traffic. I encourage you to extend those lanes to link up with James Island County Park, and to provide new bike lanes whenever and wherever possible.

Include bike lane and/or paved shoulders in road projects.

improve public transit- more accessible and efficient. Connect it to schools so kids can take CARTA instead of yellow buses

Work on COUNTYWIDE EASILY ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NOW!

help improve transportation - road, bus, etc.

Effective on-call public transportation with shuttles, NOT buses!

strongly support mass transit both rail & bus service

Increase in road work so one project gets completed instead of becoming an "Orange Barrel City." road improvements are so important for the economy and safety of everyone.

Increase public County bus system to run around the clock and throughout all counties.

Stop property taxes on vehicles owned by citizens indefinitely.

We the Seniors of Charleston do not have bus services. Whats up with that. Seniors have nothing to talk about in this city where they were born and raised. This is from a 90 yr. old resident of this city.

Improve our current roads, force companies that build new roads to do quality work. Be more responsible with funds obtained from taxpayers. Try to operate like the rest of us - balance your checkbook, be responsible for your own shortcomings financially.

Use vehicles & equipment longer. Too much new equipment. County should not be in heavy truck or equipment business. Private contractors would be cheaper.

Improve our busses with the same bus fair.

County must make "pedestrians" number 1 priority. Insist every residential property developer provides adequate sidewalks, cycle paths, cross walks, landscaping, over passes, tunnels across proposed main roads. All new roads must have adequate "shoulders" in event that vehicles need to take evasive action. No vegetation within 20' feet of edge of road.

Traffic light on Harborview Rd. Business times so congested, can't move. Traffic is fierce, many accidents.

The regional transportation assets and network appears to be 10 years behind structurally to support current conditions much less future growth. We need to spend a significant amount of resources in this area.

Stop focusing on tourism and roads; concentrate on public transportation, sidewalks in all areas, and schools!

Repair roads (Camp Rd especially) Traffic control to Folly

the roads have pot holes where a vehicle would drive this can damage the tires or even vehicle when going 55 mph to 65 mph and trying to dodge these hole could a serious accident

8/8/2005

Take over complete control of Carta. the existing does not seem to understand that massive changes need to be made or it won't make it. It believes in take & spend with no regard

leadership in developing a mass transit system

Construct a mono-rail system from Summerville to Charleston.

Public transportation opens opportunity, eases traffic, saves individuals money - various sizes vehicles needed - perhaps contract arrangements with local cab drivers.

Less cars on the road, no parking. We need a transit so people could travel into Char from all the cities out lying the peninsula.

Roads (side roads - Rifle Range) are poorly designed. It's a miracle people walking or cycling on Rifle Range are not killed - need bike land added.

Better roads.

Better manage CARTA. If the 1/2 cent goes through don't let it remain the lazy pig it is.

Full independent audit of CARTA. Take over control and reorganize CARTA. Get rid of all upper management of CARTA. Create a board of independent business owners to run CARTA. If not close it down. Don't waste anymore taxes to try to save a sunken ship.

Improve CARTA by using smaller vehicles, better routes, more efficient schedules.

CARTA management needs to be improved by hiring a director who knows how to run a public transportation system-NOT a political appointee.

Clean up all the litter & debris on roads, especially Hwy 61, mow grass, trim trees. Toad signs are desperately needed on ALL major intersections - visitors cannot find their way around. Do not build 5,000 homes in Dorchester Cty to flood Hwy 61 - it's already a traffic disaster.

Give the tax payer the right to vote for what they want and not you or city admin. wants, such as public transportation but we need some one else to handle the job.

roads and sidewalks pleasant for biking and walking.

Discontinue Rts.

Wheel chair path or bicycle boath could use it to travel to WalMart and drug stores library.

Allot more funding to improve roadways to reduce traffic along Highway 61 and Bees Ferry Road.

I would like to see road improvements in W. Ashley. The traffic on Glenn McConnell and Hwy 61 is a major problem.

Improve road safety and congestion on Johns Island.

Roads need maintenance – potholes.

I believe Charleston County Government seriously needs to consider upgrading the roads downtown and in N. Charleston. They are horrible!

Improve roads and traffic management

Lane lines needed to be repainted on Sam Rittenburg and I-26. They are difficult to see, particularly when it is raining.

I think Charleston-State should sub CARTA. transp means tourist not everyone owns car.

Improve roads/highway system to include more effective traffic lights/stop signs and repair potholes.

Improve roads, make Hiway 17 3 lanes.

Another road must be build to service John's Island, Kiawah & Seabrook. Bohicket is dangerous and the danger increases as the traffic increases. There are no shoulders on the

8/8/2005

road. No way to avoid an accident. Each year the traffic augments. Also trucks should not be allowed to pump the chassis so high above the wheels. They are murder machines.

Facilities & Capital Asset Management

I feel that the Law enforcement services and court systems are not very courteous to the public. Not all citizens of Charleston County are criminals and should not be treated as if they were. When visiting any Charleston County Facility, the people manning the metal detectors don't even say hi, some days, that is just rude and discourteous service.

There should be some type of public snack/lunch area in the O.T. Wallace building.

More satellite offices.

Build better library facility in the St. Paul's district area.

Expand or build new larger library in Mt. Pleasant.

Enlarge present Mt. Pleasant library or better still, build a larger one that will accommodate future population growth.

I think money is wasted in keeping county offices downtown. They should be in a more central location.

Procurement, Outsourcing, Privatization

Stop competing with businesses by allowing private enterprise to operate and own services now provided by county govt. Thus reducing coty. expenses.

Use vehicles & equipment longer. Too much new equipment. County should not be in heavy truck or equipment business. Private contractors would be cheaper.

Lower taxes - privatize as much as possible.

Public Safety

To appropriate less resources to the Sheriff's dept.

SECURITY. More Police Officers on the road.

Stop having the police hand out driving tickets for every little thing you do wrong.

Enforce speeders....very few even know there is a speed limit

Get serious about combining the police services and stop wasting money on that duplication that now exists. Just check all the surveys done by public policy interest groups and there you will find your mandate to change the system.

Build a substance abuse clinic at the Charleston County Detention Center to lower the recidivism rate, thus ending the need for a new jail.

Ticketing of red light runners.

Possibly greater police coverage.

the jails need to be enlarged

We need a major new substance abuse clinic at the county jail to reduce recidivism, decrease our jail population, decrease crime, and improve quality of live across the board for all of Chas County. (NOT an expensive new jail)

Allow the North Charleston Police Department to enforce the law in the do-nut holes that exist within the City.

8/8/2005

Make Charleston safe for bicycling without creating more impervious surface. In other words, more traffic enforcement and community involvement from police forces are desperately needed.

The family court system is not working well. The judges are often rude and the system is backed up. They move families through like cattle. The whole system needs to be revamped.

For our law enforcement to take responsibility for their actions

I would like to see community law enforcement projects where officers interact positively with the populations they have jurisdiction over. Building new jails and cramming people in them will never solve the problem.

greater enforcement of speed limits on hwy. 174 on edisto island

Unified services, such as a public safety agency. County Fire/EMS/Rescue are usually the first agencies to respond & initiate action to mitigate the problem. The PS/FD would include building inspection, fire prevention, develop ordinances to ensure the safety of the public from the effects of fire and man made & natural disasters. PS/FD EMS agency.

Would like to see EMS department start taking people who are having heart attacks to the closest APPROPRIATE hospital. That would be a hospital with cardiac cath lab capabilities. If a person doesn't know any better they become worse by going to the closest hospital in Mount Pleasant.

Law enforcement officials need to start enforcing basic vehicular infractions tags / registrations and Drivers' Licenses. Certain areas seem to have an overabundance of unlicensed cars and drivers (Stall Road).

Sheriff substations situated to eliminate high speed transit by deputies answering calls, a serious traffic hazard presently.

More security in the City of Charleston

Traffic control

Improve the sheriff's department

Could save money by utilizing smaller vehicle for animal control. F-250 (1/2 ton) truck for a dog catcher? Not cost effective.

I would like to see less violence in the suburb areas.

Properly fund the county jail. The jail is a necessary evil and without proper funding both the inmates and officers are placed in jeopardy.

Very concerned about jailing men who are in arrears in child support. They need to be out earning money.

Better management in EMS, quick response

More information on Homeland Security. Nothing has been given to us the citizen as what we need to look for.

County law enforcement needs to respond consistently to domestic violence and treat it as a serious crime.

Have police be more accessible to prevent and prosecute domestic violence.

reduce the size of the jail population by creating alternatives to time in prison for violating laws.

THERE IS A NEED FOR NEW JUVENILE CENTER AND A SECOND PHASE PHASE TO THE ADULT FACILITY. THIS WILL RELIEVE THE OVERCROWDING AT BOTH FACILITY.

8/8/2005

Improve court-system backlog and ease overcrowding in correctional facilities by that improvement so that serious felons and not inconsequential crimes individuals are retained.

Why have 4 SWAT teams (CCSO, CPD, MPPD & NCPD)- waste of taxpayer \$

Build another Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's office is in terrible condition and is crowded.

Needs better equipment to save the citizens. Better working conditions.

Law Enforcement: More services is needed in the Hollywood, Ravenel, Edisto areas.

Response time especially at night was 1-1 1/2 hours.

Better road and property maintenance - and sanitation. Would like to see more effort toward cleaning and beautification by jail inmates. They need to work or fully serve their sentences.

The Chas. Co. court system wastes an incredible amount of taxpayers money & time. It is inefficient and ineffective to say the least. We need tougher sentencing and more quickly move persons through the system. We need judges who aren't arrested for DUI & police officers need a raise!

EMS reponse/Fire Dept. reponse and we need an impartial county police force. A police force not dictoned by the commercial watcher-but one which will enforce all traffic laws across the board.

Improve police patrols of the Hollywood/Meggett area.

Enforcement of speed limits on highway and local streets. Cite more drivers for not being polite.

I would like to see at least 2 more deputies in my area. It takes too long to get any of them when you need them. Response time is not quick enough.

Harder fight against crime. with so many murders in the area I am not happy living here! combined law enforcement with other principalities

One half of the police officers I have spoken to have been VERY rude.

Consoliate Police forces and Fire Depts. into one countywide service with Sheriff Al Cannon in charge.

I don't see the use of the sheriff dept. when the cities police dept can handle thier areas

Better traffic (less speeding) and litter control

Law Enforcement-hire people w/more education than high school or make it possible for enforcement people to take law enforcement classes. Require officers & others to take these classes including english classes. Require the officer to earn 6-9 credit hours every 5 years. More education for the officers will result in better decision making, more

Better police protection

Our law enforcement doesn't direct traffic well at events held at the River Dog Stadium.

It's been gridlock at every event and policemen are actually standing around talking while traffic and pedestrians are standing at a standstill. That's just one example of traffic problems @ Charleston events.

I would like 'small' crimes to be taken seriously - an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

More aggressive gang/narcotics enforcement.

Not only to make changes but to enforce some of the laws we already have such as the operation of the automobiles and trucks. Problem #1 - Dimming your headlights

following and facing another car. #2 - Tailgating. #3 - Pulling out into oncoming traffic with very little space causing you to brake suddenly to avoid an accident.

8/8/2005

Enforcement of all laws & ordinances.

One major change that absolutely has got to be made is more county law enforcement in areas such as high criminal activity neighborhoods, where you never see a county police car, why? I believe that they are afraid!

Litter, Garbage, Dumping, Recycling

Roadways are a total disaster. Get those prisoners out daily to clean, cut, groom. I am embarrassed when we have out-of-town guests.

More frequent pick-up of home recycling bins. Our pick-up is on a Monday and we get skipped by holidays all the time, so now we just throw it away.

Partner with all the cities so that Environmental and Code Enforcement Ordinances can be uniformly enforced by the Officers throughout the entire County.

My neighborhood has tried for a year to get the recycle truck to come to our town home community. It still isn't coming. We live on Shadow Oak Drive which is in North Charleston, off Crossroads Drive.

Provide recycle service to Stono Point development on Johns Island.

Recycling Service expanded to once a week

stronger recycling with a partnership with business that produce recycling waste such as printers and malls (cardboard. County should run it like a business.

I pay waste taxes but still have to pay for private collection on Johns Isl.

Weekly Curbside Recycling Program

Clarify the recycling rules and pickup more frequently.

improve recycling schedule. Currently If area pickup is scheduled for a holiday no pickup occurs until next scheduled pickup!!! Why can't recycling pickup work like city/county holiday trash/garbage pickup?

More trash cans in the tourist areas, especially Broad and Meeting Sts.

I want more intensive and expansive recycling services. More drop-off sites, more types of plastic recycled, quicker emptying of bins, better education of public on recycling matters.

Become more efficient.No need for employee at gate at Romney Recycle.Employees shouldnt smoke inside office at Bee's Ferry dump gate.

Consolidate all pickup activities dealing with garbage, trash, and recycling collection.

Some streets currently have no less than 3 differing entities involved with these activities.

Curbside recycling pickup every week.

Garbage pick-up / trash pick-up

improve litter and trash pickup at roadsides and dumpsters clean up areas around recycling areas

More recycle pick-up. Need once-a-week. But do not raise my taxes to do this!

in the Ravenel area there is one thing I would like to see is Garbage Service for the area.

Trash collection, I dislike seeing large amounts of trash sitting on the side of the road waiting to be picked up by waste management. Recommend requiring residents to rent small dumpster, or have a community dumpster. Make it easier for residents to recycle by giving residents a recycle bin.

When someone call the litter and nuisance control to get neighbor to clean their nasty yard they should make tenant/landlord clean it - go look @ 1408-A Orange Grove Road.

8/8/2005

I would like to see the recycling come every week on Mon. or Fri.
Add more drop-off sites for recycling or start to allow for curbside pickup of cardboard boxes.
improved roads & litter control; Litter along roads and roads beautification has gone extremely down hill in 6 years I been here.
Garbage w/ waste center on Highway 165 Hollywood needs to be expanded and improved.
Roads are terrible - need improvement. Trash along roadway is the worst I've seen anywhere - can gov't help? Mowing along roadways is needed. It is unsightly and dangerous.
litter control over the entire city, county, and state.
Litter on roadways and trashy neighborhoods
Garbage & recycling collection service (pick-up) at 391 Waldon Rd. (near Charleston-Dorchester county line) in Hollywood town limits.
Provide recycling, garbage pick-up service.
I would desire that Charleston County extend garbage pick-up to all of Charleston County. Not having garbage & trash pick up on a regular basis is hazardous.
I don't get garbage pick-up, however the dumps are well-maintained.
indicapped seniors a sticker for garbage. It is a problem getting it to curbside and back where it belongs.
Everyone outside the Charleston area brags of our State's beauty and how nice chas. is but as a loyal resident I have grown tired of the seeing how much trash and debris is scattered along our roads and interstates and how high the grass grows. Especially at exit I-26 211a & 211b which causes obstructed views for driver (THENCE- ACCIDENTS)
Litter control and sidewalks!
For the garbage dump to be open all day in the week.
people throwing litter on the streets ,people walking dogs with no lease or pooper scooper.
The Recycling Center and Garbage Center on Bees Ferry & in Hollywood. We pay a lot of money, yet, there are things we can't dump. This is way people have trash in their yards. We need garbage pick-up in the rural areas. I strongly believe this would help to make a lot of areas look better.
We need a better, more available recycling program in Charleston County! My recent relocation from suburban Maryland puts Charleston County's recycling program to shame! We've got to make it a priority!
We that live in garbage services we taxed for it. But we do not get the services. We have to five miles or 10 miles to Hollywood.
Offer garbage services to Johns Island residents.
Enforce littering laws! Clean roadsides before mowing. Use prisoners from County jail more extensively for road cleaning.
I would like the Hollywood trash and garbage "dump" to be open full days except for 1/2 day Sunday.
Recycle pickup at least weekly. If you miss a pick up, you have a month's worth of recycle and at that point it becomes trash.
ATTENTION to the litter programs! This is the filthiest city I have ever lived in.

8/8/2005

Too much trash on sides of road. Neighborhoods in N. Charleston are terrible. Make the people who live there clean it up!!
Litter can be bad in areas. Would like to see improvement.
We need to be able to recycle a greater number of plastics.
Improve roads and clean up the highways/roadsides. Charleston County is trashy in appearance compared to other counties in the state. There seems to be no pride.
Stricter codes for undesirable yards - allowing two untagged cars in yard is two too many.
There should be more uniformity w/ color codes on buildings as well - West Ashley has some really junky looking businesses & homes!!! We need better enforcement in this area!!

Other County Departments, Services

The Election Commission/Board should be politically neutral. The current board has failed in that duty.
Update the County property ownership records more frequently. (GIS Maps)
Longer county park hours.
More ethnic festivals in county parks
PRC to take over Charlestowne Landing
Maintain our county parks and look for more areas that can be preserved from the sprawl of development.
More parks and rec services. More active roll in educating our youth.
Just a comment -- you didn't ask about the parks and recreation operation, but it's the best-run of all the county operations/departments.
I believe the amount of time it takes for the RMC to return documents is bordering on outrageous.
Increase funding for the Library and its programs.
Please expand the library hours...open an hour earlier and more hours on weekends.
Better service at the Mt P branch library. Books and media are out of order and help is often overworked.
More internet computers at St. Andrews Library.
Less construction of large libraries...more small popular reading centers.
I would like to see more value for the amount of taxes paid. When the Johns Island library opens, that will be a start.
Library needs to be a statewide library system.
Bring non-resident library card charge of \$35 down to \$25. Allow those who would like to, join "Friends of the Library", paying the yearly dues, and get a complimentary Charleston library care. The money still would benefit the libraries, to which it should go.
Why can the library to 24 hours & they had more computer now, which I deeply appreciate.
Provide the same services (garbage pickup, mail delivery, emergency response, amount of law enforcement officers, road maintenance, ems, public transportation) to tax-paying rural residents as you do to other areas.
continue to improve the services currently offered.
Tax office needs to be better handled in respect to paying taxes. A separate line should be used to access the Auditor vs paying the tax bill.

8/8/2005

Fire the Auditor.

Also a better connection between the property tax department and department of motor vehicles. It's like one doesn't know what the other is doing and sends consumers from one office to the other.

SPEED HUMPS on residential roads like WEST OAK FOREST DRIVE; we have lots of pedestrians, bicyclists, and children/pets. People who live in the city are getting neglected to outside county home developments.

Ronald Lane would like to have a crime watch sign & speed bumps because there are small children in the area. Thank you.

Better building codes for homes and storm systems!

More efficient drain ditches= mosquito control

better mosquito abatement program

Do something (anything) about the mosquittos. The area around Pinckney Park is unusable because of the clouds of mosquittos.

better mosquito control-very bad last several years

Mosquito abatement needs to respond quicker or find better ways to limit mosquito population.

Better mosquito control. Business Licenses costs are too high!

Improve roads to accommodate population increase Take a very active role in eliminating mosquitos & no-see-ums.

Update property records quicker

RMC office should hire people that know about Plats and their purpose We Need to keep the old plats from mapping easir to get to (not on Leeds Ave)

The RMC Office needs to be more efficient in assigning book and page numbers to documents, and in posting this information to its Web site

The county should cut back non-essential services in any effort to be more efficient and prudent with taxpayer monies.

Provide more job training for Charleston County residents.

More effective response time to permits/zoning/building. It is taking to long.

Hire better more educated building inspectors and make it easier for a permit

Less permits to build houses in the county especially James Island-Folly Harborview area

More effort on environmental issues. NO herbicides for any projects. More efforts in economically depressed areas to clean up trash and polution there. Everyone's community should be as pleasant as mine!

non-partisan election commission I don't trust the current one-sided commission to count votes & hold elections

non-partisan election commission - professional executive director of the commission

The Election Commission is rude & inefficient.

Election Board sent our questionairs last spring. One would assume that the replies would have allowed Board to make a usable list - NO. I replied yes to all voting days, but was not called. Board spokesman said I was needed, even though mandatory classes were over. The clerk of the precinct I was assigned to had never worked. A friend who rep Better people manning poll,voting procedures, suggestion, using people for 1/2 day not all day as poll managers. more people would participate

Roads need reapiir, paving, more sewer and water services, county park in Hollywood area, roadsides cleaned up and mowed.

8/8/2005

Auditor and treasurer business should be conducted at the same office with the same person in the same building. same goes for boat registration. we really need to enter the 21st century on this one. Thank you.

Get rid of legal staff - they lose every case.

Simplify and Spread up the one time holding permit and fee collection process

Cut grass on roads and cleanup

Continue consolidating business licensing and permitting with the municipalities.

In house exceptions (waivers)for "tiny" businessman.

If application for permitting or zoning denied - list ALL reasons so that when reapplying it is necessary to do so only once.

Building permits approval too slow, too many departments to deal with before any work can be done!

Permitting process is often gragmented, redundand and frustrating. Improve ability of residents to obtain permits and approvals.

Maintain dainage ditch-clearing

Give the residents better roads to travel to and from their residents. I live in a dirt road, when the weather is bad I got the devil getting in and out. Request was sumitted about it but nothing was done. I am a tax payer.

Much improvement is needed in services provided by Public Works. They should be publicized so county residents are knowledgeable of these services.

When you go to the service centers you get much better service than at the main county building. Why have cashiers sitting there doing nothing when they could do auditor work and speed things up like at the service centers

Improve the roads and ditches in my neighborhood more than once yearly, and that's only if we summoned them.

Drainage - Instead of repeatedly digging ditches, why not begin a plan to lay pipes and cover up the ditches used for water runoff?

Roads & drainage, we have been waiting for our road to be paved for many years. Why? Sigsbee Road, James Island.

roads, drainage, mosquito control is very poor. the streets floor because of bad drainage, the roads needs repairing all over James Island.

Code enforcement needs to be more responsible in their duties on following up on housing complaints. Please make home owners clean up around their home. Also garbage cans and recycle cans need to be placed behind of house. I live in North Wood Estates.

provide much sranger enforement of zoning laws and better police the county for violation induding clean ups and mainteance of private property when when one where violation occur.

Building code need to be moer strict

Rapidly going south.

Better roads (paving) Better system for mosuito control spraying

We need more convenient places to pay property taxes.

More enforcement of use of county vehicles I.E. personal use (unathorized) safety issues I.E. cellphoneuse by bus drivers(school) vehicle speeding (including buses)

Improve court system - namely family court - divorce and child support - custody system

Less government is almost always better except in security & emergency services.

Library services are excellent! All park services should be free to residents! That which

8/8/2005

you do well trumpet-eliminate what you can-get out of competing with free enterprise such as water parks.

Stop wasting tax money by sending out barf paper such as the recycling news letter and pointless surveys.

Voter services need to train attendants & make sure attendants can read and see records. The health clinic is terrible! Long wait, office and exam room disorderly and DIRTY!

School Issues

take politics out of the school board and focus on improving the schools.

I would like the Charleston County School System to be completely dismantled, it's board members held accountable for the complete lack of responsibility shown to the people of Charleston, and the school system privatized and turned over to the teachers and parents that pay the taxes.

Schools are a primary concern of mine, the children receiving an inadequate education are tomorrow's problem.

We need more magnet schools, and we need a voucher system whereby parents and children have choice in the schools they attend. Parents and/or students should provide their own transportation.

Facilitate better public education.

Improve the operation of the school system in conjunction with the county school board.

Improving our school system to give our citizens tools to help themselves in our only hope.

control or eliminate the school board - what a disgrace

I would like more attention to county schools

Equal education for all schools and money for supplies and teacher salaries.

Schools and programs/facilities for children should be a top priority!

Effectiveness! Old, outdated, inefficient, poorly educated, poorly run programs, schools and workers

Improve the school system so that "all" child would want to attend public school.

lower school taxes for those who so NOT use school services.

Cut waste by Charleston County Schools quit throwing more money at a system that has not improved.

Moore accountability. Goodloe did not deserve two weeks more vacation after only six months service. Sixty percent of the county's money comes from the sea islands who largely don't use education services. They pay and have little say (relatively low population).

More accountability for educational spending and spending in general.

Bring schools to higher standards and have good drug and alcohol education programs available in schools.

Quit squandering more and more money on schools. The results especially here and elsewhere in the nation show clearly that money is NOT the answer.

Modify the structure and governance of schools by making districts more autonomous.

I would like better accountability for the tax money that is used to finance the Education system.

Better School Systems, give discipline abilities back to the school administrators.

8/8/2005

Abolish Charleston County School Board. Divide county into 7 districts. Equally fund each district.

Promote support of the School Superintendent and Public Education. They are in a position to show support for Public Education and do not seem to take that opportunity. Education is the key to better jobs, better economy, more valuable tax base & thus the attraction of productive citizens. I do not believe that they should not make school policy. less debt financing, especially for the school system

fire the school board and take over

Totally re-think the County School Board System. I see critical planning & management functions often being managed with astonishing incompetence we need minimum standards of some kind for officials in these elected position.

Quit allowing the school board free reign to raise my property taxes to an untimely level to cover their poor accounting and judgement

Educators on the school board instead of lawyers, etc.

improve the condition of public school and the quality of education

Reduce taxes, take control of the County School System.

Major reform to County Council and School Board. Especially the salary paid to members of School Board.

Better school zoning - it's unproportional (socioeconomically, ethnically)

More accountability for the school board!

Begin taxing all new home communities and putting those taxes directly towards education: hiring teachers, building schools, upkeep of facilities.

reduce tax dollars paid by residents to schools but improve schools with other methods than increase taxes

Get rid of school board - Privatize schools and a business run them

School taxes are terribly high and we're 50th in the nation! Seniors 50+ should be exempt from paying for school taxes!!

Schools need to have more teachers.

to take control of County-wide school charges on our tax bills.

County schools are unsafe. No discipline in schools, teachers are not supported by administration. Students too old to attend school should be removed. Pay scale should be improved for teachers.

Growth/Planning/Land Use

Limit Growth in West Ashley

Berkeley County has a great gis mapping system, more user friendly, better system for zoning, mapping ETC

Stricter development policies - commercial and residential. Traffic has become a nightmare in the last 10 years.

Speed up the plan review process for permits.

Don't over ride local government on land use issues

Eliminate the UDO

Think ahead and consider big picture when planning for growth. Ensure infrastructure is in place before approving new neighborhoods and consider impact on quality of life

8/8/2005

(traffic congestion, etc). Include consideration for an "efficient" and well run public transportation system that better serves residents.

Politeness and honesty in the members of the County Council. I spoke at a meeting, and the chairman was rude, probably because I disagreed with his point of view. I still think there must have been some "deal" for Mr. Marino to be able to develop the CDM/Carolina Park property, and I suspect some of the members are hostile to our planning staff.

I would like for County Council to live by the Comprehensive Use Plan that was passed and to work with all municipalities within the tri-county area to make sure that zoning between government entities is compatible. An example where this was not done is the Carolina Park area. Mt. Pleasant thought this was to be a buffer zone to the rural areas. Management of growth better through improving traffic flow.

Stop urban sprawl

Zoning. Folly road compared to Mt. Pleasant is a disaster. Tasteful development of businesses along roads is lacking, It seems anything is allowed in Chas County by developers.

A fairer Comprehensive Land Use Plan...it helps in a few areas, but is not being amended/modified to allow growth and development in areas that it should.

Stop approving new roads and building projects which lead to urban sprawl.

More environmentally friendly land use planning, less uncontrolled development.

Curb sprawl and pollution by encouraging more "smart" or "green" developments

Stop the radical environmental agenda (Smart Growth) which attacks and prevents the Free Enterprise System from working. (Driving housing cost and availability out of the reach for working folks)

They do a perfectly awful job of controlling sprawl. The County causes sprawl. Terrible planning and coordinating with adjacent communities to stop sprawl.

I would like the planning staff and County Council to help make decisions that will slow down sprawl.

Restrict Growth in unincorporated areas, enforce covenants and restrictions, and stop being influenced by special interests

Grandfather land rights, usages & division of land to existing owners. We bought our land without any provisions and should not be penalized after 20 years of ownership with new restrictions.

I think County Council should live by their own rules. When it comes to Land Use they seem to do what ever they want at the time and do not read the rules, or the staff does not read the rules the same way the public does.

A County Council who votes the will of the voters, not the will of private gain - one who is more concerned about protecting the natural resources of Charleston County and our quality of life - and a planning staff who will stick up for everyone's concerns about overpopulating Charleston County.

Land use planning that realizes the differences between urban, suburban, and rural localities.

Wise growth of the valuable coastal region

The land use plan is unfair with density levels. if one acre zoning is fair for one landowner {without sewer and water} then it should be for all

Address the issues of sprawl and roads built to support more sprawl.

8/8/2005

The land planning/use does not seem to look into the future. There are good, well thought out plans in place but the County Council seems to ignore them when they please. The result is urban sprawl.

Charleston County should listen to the people of local areas such as James and John's Islands instead of the deep pockets of developers in the hope that the tax bases will increase. The amount of growth needs to slow down and the wishes of the PEOPLE heard.

Land use decisions

I live in Mt. Pleasant and was very dissatisfied with the handling of the approval to build for the Carolina Park development. BAD MANNERS on the County Council's part to know the town rejected it and still approve it. After all, the town of Mt. Pleasant will suffer due to the council's greed and inconsideration for our building growth plans. greater concern for environmental issues and stricter adherence to land use regs. Don't slack off on the Land Use Ordinance! We must maintain environmental integrity here! Work more for people; less for developers.

Stop overdevelopment of the county.

Repeal the Unified Development Ordinance.

More preservation of open space and less willingness to open yet another stupid strip mall or Walmart.

I am very concerned about growth and our lack of planning. I would love to see us maintain some undeveloped land and preserve nature before it is all overdeveloped. and the education system is the worst!

Control of urban sprawl is also an issue.

Keep some land green, every space doesn't need a building on it!

to participate in a multi county regional planning effort to figure out where roads and development should go over the next 20 years. to support the planning efforts of neighborhoods like Wadmalaw and towns like Mt. Pleasant

i think that county council should stay out of the business of changing development plans. plans are developed for a town and approved by the citizens living in that town. county council members do not necessarily live in the town whose plan they are changing. why should a town develop a plan if council is just going to change it anyway? take a strong role in regional planning on growth, roads and transportation issues

This isnt so much about services, I suppose, but the biggest issue I have is land use. The UDO is useless, and Riley keeps annexing property on Johns Island which does not have to adhere to the UDO anyway. Eating up our green space is destroying our quality of life. Better controlled growth. Urban planning for future growth BEFORE the growth occurs. Roadways are inadequate to handle current growth. They should be upgraded before further growth is allowed.

Focus on infrastructure planning (roads,transportation etc.)and COMPLETION (both planning and construction) throughout the county before any additional annexation by any governmental entity within the county is allowed.

i'm not sure this comes under services - but i do wish charleston would realize that there are not many green spaces left-trying to stick an office building or condo project wherever possible is a sin, as is cutting our oak trees that have been around longer than any of us!

Some how clean up area from Remount continuing up Rivers Ave.

8/8/2005

Infrastructure needs such as roads, sewers etc. needs to be at the top of the County's to do list.

Provide more green space/environmental protection.

Very strongly enforce land use comprehensive plan, especially on Johns and Edisto Islands.

Pay more attention to traffic and development concerns of the residents and governments in the East Cooper area.

PROTECT GREENSPACES

Better planning of corridors & growth (ie rte 61). Don't issue the permits if the roads cannot carry the traffic!!!!!!

To communicate with city on growth and roads. There is massive population increase trying to squeeze onto the same roads. They are outdated and inadequate. The same with drainage. Homes are being built in swamp land with drainage nightmares.

More timely road improvements and efforts to prevent over-crowding. Too much housing and not the transportation infrastructure to support it. The roads are becoming way too crowded.

When Charleston County officials say they want to protect land, they don't necessarily mean it. The lowcountry's growth rate has gotten out of hand, and needs enforcement before there is nothing left. So don't use terms like smart growth to mollify me. I want real land protection.

I feel we have way too much new development in places that should remain wild.

Purchase green spaces in Mt. Pleasant.

Less BOB THE BUILDER.

Better job at controlling growth that makes sense. Maybe, "guiding growth" makes more sense. What Mt. Pleasant has done should not be repeated by anyone. The impact of the absurd permit allocations will be felt for years to come. We will end up being a town that no first time home buyer or retiree can afford. Hourly workers won't be able to afford r
Implement and execute a viable plan to thwart traffic congestion and the poorly controlled development that causes it. Preserve what makes this such a special place to live! Give incentives to builders and developers to convert "brown spaces" to new residential development instead. Image jobs created by the clean-up!

tighter zoning

better planning to control and limit sprawl; this would improve traffic problems & help aid the school problems by making local smaller schools and improve bus service, thus improving air and land pollution side effects.

Growth (building) is totally out of control lead by Mayor Joseph Riley

CONTROL GROWTH!!! PROTECT RURAL AREAS!! I've lived in Charleston County for 43 years, currently on Isle of Palms. I don't even know Charleston County any more.

Development has destroyed what makes living herE worthwhile.

Be more aggressive in land use planning and zoning.

Keep Johns Island Rural!

Preserve green space. Stop changing the zoning on Johns Island from rural to dense residential or industrial.

More control of sprawl; better public transportation. Q#59-I grew up in Charleston, but I last lived here in 1975.

8/8/2005

Monitoring and limiting growth to a manageable, cost effective level. I feel growth is kept to a manageable level for the most part, but developers are quite keen on this area. So to remain unbiased and unwaivering with the best interest of the community and its people (not developers) kept as a top priority.

The two greatest threats to Charleston County at the moment are its traffic congestion/wholesale loss of green space and its poor educational system. The county doesn't directly oversee schools, but they could get people talking by endorsing small, neighborhood and/or specialized schools. Also, our landscape needs to be preserved more diligently

Control growth. Limit and reduce scale of development projects. The perception is that Local government is a rubber stamp for developers working for tier interests only. More protection of green spaces. A place to walk and play with dogs, since beaches are almost forbidden to dogs.

Abide by Wadmalaw Land Use (UDO) with no exception for political purposes and has been done by County Council.

Allow more building permits - when you allow land to be annexed or zoned for residential building in Mt. Pleasant permits should be reserved - or don't zone the land. It's frustrating to own property I cannot build my next home on in a reasonable period of time.

Offer input into the construction of overpasses rather than traffic lights or traffic circles.

Offer input into the construction of expressways rather than corridors for more development and congestion. Stop issuing building permits for residential construction.

Place billboards all over the county stating that Charleston is full!

Coordinate Planning Land use efforts with bordering counties to prevent sprawl and traffic congestion.

County must make "pedestrians" number 1 priority. Insist every residential property developer provides adequate sidewalks, cycle paths, cross walks, landscaping, overpasses, tunnels across proposed main roads. All new roads must have adequate "shoulders" in event that vehicles need to take evasive action. No vegetation within 20' feet of edge of road.

Charleston County Govt. is glaringly out of touch with its resident regarding growth & disregard majoring requests for slowing growth. Also the county needs to stop wasting money putting tax caps & needs to be more responsive to the needs of all the municipalities. Better advance road planning. Balance the tree hugger and need to expand/widen roads. Examples: Harborview and Ashley River Road.

Not adequately analyzing land use and impact on communities. The residential building boom should have a financial impact on schools. The bus/mass transit system is critical.

"Limit growth" because access to and from the island is not in tune. The expressway needs more exits leading to Charleston to prevent bottlenecks.

a moratorium on construction until there is a vast improvement in the infrastructure. developers should participate in said improvement

Limit the growth & sprawl in the Francis Marion Forest area (I know most of it is in Berkeley County).

We are becoming any town USA. Limit housing growth. Once the trees are gone, our water polluted it is too late to repair. Tourist do not want to vacation in anywhere USA. We are losing what makes CHS special; very fast!

8/8/2005

Limit new housing development until roads and highways are in place and functional to accommodate the traffic. Especially Hwy 61! Enough is enough!

Limit re zoning of properties. Property does not have to be re zoned because someone wants to.

Planning-land use. The quality of life will go down as building explosion continues. There needs to be greater thought on the impact of high density. Are there adequate roads, support services, etc. There seems to be no thought given to this, yet development continues - slow it down!

Don't let government control land planning and development.

I am very concerned about urban sprawl and how it will impact the environment. I would like to see development planned with environmental and livability issues given more consideration.

Planning-land use services as well as permitting huge business chain such as discount stores & groceries is out of control! noww Mt. Pleasant is looking alot like any other town usa. My heart aches

Better land use planning, especially in unincorporated areas to decrease traffic congestion and over-development. We need to preserve the quality of life.

Land use planning, roads and public transportation need a lot of work.

A better job in managing population growth, eliminating new house trailer construction and eliminating the agricultural tax break for people abusing the system like having one or two cows or plowing a field they never plant.

Must protect rural areas.

County should purchase open land for future (10 - 20 years out) use.

Stop selling out to ral estate developers! It seems to me that County government is run by developers.

Clamp down on residential and non income producing growth.

Do not take private property without just compensation - U.D.O.

Planning leadership to prevent urban sprawl

put a stop to building so many new home and neighborhood.

To stop our 'good friends' from up north from destroying our heritage and history via their needless 'development.' Our tax-supported institutes don't hire from within the state.

Who gets hired is Yankees, Indians, Jews and other undesirable foreigners who bring their diseases, strip malls, and patio homes and condos with them. Charleston is a scre

Zoning to preserve open spaces

Stop growth.

Better land development. More park, sidewalks.

Planning.Land Use: PLEASE limit urban growth. Unchecked growth is showing up in our declining way of life and has placed a heavy toll on our infrastructure.

Charleston County should require impact fees from developers of commercial and residential properties to make the need improvements to road, sewers & utilities that are required by the developments. This burden should not be put on existing local residents.

I'd like to see more proactive anticipation of growth in surrounding areas and coordination over and many municipal areas regarding controlled growth.

Stop dense development of Johns Island and Wadmalaw.

When they do the greenway, they should do the ditches which will prevent flooding.

8/8/2005

Quit being the greedy bulley in land orgaization when you can't take care of what you have. Bigger is not always best. You just want to expand you taxes base, while our qualty of life goes to hell. Power corrupts.

Envriomental coservation! stop charging zoning to allow /or more development that is not need. restore bysouenes to use already exist vacant buildigns instead/ new builings, more side walks, bike laws

Stop sprawl until you figure out how to move all these pelple to & from work without adding more cars.

Require highway infrastructure to match demand for new housing. If the highways cannot handle the additional vehicle traffic, building not allowed.

Comprehensive land use planning and enforcement is needed for the tri-county area.

Good work in Charleston County can easily be overturned by poor planning in

Dorchester County that affects communities in both counties. Rural areas should be conservation areas rather than new cities being developed.

Too much building is allowed without properly planning roads & traffic. Traffic is a MAJOR problem due to poor planning. There is not enough concern for environmental issues.

be more environmentally conscios. do not attempt to change the comprehensive development plan that was put together by the citizens who live in the community. (johns island). council has several times tried to change this; they do not live here and should not be meddling in our business.

More attention to zoning issues outside of downtown Charleston ti improve the look of the metro area.

Stop the overdevelopment-unfortunately-it has ruined what chas. co. used to be-pleasant to live in. The air is polluted now. The roads are inadequate for the immense car usage!

The schools have failed to be superior which is unacceptable! Stakes are too high! More development destroys any area. We've been lied to so many times about no new growth!

Be more pro-active on development and land use. Have infrastructure in place and operative before approving any and every building permit.

More building permits for new houses. I understand the need to control growth, but we can't get a permit for another year! We should not have to wait that long!!

Control growth of too many Yankees coming down here.

Decrease density for development in new and enlarging areas.

Put more emphasis on land plans & use for environmental concerns.

less development more green space enforce & maintain U6D

Charleston County Government should respond to the majority on their wishes for the use of their personal property. The rich should not be able to control and push poor owners away. When taxes increase, the poor loses all!

Be more committed to environmental and preservation issues.

Better control of zoning, land use. Improved long-term planning. Which would all, hopefully, lead to better control of growth. Not everyone thinks growth is good. I expect you all are like everyone else, you can't name two positive things that have come from growth.

For the government to limit the amount of subdivisions being built.

8/8/2005

We need to slow down growth and development of new neighborhoods. Beesferry and Hwy. 61 are ridiculous. The traffic is outrageous and the damage to the environment is inexcusable.

Save land from abuse of large conglomerates and money grubbers. Johns Island rural forever!

Impraove traffic on Ashley River Rt #61 Fight hard against Poplar Grove and Watson Tracks.

Cut down on development - particularly large land tracts.

Better land use planning and better roads.

Anticipate future infrastructure needs instead of waiting until existing ones are overloaded.

The traffic situation, at rush hour, in the County is becoming intolerable and is severely impacting the quality of life of area residents. Long-term, countywide planning must be put in place to provide interconnected roadways. Zoning must encourage high density in the city and town centers.

Manage growth more effectively

Citizen Services

I would like to see more services East of the Cooper. Our library system is woefully inadequate.

Better support for the citizens of the East Cooper area. It is the fastest growing part of the County and most ofeten neglected when it comes to growth/planning issues.

Better common area maintenance in the downtown shopping area. Would include street/sidewalk cleaning (merchants should be responsible only to within their lease-line), waste recepticles, and maps/point markers.

Invest in quality of life issues by enhancing year round use of parks and playgrounds.

Provide public swimming pools rather than water parks, which are wasteful and do not promote constructive or creative play.

Involve the Hispanic community by providing service info in their language.

Town Appearance Committee would enforce rules equally, not giving preferential treatment to the 'good ole boy' network.

If the county has any say at the DMV offices located within, to improve customer service and wait times.

the rural areas need better roads and sanitation services.

Treat James Island fairly

Focus more on serving the county rather than promoting individual gain for county officials.

Walk in services are great

More timely response to demographic changes in the county

less \$ to support poor, should be private function. building/zoning is a mess. roads need improvement. police should solve crime not be out with radar/traffic. need better h-capp parking downtown ie, loading zones and marked spaces.

Since this is a tourist area a lot of the services are geared towards the tourist instead of the resident so maybe instead of focusing so much attention on the tourist maybe the local resident should have more attention

8/8/2005

Initiatives that stimulate economic growth and improved quality of life for middle and lower class; especially in minority areas.

Take a more active role in providing affordable housing to the residents of Charleston County

Please keep improving the quality of the roads. Especially in the downtown area. The sidewalks around town are uneven and hard to see at night. Could use street lights for safe streets.

Band all parking meters, and car taxes.

better storm drainage and sewer service

I would like them to build an indoor pool for the young people so they can learn how to swim.

Get my street pave in glass sparkle. Pave the road in the City speed bump on my block red light on the corner of Grove and King Stree, by Rivers Middle School. Thank

If we receive any support on Sullivan's Island with traffic/crowds or emergency all summer - it's invisible to the island. We once had traffic assistance on summer weekends - never now!

Can you co-op with state DOT to open more driver's license/car tag offices?

Long lines - people snap at you - too soft spoken for hard-of-hearing

More education under Continuing Education such as crafts, special travel to historic sights.

allow for FREE lawn maintaince to the disabled or elderly who have financial limitations and lack ability to cut grass etc.; notify and allow suggestions for all residence who are required a traffic or other public sign be placed in their yard or on their property (ex.

Where

Recognize that lots of us live east of the Cooper and provide some amenities for us!

Most of sewer where the water drain into the cement and curbs broken on around them in the lake of North Wood.

remove special priviledges for minorities - fair and equal for all concerned.

Traffic/raods in Mt. Pleasant needs to be addressed asap

Better lighting and drainage for our tax money

It may not be in your power, but we must have a better bigger Post Office in Mt.

Pleasant. The population has at least trippled, it takes at least 30 minutes to get anything done there.

Living in the country (rural) area I don't see any benefits from the govt.

Eliminate services that are cost excessive.

Improve sewer system in the city/outskirts. Perhaps use the tax money used for CARTA (close CARTA) as one source to fund improvements

more green space bicycle paths, park activities, childrens activities. Better drivers license process, extended library hours - nighats, weekend hours

Drinking (?) in Charleston - terrible. Meter maids not well trained. Ticket people at dead meters, before time is up and are not very courteous! No accommodation made for volunteers coming from another county & giving their time!

As a resident of Kiawah Island, ?Charleston has taxed us to death and we get NOTHING in return - only abuse in the news media when they refer to us as "rich snobs"

8/8/2005

The Town of Mount Pleasant made the change I was most concerned about. I live in a townhome and until recently paid taxes but received no garbage/trash pick up. I appreciate the Town's change.

building & permits in Mt. Pleasant - not being able to get a permit to build in Mt.

Pleasant it's enough to make me want to move elsewhere.

Stop treating Johns Island as if it does not exist.

I receive no service (very little) but pay for it anyway - No service no pay

I come from Virginia - I find Charleston County behind the times. I would like them to get to 2004/21 century.

Drug/Mental Health, Child Care, Social Services

More focus on the low end of the economy in the County! Provide more: blue collar jobs, drug/alcohol programs, partnering with schools to teach skills that support County economic development. Result: our citizens working instead of transplants, reduction in poverty, reduction in crime.

Put drug addicts in treatment rather than waste out tax dollars putting these sick people in a jail. Jail for drug users is a complete waste of money.

Top of my list is a stronger focus on treatment and rehabilitation for drug offenders rather than just jail time.

We need a major new substance abuse clinic at the county jail to reduce recidivism, decrease our jail population, decrease crime, and improve quality of life across the board for all of Chas County. (NOT an expensive new jail)

help getting rid of these dangerous mini-bottles

I would like to see improvement in the area of child protection.

Child Support enforcement

Child support enforcement needs to be more efficient. I have been trying to get help collecting my child support for close to 4 months now, and my case worker never returns my calls, and I don't feel like my case is being handled in the proper way.

Teach preschoolers, 1st graders, 2nd graders more about child abuse, child molestation and crime. Make sure children learn early, very early that no-one should touch their private parts and they are not to touch others. Make it very clear the sooner the better.

Children really need to understand why this is very important. Make sure they understand

Take better care of the elderly and children.

To teach the youth how important credit is. Kids drop out in high school so classes should start in middle school. I'm a single parent with two kids, no child support living pay check to pay to pay housing, phone, lights, etc; because I cannot get in based on income housing because of my credit. And Section is a waiting period from a year to two

due to lack of the proper amount of treatment & centers for chemical dependency addiction is not addressed & help is not available, more teaching & public awareness need to be done.

Increase aid to senior citizens

Please do more to help the elderly. Thank you.

To give more help to poor and homeless citizens.

8/8/2005

More resources for those in need of psychiatric care. Working in healthcare, I know there are not enough inpatient psychiatric beds in this area and minimal resources for alcoholics, drug addicts, homeless and victims of domestic abuse.

control the public housing for those that really need it.

Quit trying to be everything to everybody. Put your efforts into what you can do (roads, drainage problems, mosquito control, flooding & sewerage management) forego the cradle to grave social programs.

Seniors I think we should not be taxed for children going to school. I would like for the seniors to a bus to take them to doctors and not just medicad.

Legal service for working persons who cannot afford attorneys in child custody and support issues.

General Government

I would like to see more accountability for the taxes and services provided.

I would most like to see our local government run more like a business that is interested in its profit margin and not like a business that has an unlimited bank account. The local government should focus on hiring competent, qualified, and professional leaders. They should be held accountable for their decisions, and how they spend our tax dollars.

While many of us are residents in one of Charleston County's municipalities, we are all residents of the county. The county should be the uniter for all of us. With the rapid growth that we are experiencing it is incredibly important for the county to take on the leadership and unifying role in preserving our quality of life - it is too precious.

I would like the division between Charleston City and James Island to be more defined and simplified. James Island needs an individual government to address the needs particular to its geography, dynamics, and purpose within Charleston County.

Furthermore, I believe transferring Johns Island's rural lands into urban lands is a delicate=be careful

Show more respect for the wishes of the residents in it's municipalities.

Keep to running government and don't intrude into peoples lives.

The tri-county area needs a plan for the future. Charleston County has too many Governing bodies. The quality of life suffers when neighbors live under differing rules. A master plan covering all areas of government involdment should be developed with common goals established for all Municipalities. Too much duplication and waste of resources.

County Gov needs to remember who they represent.

Stop spending money on Attorneys for lawsuits against council's wrong decisions.

Reduce the size of the government. Also, where does all the tax money go??? Because it certainly does not go to the improving the roads. They are absolutely the worst in the country.

Efficiency.

Less government! Less tax! Better accounting to the general public.

PLEASE raise our taxes to adequately support the infrastructure and systems in this county. PLEASE do the right thing, and allow us to have a quality of life we deserve as opposed to looking out for your own re-election! The right thing is not always the most popular.

8/8/2005

The gentrification of the downtown area really needs to be addressed
Less government, taxes, and better use of money that they do receive. For example, I am reluctant to vote for an increased sales tax to fund CARTA, a needed service, when I can only presume they will continue to use huge buses to carry 10 people and build new buildings (Rivers & Cosgrove) that they don't plan well for.
Less of who you know. Needs to be the same for everyone!
Get the republicans out because they are what keeps the sprawl, gentrification and racism that is rampant in Charleston
Charleston County government is dedicated too much to pleasing special interest groups, instead of the public good.
Pass a law that all tax-sourced signs, services, etc. will be in English and that all services will be rendered in English. If that is not good enough, they can go home. I am not willing to pay for everything twice.
Stop the half cent sales tax question. Ask all three questions individually as required by law. Let's follow the law, then let the will of the people stand, quit trying to assume you can always have your way. Have council meetings around 7-8pm more people can attend.
I wish we were not being forced to single-member districts.
Less waste. More efficiency.
Economic development of non-polluting industry to create more white collar opportunities.
Economic Development/Business Support because you have to work and without transportation of your own you can't get to where the work is. The distance is like a 2 hours or more drive from the country areas.
Money/funds that allocated for projects needs to be used for that use only. And no other uses. The county's service, etc. need to be upgraded with the times. Elected officials need to get out and speak to the voters, and hear them out.
The biggest problem is the lack of diversity on County Council, and the slow reactive nature of the School Board.
As with most elected officials there is a failure to listen to constituents. Most seem to have their own agenda once elected or are influenced by special interests. We should be electing leaders not followers.
Re #4 I believe there is too much emphasis on the environment. > I strongly oppose the .5% sales tax increase. > I believe CARTA is poorly managed - still haven't implemented suggestions to increase revenues, such as using outside of buses for advertising. Guess they're just waiting on tax \$\$... > Feel county park system is excellent!
I would like Charleston County to include minorities more in everything they do. There needs to be more advertising of the services that are available and their purposes.
I would like the Charleston County Government to lower Property Tax fees for those of us 'single' taxpayers. (We) continually subsidize a large portion of said taxes much of which goes toward a complacent and somewhat inept schoolboard. Possibly, taxes COULD be based on the number of dependents one has as opposed to the millage of their homes.
Limit terms of office for elected officials Be more responsive to interpersonal violence treatment and funding for service providers

8/8/2005

Ask council to make decisions and stop studying things to death. Enough information is presented to make sound decisions and they are not!

Listen to people that attend public meetings and act in their favor and not in the favor of the developer. There should be no ties between council members and developers.

To take care of the "little" people. I feel as if the decisions that are made only apply to the top 10% of the community. Then to keep their salaries at the top ten they find loopholes so the rest of society can't catch-up! For example, comp.time vs. overtime or "temporary" workers working full-time and not receiving benefits such as health insurance

provide more services to West Ashley areas. Slow down development along hwy 61 corridor.

Consider whether the issue of the continuance of the bifurcation of James Island into separate entities is the best method of planning for the future.

Not giving Mexican people Medicaid, food stamps, or welfare because I know one family who has been receiving these and the father is living in the house making a lot of money and not reporting it. These people take advantage of our system. They should take care of their own.

Tourists are catered to at the expense of locals. We're beginning a second Myrtle Beach and these tourists are not interested in HISTORY.

You should be able to renew your registration the same place you pay property taxes for your car. And it should not take (2) lines @ the same place to do it.

Have Charleston County vote for mayor or have James Island be a town.

Improve roads/extend 526 thru Johns Island/reduce property taxes

Keep doing the good job you are doing now.

Make housing more affordable & available.

Clean house

Switch to Nextel. It's cheaper, reliable, more efficient. Other agencies are beginning to make the switch. Excellent for interoperability during emergencies. Lots of business functions beyond just being a phone/radio. Work smarter not harder!

Reduce spending, reduce taxes! Stop naming roads, intersections, etc. for politicians who are still alive or stop altogether. First such survey we ever received.

Like all communities, we are challenged with growth. Must concentrate on road/highways. Also, there is a decline in services for substance abuse, for a county to prosper the citizens must prosper rich or poor, educated or not educated.

CPW should be aware and monitor drainage in this area of Chicora Place

limit the preservation association control

I think the County should intervene, if possible, in the City of Charleston v. Town of James Island - presuming the Town establishment fails. I think most James Islanders would rather be PSD/County residents than City of Chas./County residents

Utility system & traffic engineering - the development is coming better get ready for it.

Continue to work to integrate races.

stop trying to be all things to all people and do fewer things well

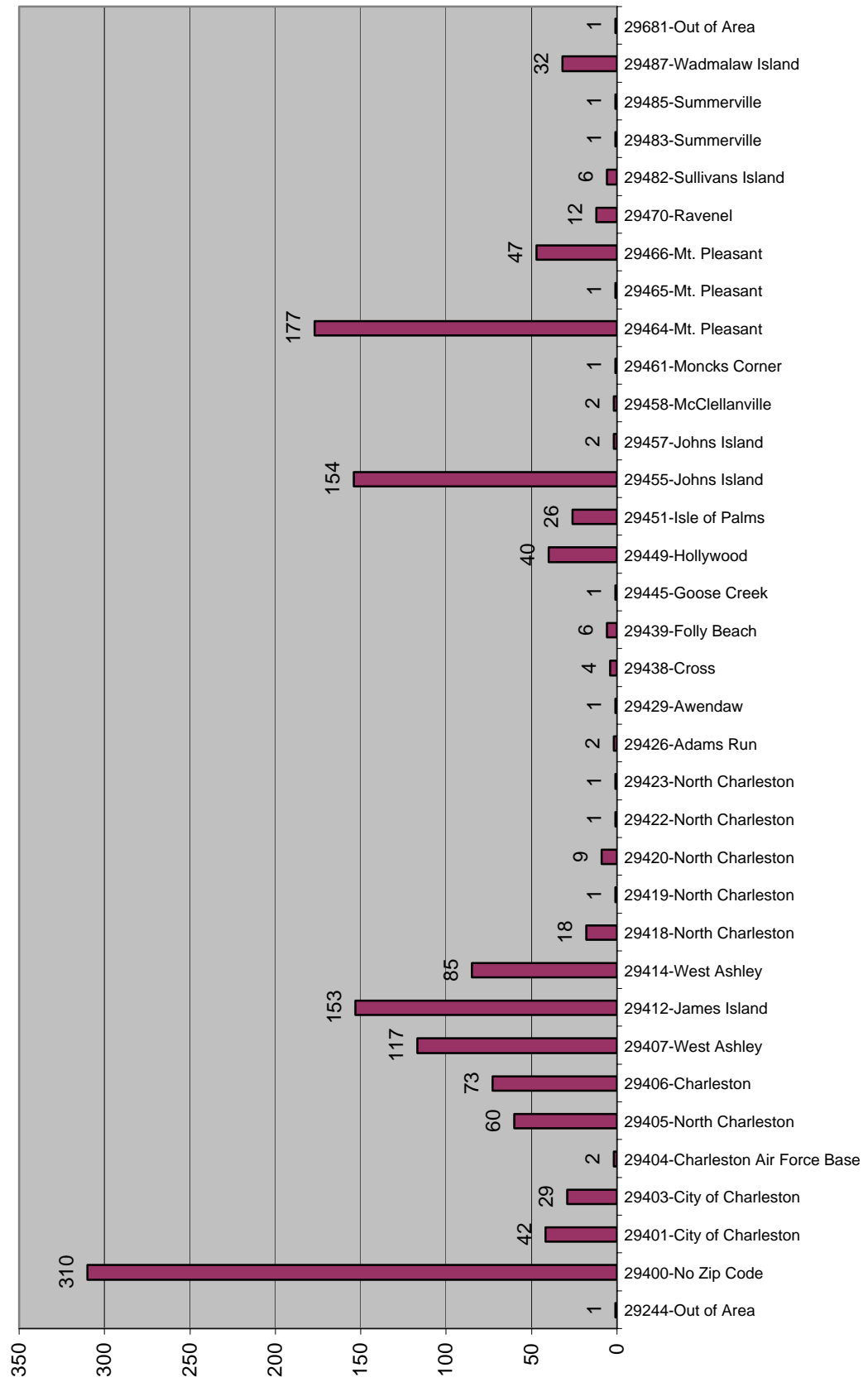
Provide municipalities and Charleston County Government with the United States Constitution - We the people. New Leaders are needed in Charleston County Government.

8/8/2005

Remove the political presence in the election process-Elect those who's main concern is the citizens they represent -not the political party they are assigned with our representative are elected to represent all the citizens in the county.
more contact/ vsibility for district elected representation/ councilmen/women
Be less political on their decisions. Do what they do because it is the Right thing to do!
Reduce tax revenues and services as annexation pulls areas out of county control.
Quit spending tax money for religious purposes such as \$75,000 spent for Tim Scott 10 Commandments fiasco. Also County Council has bungled 1/2 cent sales tax increase issue. Council does not do a good job anticipating problems in trying to get an issue passed. Look at feasibility of consolidating services.
Permit a lottery system which would allow Charleston County citizens to serve on county selected boards. This would allow all people to serve, not just the ? selected by County Council.
Push for annexation of unincorporated areas into town areas.
Council members should represent interests of their constituents.
Giving the residents a real voice when it comes to making changes in they communities, schools, etc. Don't overlook anyonr or thing that is said. When you extend the hand of friendship mean it.
County Council to be more responsive to the wishes of the people and stay out of court. Citizens are asked to get involved and when we do we are ignored! until things become very serious!
The James Island PSD uses PSD funds to fight annexations and support incorporation. The excede their responsibility and act like a city. They should limit them to fire, garbage and water and sewer and stay out of political activities.
It is nothing but one big bureaucracy which does not care for the average person.

8/8/2005

MAP Commission Public Survey By Zip Code



This page intentionally left blank.