

2013 VOTER GUIDE

# Charlottesville City Council



**Michael Farruggio**  
Republican



**Bob Fenwick**  
Democrat



**Kristin Szakos**  
Democrat



**Buddy Weber**  
Republican

**VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 5**



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This 2013 Charlottesville Voter Guide has been co-produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow, the League of Women Voters and The Daily Progress. It is intended to help residents make an informed vote on issues primarily related to growth and development in Charlottesville-Albemarle.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website includes the complete audio and written transcripts of our interview with each candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of the voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review their verbatim responses before publishing.

Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level. While The Daily Progress endorses candidates on its editorial page, its editorial staff have not been involved in the selection of questions or candidate responses in this voter guide.

**Charlottesville Tomorrow, a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization, is a community news platform covering growth, development, and local politics. We connect you to vital information for making informed choices about our community's future.**



League of Women  
Voters of the  
Charlottesville Area



**The Daily Progress**



League of Women Voters  
of the Charlottesville Area

# Yes, Virginia, there IS an election.

BE PREPARED TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Polls open from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.

GENERAL ELECTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

**Vote411.org** gives voters the tools to be prepared for election day:

- Deadlines
- Eligibility Rules
- How to Vote Absentee
- Polling Place Hours and Locations
- State Candidate and Ballot Information

Additional information can be found at  
<https://www.vote.virginia.gov>

## **Absentee Voting by Mail**

Absentee ballot **application** must be received by 5 P.M. on October 29.

Absentee **ballot** must be received by your local Office of Elections by 7 P.M. November 5

## **Absentee Voting in Person**

For locations, days, and times contact your local Office of Elections:

Albemarle County Registrar (434) 972-4173  
City of Charlottesville Registrar (434) 970-3250  
In-person voting absentee ends at 5 P.M., November 2.

## **Identification at the Polls**

Voters may use one of the following types of identification:

- Voter ID card
- Valid Virginia driver's license
- Military ID
- Any federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID card
- Valid student ID issued by higher education institution in VA
- Valid employer-issued ID card
- Concealed handgun permit
- Current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck showing voter's name and address
- Social security card

Voters without ID can cast a provisional ballot, but will need to send identification to their Elections Office by noon, Friday, November 8.

2013  
CHARLOTTESVILLE  
**City Council**  
CANDIDATE PROFILES

*Two seats available*

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

- **Stormwater utility fee**
- **Resources for urban design efforts**
- **Real estate taxes**

### WHAT DO THE COUNCILORS DO?

Charlottesville City Council hires and supervises the City Manager, it sets the tax rate and determines the budget, including financial support for the school system. It makes decisions about zoning and other land use regulations, and adopts the comprehensive plan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website ([www.cvilletomorrow.org/topics/city\\_elections](http://www.cvilletomorrow.org/topics/city_elections)) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate interview transcripts, audio recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide.

### Michael Farruggio (R)

Michael A. Farruggio was born in Brooklyn and was raised in Freeport, NY. He served four years in the USAF. He began his law enforcement career with NYPD relocating to Charlottesville in 1988 to join the Charlottesville Police Department. He has served in such capacities as a Patrol, Narcotics, Community Policing and Traffic Units and retired as the Sergeant of the Administrative Bureau Unit for Training, Policy, Recruiting and Accreditation. Mike lives in the Fry's Spring Neighborhood with his wife and two children, who both attend City public schools. He has served on the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association, the Charlottesville Planning Commission, the Parks and Rec Advisory Board and others.

**Education:** Associates in Applied Sciences, PVCC 2004; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, 2006

**Occupation:** Charlottesville Police Department, retired

**Previous political experience:** Charlottesville Planning Commission

**Age on Election Day:** 50

**Neighborhood or area of residence:** Fry's Spring

**Family:** married, two children

**Other interests and experiences:**

Parks and Recreation board; Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association; United States Air Force

**Website:** [www.MikeForCharlottesville.com](http://www.MikeForCharlottesville.com)

**Telephone:** (434) 566-1412



### Bob Fenwick (D)

After traveling around the world as an Army officer I settled in Charlottesville when my wife attended UVA Law School. My boys attended Charlottesville Public Schools from Burnley Moran thru Charlottesville High School and I continued my construction business, specializing in renovation of old houses. When my boys left the house to start their careers I became involved in the civic and political life of the city. I was concerned that the city seemed to be losing its focus on 'community' and its reliance on finding solutions to governmental problems from a balanced representation of all citizens.

**Education:** B.S. Physics, Georgetown Univ., Graduate and Undergraduate study, Construction Management and Civil Engineering, at George Washington School of Engineering, Wash. DC

**Occupation:** General Construction Contractor

**Previous Political Experience:** Campaigned twice as Independent Candidate for Charlottesville City Council

**Age on Election Day:** 68

**Neighborhood or area of residence:**

Martha Jefferson neighborhood

**Family:** Captain Austin Fenwick, US

Army JAG Corps, serving somewhere in Afghanistan (can't tell me) and Captain Ross Fenwick, US Army Corps of Engineers, veteran of Afghanistan, currently enrolled in Engineering Advanced Class, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

**Other interests and experiences:**

Hobbies: Writer, editor, reporter and videographer. Civic Activities: Member, Believers and Achievers, an ex-felon peer support group; founder of Rick Shaw, a cartage service for city market shoppers; organizer for Cash Mob, a small business promoter; founder of Virginia Video Festival; member of several community organizations (water supply, park preservation, environmental stewardship, small business education, city government responsiveness); Vice President Austro Environmental and Health Foundation. Military Service: 7 years in US Army, Corps of Engineers, served one year in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam (Pleiku, An Khe) with the 4th Infantry Division as Brigade Engineer and a Combat Engineer Company Commander.

**Website:** [www.VoteBob.net](http://www.VoteBob.net)

**Telephone:** (434) 981-2298



### Kristin Szakos (D)

*Incumbent*

I focus on supporting what Charlottesville does well and improving things we can and should do better. The City does a good job of maintaining its roads and public services with one of the lowest tax rates among Virginia's historic cities. We're one of the only Virginia cities with a "stable AAA" bond rating; that's good for taxpayers and businesses. We also need to invest deeply in our human infrastructure – attracting and retaining quality jobs, improving access to opportunity for everyone, and ensuring quality education from pre-kindergarten through college to make sure all our residents are prepared for 21st Century jobs.

**Education:** B.A. Religious Studies, Grinnell College; M.A., Journalism, Northwestern University; Continuing education: Women and Power, Harvard Kennedy School

**Occupation:** Writer, editor

**Previous political experience:** Current: Vice Mayor since 2012; City Councilor since 2010; Volunteer Coordinator, Obama 2008 campaign

**Age on Election Day:** 54

**Neighborhood or area of residence:**

Locust Grove

**Family:** Husband, Joe, daughters Anna (23) and Maria (22), dogs Jacob and Darwin, cat Lydi, and, over the years, four foster children

Other interests and experiences:

Interests: Singing and making music, travel, and walking our dogs; lived for a year each in Hungary and France

Other civic activities: Chair, Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Authority Board; Member, former Vice Chair: Metropolitan Planning Organization; Vice Chair: National Council on Youth, Education and Families; Member: City of Promise Steering Committee, City Scholarship Program board, PAC board, HEAL state advisory board, ROSMY state advisory board, Friendship Court Program Services advisory board, Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP Former President: Burnley-Moran PTO; member: Special Education Advisory Committee; Member, former Vestry member: Trinity Episcopal Church

**Website:** [Cvilledemsofrcouncil.com](http://Cvilledemsofrcouncil.com)

**Telephone:** (434) 987-1042



## **Buddy Weber (R)**

Charles "Buddy" Weber graduated from the University of Virginia in 1968 with a BS degree and a Commission in the United States Navy.



He then served his country as a carrier-based fighter pilot for 27 years rising to the rank of Captain and returning to UVA in 1993 as a professor where he also attended Law School. After graduating, he has served the Charlottesville community as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney advocating for many clients unable to afford critical legal services. He has worked tirelessly to ensure equal justice for all regardless of race or economic status.

**Education:** BS Chemistry, University of Virginia; Aeronautical Engineering, U.S. Navy Test Pilot School; MS Systems Management, University of Southern California; Juris Doctor, University of Virginia Law School

**Occupation:** Attorney at Law

Previous political experience: None

**Age on Election Day:** 67

**Neighborhood or area of residence:**

Martha Jefferson Neighborhood

**Family:** Married to wife Sue; Adult children Mike & Karen; Grandchildren Kaisei, Taiki, Elaine, Shiomi, Evan

**Other interests and experiences:** Backpacking, camping, biking, sailing, softball, golf; Military career (27 years)

**Website:** [www.buddyforcharlottesville.com](http://www.buddyforcharlottesville.com)

**Telephone:** (434) 977-4054

## **Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Charlottesville City Council.**

### **Michael Farruggio (R)**

I would like to think it all began being raised in a very diverse, first class, urban community. And that was Freeport, New York. New York is one of the finest planned places in our country. From that experience, I lived within a New York City diversity and I lived there for twenty years. I spent four years in the military, moving to another city in Florida and having that experience there and then I came back to New York and for four years I was an actual union worker both a laborer in construction and a police officer. New York City was considered and voted internationally as the finest police department in the world, so that was quite an experience working there.

In Charlottesville I have been a police officer here now for 25 years. There is no neighborhood I do not know, and no street I haven't ridden on numerous of times. I have spoken to thousands of citizens, visitors, students and business owners. I have over 31 years combined experience working for the government. I know so many of the involved parties personally in the city that on day one I am ready, willing, and able to work. I have also met and know so many of the players in the County and the University that gives me a leg up as well. Those experiences combined with four years on the planning commission, dealing with the whole development and redevelopment of the city, make me ready on day one to hit the street running.

### **Bob Fenwick (D)**

I bring a broad range of experience

and persistence to any task I undertake. For over forty years I have been a small business man, as an owner of Fenwick Construction, a construction company specializing in residential and light commercial building. As a general construction contractor I know how to meet deadlines, set and achieve goals and deliver a finished project, solve problems and manage people.

I have been active in the arts as a movie producer, video webmaster, literary author and poet. As a longtime resident of our community and a door to door campaigner I am very familiar with the history and the people of our community and the lessons we can learn from it. I know what the people are thinking and why they are thinking it. I feel a responsibility to speak out publicly on matters that the community cares about such as saving McIntire Park, engaging in a thoughtful, prudent, community transportation agenda, and advocating for maintaining our capital infrastructure as a priority.

### **Kristin Szakos (D)**

I would look at that in two ways. One is personal experience and one is professional experience. I grew up in a mostly African American community in Mississippi, and then in Chicago as well, which I think gives me a perspective on some of the issues of race and culture that are helpful on this council. I studied for the ministry but ultimately got my graduate degree in journalism from Northwestern. I worked as a reporter and an editor. Being a journalist you have to really learn about complex topics and be able to bring it down to a place where you can communicate it clearly to the public, and I think that is a skill that is very helpful on council as well. I've had lots of practice in dealing with those big issues and figuring them out and knowing who to ask if I have questions.

The most political experience I've had was working on the Obama campaign in 2007 and 2008. I helped

to coordinate a couple thousand volunteers and kept the operation running until staff was on the ground here, and I continued to operate the downtown office after that. Over the years, on a civic level, I've served as president of the Burnley-Moran PTO, the executive committee of the NAACP in Charlottesville, the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, and the special education advisory committee for the city schools, and I've been a grant writer for several local non-profits which gave me a really good sense of some of the issues facing the community.

### **Buddy Weber (R)**

First of all my education. I have a Bachelors of Science degree from UVA in 1968, I majored in Chemistry. I'm also a graduate of the Navy Test Pilot School which is substantial post-graduate studies in Aeronautical Engineering. I have a Master of Science degree in Systems Management and I have a law degree from the University of Virginia.

Specific experiences... first and foremost would be executive experience. Throughout my Navy career I was blessed with three commands, one of which was deemed a major command, where I had a budget that probably exceeded that of the City of Charlottesville. I had a workforce of about 4,500 people....Throughout all that I had readiness and performance goals that I had to meet....

I also have broad analytical experience....I have also served as a program analyst for the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations at the highest levels of government....I can look at programs and take a look at long-range objectives and the soundness of the program and whether or not it's likely to achieve its goals and if not, why not.

I have been involved here in the city of Charlottesville for the past 14 years, although I have resided here for 20. My first two years I was active duty as professor of naval science, I taught leadership there. Then I went

to law school for three years where I actually did a legal paper on the town reversion process which was hot back in 1996. So I studied all the issues involved in city-county relations, why we were doing what we were doing, and who was winning and who was losing in terms of that process. I have also been on several boards here. I was on the residential committee of the zoning ordinance back in 2002 when we were rewriting that. I was on the board that decided how to do the elected school board after the referendum passed. And I was also selected for the committee to re-precinct Charlottesville after the 2010 census....

So that broad experience of dealing with things in my past, my educational background, and then a clear focus on local issues.

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

### Michael Farruggio (R)

I don't have a top priority, except managing the City the best and the most professionally that we can. I will work with Council on every issue that is before us. I realize that no councilor is a one man show, and a lone wolf would surely be alone and not get anything done. One priority that I have is the budget guidelines we give the city manager. Our process no longer can be to reach out and spend every dollar we can find, and plan the budget around that strategy. That's how we go to a sixty percent increase in our budget, and the second highest spending capita in the state of Virginia. And that is how Council managed to increase the cost of living for every resident without significant reserves.

### Bob Fenwick (D)

Well, I would like to work to ensure

interaction between City Hall and citizens and/or businesses continues to improve. In short, encourage city hall to implement a robust customer service program including returning phone calls promptly, answering e-mails, and being responsive and responsible for satisfying taxpayers concerns.

### Kristin Szakos (D)

When you're on council you can't have just one. I plan to continue working on a wide variety of things. It is a priority to me to be able to keep a lot of balls in the air at the same time so community engagement, city responsiveness, economic development, workforce housing, interconnected bike and pedestrian infrastructures, sustainable funding structures for the schools, health initiatives, improvement of access to opportunities for folks who may not have them.

But one area that really for me rises, that I really think we need to ramp up our attention [to]...is how we set up our children--especially children who are struggling with poverty and other barriers--to thrive in school and in life. Kids are in the community more than they are in school and we need to use that time to make sure they are safe and healthy, engaged in learning and have access to enrichment activities, and that they know that we care about them, and we expect them to succeed.

I want to make sure that when children walk down the street in Charlottesville, when people ask them a question they're not asking about what kind of trouble they are about to get in, they are asking them where they're going to go to college. I think kids want to do well and we need to make sure that that spark, that love of learning that we see in all the little kids stays kindled all the way through college.

### Buddy Weber (R)

Number one, we have to do the right things and number two, whatever we do, we have to do right. One

really gets to choosing what we are going to do, based upon what is prescribed by law. We have to do certain things, there's core government functions that we can't dodge. We can't dodge public safety. We can't dodge public education. We can't dodge maintenance of our own infrastructure. Those are things we have to do, but we can pick and choose a lot of other things that we do to help improve the quality of life of people. But whatever we do it has to be efficient and effective.

[I have been critical of] the process by which we are developing our budget and deciding what's in the budget, and the major part of that critique had to do with the fact that we were programming in huge tax increases without ever determining that a tax increase was necessary. Then the budget would hit the streets, and it would already have incorporated in the budget a huge tax increase that people were unprepared for and there was no discussion of why it was necessary....

Then once you get that process right, you force the city manager and his staff to come forth and find efficiencies and justify things. That's important because the city manager is a full-time employee, the city staff are full-time employees, they know how to find efficiencies if they want to.

But City Council are five part-time employees and none of them have the kind of analytical or executive experience to actually dig in there and find the things that the city manager ought to be bringing forth to them. It's that relationship between the city manager and his whole staff and city council that is at issue as well. If we can bring that forth in a way that puts more of the burden on the city manager's staff to find the efficiencies and then make the recommendations to council and say, 'if you want this here's what we have to give up, or we have to have a tax increase.' Come forth with some honest analysis rather than just saying 'What do you

want to cut?' I think often times we put the cart before the horse....

## Name one specific area of the city budget that you are concerned about and why. Do you think it deserves more funding or less?

### Michael Farruggio (R)

The way we conduct our city manager is key. The way the budget is prepared is a problem. For over ten years it has been pointed out. Right now the city manager is instructed to build the budget around last year's spending, plus what is anticipated to bring in next year. We never consider spending less. We need to be much wiser. If you tell anyone to go out and spend every dollar, they will do it. I'm not looking to spend every dollar, but to spend that every dollar wisely. Again, this highlights how we have grown sixty percent in spending, and became the second highest per capita in government spending. That's Council's fault, and that's one of the highest priorities I would have.

### Bob Fenwick (D)

Well, that would have to be education. I believe education is about 40 percent of the city budget. A panel of prominent citizens, people who have given a great deal of their professional and personal time to improving our community, has been tasked to review long range funding options for education. This is an important step in securing long range funding for our schools and I would do what I could to ensure that this panel is productive. First we get the facts then we decide on a solution.

### Kristin Szakos (D)

I am particularly concerned, in the

face of a 30 percent cut in funding from the state for public education in Charlottesville, combined with further cuts in federal funding because of the sequester especially in Title I programs and things that affect our most vulnerable students.

The schools over the past several years have cut about 50 positions, mostly administrative positions and some of those staff cuts were probably needed, and it's not necessarily a bad thing for a while but year after year of this is beginning to have a toll, and we live in a community that really values education. We've been patching this hemorrhage of funding with one-time funds from the city for the last three years, and I've supported that. But I think these band-aids are not something that are sustainable and we need to figure out how to adjust to this new normal and get reliable funding streams that the schools can count on. We've just appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission to look at this issue and I'm really hopeful that they will be able to come up with some good recommendations.

### **Buddy Weber (R)**

Well, that requires an answer that [explains] what is wrong with the whole budget process. When I said I went through the budget process, what I see happening to city council is that the city manager comes in with two big notebooks full of raw data and he says, "You go find what you don't like and you tell me what you want to cut." You are asking me to do something that city council hasn't been able to do for 15 years.

What I will say is that we just saw the report from the Free Enterprise Forum. The City of Charlottesville has got the second highest per-capita spending of any locality in Virginia. The only one higher was another city. I expect that we are going to be higher per-capita than a lot of the rural counties, but you don't expect it to be higher than Richmond, but we are....

So the specific area of the budget [I am concerned about is] to focus

on the process first, and we have to get the staff to start bringing forward some of those ideas. I don't think the councilors are aware of a lot the things that they are doing. They are not aware of the law governing tax increases. They are not often aware of the long term consequences of how the process is working to harm Charlottesville, even as it benefits some. So I guess in my experience, rather than focus on one specific piece of the budget I want to focus on that whole process and make sure we have all of the experts that know where the skeletons are, that know where the inefficiencies are tasked appropriately to bring that forth to city council's attention so city council can make rational decisions as to what to choose and what not to choose. I don't think any one city councilor can do that by himself....

## **The City Council has provided the school division with one-time funds to balance recent budgets. What steps should the council take to help the school board build a more sustainable school budget?**

### **Michael Farruggio (R)**

Well I have two children in the city school system. They started out at Jackson-Via Elementary, where they could have walked to school but they were bused. They moved up to Walker and now in Buford, they both were active in sports, and in the music programs of the city school system. We love the city school system and we do have a great system that we need to advertise more and we need to get the successes out there. For so many

people there's a perception that it is not a great school system, and it really truly is.

With that said, there's nothing in school system whatsoever that I'm looking to cut. Some folks have said, as a conservative, you're going to come in looking to cut. I don't want to cut any program or any money of the school funding. But what I think we can do is if we set the proper example, through the guidelines we use in creating our own budget that will roll over to the school system setting up their budget. They are going to have a more predictable city council and city budget, and their budgets are going to work better for them.

### **Bob Fenwick (D)**

Well, the first thing is that a panel has been [appointed] to study the problem for a long term solution. Before we do any solution we have to know what the facts are and what the options are. Now with UVa being an integral part of our community much of the effort in encouraging job growth centers on higher end jobs, internet technology, the IT jobs, medical fields, higher education, teaching and administration and so on, but as part of the discussion we have to include in the education package the education of the lower end jobs, the tradesmen, the teachers the home tutors, the continuing education requirements.

I would include in any community outreach that affects community education I would include in that group the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) on Rio Road, the senior center education centers, the senior center education efforts, pre-k education advocates and GED certification centers, so that we have a community approach to education and I think when we do that we will have a better handle on how the funding is going to shake out.

### **Kristin Szakos (D)**

The most important step that we need to take is to find a sustainable funding stream. We have now

a percentage of new property tax revenue that goes to the school. And that worked well when property tax revenue was always growing. It doesn't work well in years like the past several years we've had when it is not. It also doesn't really make up for the fact that we have lost so much state and federal funding. We have right now a Blue Ribbon Commission that is looking at some possible solutions, so there are things in my head that would be possibilities but I'd really like to like to wait to see what they come up with. We've got some really smart people in that room and I'd like to see what they come up with.

But I think increased funding is definitely going to be needed, just because we've lost funding, and it's got to come from somewhere. Our city values its schools. Some people have talked about closing an elementary school and several years ago when that was floated to the public the response was overwhelming that people did not want bigger elementary schools. They didn't want their kids travelling further to an elementary school. They really like those small neighborhood schools, but they are expensive. So we have to look at what that costs us as a city. We have talked about the desirability of closing Walker and consolidating middle school at Buford, but that is going to cost money because we have to retrofit Buford to be able to fit those extra students, and we don't have the money. Whatever we do, even to save money, by closing either Walker or an elementary school, is going to cost money. So we need to figure out how to get that in a predictable and sustainable way for our schools....

### **Buddy Weber (R)**

City council provides the funding to the school board. The school board by law has the constitutional powers to spend it where they see fit. The power of city council to help the school board do their job, that they are elected to do, that they have the expertise to do, is very limited. What I can do is chal-

lence them to think differently....

[The first thing] is to make sure that the money that is given to them is in fact getting into the classroom, that they are wringing out the inefficiencies and overhead that may or may not be necessary. Admittedly, we've got a somewhat of a different class of clientele in the schools so we have to have some programs to support them. I get all that. I get that we are not the county. The county has 15 percent free and reduced lunch population and we've got closer to 45 or 50 percent. That's a problem for us and we have to deal with that. The school board has a tough job to do, but they are the ones with the constitutional authority to do it.

But the money in the classroom idea is really just an efficiency issue. It doesn't get to whether or not the schools are actually performing up to what they should. I think our focus really ought to be on making sure that every kid that's in school learns and can achieve up to grade level so that when they graduate from high school they are in fact ready for college....

## What specifically should the City Council do to promote employment and what type of jobs will be your priority?

### Michael Farruggio (R)

One thing we have to do, that I don't think we are good at right now, is we have to be more proactive in economic development, to finding out what the business community needs....High tech, medical tech and biotech has probably got the most bang for the buck for a city.

That's not to say we should turn a blind eye to other types of manufacturing and light industry that comes into town, but the fact of the matter is

per square footage of floor space you are going to get the most out of these jobs. So that's what we should be angling to. The targeted markets report, the Orange Dot report, they all lend to this conclusion we are seeing.

Now, we need to start acting on that and one of the things I'm finding out is we are not taking the opinions of these businesses seriously enough. They have meet ups, quite regularly, where they're talking about what they need and what's going on....If I'm on council, and we don't have anybody from the economic development office there, I'm going to go to these things. And that will be the voice of a councilor bringing this back to city council meetings saying this is what we need to do.

There are certain things we can do with zoning. On the planning commission for four years, people would come in and they would throw their hands up and say, 'Tell us what you want.' Well we need to tell them what we want. We need the office space that these start-ups can get into....We need to have an incubator like we have downtown, that's an incubator for twenty companies, not one or two....

We need to tout ourselves, we need to say we are here, and this is what we have. We have an incredible city, I refer to it as the natural resources, like it's our own nation, an island nation that's got gold and platinum and fertile land to plant crops, all here in Charlottesville, but we are not tapping into it....

### Bob Fenwick (D)

Well creating jobs is not easy. If it were, this problem would have been solved long ago. Now UVa, the city, and the county have extensive resources available for job training. We meet educational requirements, we have the facilities to do that, we provide community transportation to match citizens with jobs and this is a basic asset. The community both city and county and UVa have put a tremendous amount of effort and money into this area. But the most important is a continuing emphasis on the necessity

of making our existing businesses feel as if they were valued for their efforts in our community. This is one reason "Cash Mob" [a project to drive customers to local businesses via social media] has been embraced in our community as a way of showing businesses most of whom are struggling to emerge from this recession that their success is important. I think it is of primary importance for people to remember that successful businesses hire more workers. And I think that is where the priorities should be.

### Kristin Szakos (D)

We just this past year tasked a group of mostly staff to look at that very question....One of the interesting facts that they uncovered was that with 40 percent of the jobs in Charlottesville, you don't need a college degree, which is interesting, but that most of the people in those jobs have a college degree, which means the people who don't have a college degree, are having a really hard time finding work locally. If you live in the city and want to work in the city and want to make more than minimum wage, especially, it's really tough. And so we need to build those entry-level jobs, but we also need to build more jobs for those college educated folks who are just looking for anything at that point and taking those jobs.

So I am a big advocate for supporting tech start-ups, and some of the entrepreneurial biotech and more professional level jobs that are a growing industry here and something where you have to reach a critical mass for them to be successful. They borrow from each other, they use each other's technology, they share employees sometimes and research and one may produce equipment that another one uses. So the idea of having a hub for biotech and technology businesses is something that is achievable for us and those are decent wage jobs often with a career ladder. But in order to get that to happen, I'm intrigued with the idea of a public-private partnership to have a wet lab incubator space,

and frankly I'm not really clear about what a wet lab is but I know that you need it for biotech and it's expensive, and it's often something that is out of reach for somebody who is just entering the business. So I would certainly hope that the folks who are in the existing businesses would participate in that; maybe UVa; and some funders, as well as city funding, and economic development to see what that industry needs that we can be a part of meeting....

I have also heard the need for whether it is industrial kitchen space or incubator space for some of the smaller micro-enterprises, that are coming out of organizations such as the CIC – the Community Investment Collaborative—that works with folks often who are low income and starting a business from scratch. Those are the folks who are most likely to hire their neighbors. It's an economic development model-- kind of trickle up instead of trickle down--that I think has a lot of potential for growing the economy in sectors of our community that have had high unemployment and had a real difficulty keeping and holding jobs in this community....

### Buddy Weber (R)

Fundamentally I'm a free market kind of guy. I don't know that city council has the foresight or the body of knowledge to say, 'This is the kind of jobs we want, and I am going to go get them and bring them here.' It's sort of a hubris to think that we can do that, we probably can't. And even when we do, it may not last....

I have taken a look at the Orange Dot report and the Targeted Market report. The sort of jobs we have here I would call sort of bipolar. You get high-tech and high services environment—financial services, legal services like I provide, the bio-tech stuff that's trying to be nurtured. And then at the other end of the ladder you've got the waitresses and the burger flippers, the actresses and actors, the artists. There seems to be a paucity of old fashioned good middle class jobs

that you might have when you've got a manufacturing facility. I don't know that we can necessarily create those kinds of jobs, although we shouldn't be hostile to them. I do sense at times there is this hostility to the dirty jobs. We want everything to be clean. We don't want the manufacturing. I don't think we should necessarily be hostile to it, but I don't know that we'll ever truly get there.

What we can do are two things, one of which will be addressed tonight at the Tom Tom [Founders Festival Tomtoberfest], and that is the nurturing of the entrepreneurial startups--high-tech and bio-tech. If we can get some businesses there, they do create some spinoffs and they do create some demand for goods and services....

I keep going back to Vinegar Hill, when it was razed and the public housing was created, 58 businesses got displaced there. The business community is really the heart and soul of a community itself. What would the Downtown Mall be like without all the businesses there? It would just be a place to walk. It's the businesses that really create the environment that makes it as dynamic as it is. If we can recreate some of that entrepreneurial class here at that level, in addition to the high-tech stuff, and connect them altogether, that's where I think our future is going to lie. If we can get something in from outside that can provide some additional mid-level jobs where people don't have to work for minimum wage flipping burgers for the rest of their life. I'd certainly be game to try, but I think we need to grow it all from within right now. The private [sector] people are looking at this and they are doing some good things. I want to nurture that, and facilitate it, and I want to make sure that we continue to focus on some of our most disadvantaged neighborhoods and get them into that mainstream. I think we can do that with some creative thinking with the people who are doing the development, the people who are doing the job training, and so forth. We need leadership here, and some

level of understanding of this whole process. It's not just about growth, it's not just about development, what it really is is about economic dynamism. It's a way of recreating things that are already here and creating our own economic activity that feeds on itself. I think the city will thrive if we do that well. We have to have that class of people, the entrepreneurial spirit, at every level of economic activity.

## **Private developers and the University of Virginia are currently implementing a City Council vision, dating to as early as 2000, of a more densely developed West Main Street. Do you support this vision? Why or why not?**

### **Michael Farruggio (R)**

I support a vision of diversity and smart growth in appropriate areas that's not going to be to the detriment of the neighborhood. We have corridors in the city that are prepared for that density. West Main Street is one of them, Preston Avenue is another. To a lesser degree Cherry Avenue is another. Fontaine Avenue and High Street are two others that will roll into it, and of course not to mention Emmet Street as well.

Now, West Main Street is a perfect place to get this started and as we see, here it is 13 almost 14 years later we are getting some stuff done. Student housing I would like to see stay west of the Amtrak Station. As well as mixed development on that whole corridor all the way to University. We can't exactly predict what is going to happen cause

we have to let the free market do what it is going to do. But I do support it, we do need to be considering how we are going to have the zoning not impact the neighborhoods north and south of that. Westhaven, Tenth and Page, Fifeville, Starr Hill, need to be protected at all costs. As I said earlier, neighborhoods cannot be damaged because of what is going on. So they need to be taken into consideration. Smart growth I call it. So I do support that and I'm happy to see what is happening right now.

### **Bob Fenwick (D)**

Well, density by itself should not be the determining factor in the West Main Street improvement discussion. With a predetermined real estate footprint for Charlottesville, building or redevelopment vertically instead of horizontally makes sense, but the capacity of our roads, utilities, fire and rescue capabilities should be considered as well. But perhaps the primary factor, not just density, but the nature of our community, a small Virginia town where people matter first, where the charm of our community is the biggest selling point. I think that is very important and that cannot be lost in this discussion.

### **Kristin Szakos (D)**

I do support the vision of targeted density. If we want to support viable transit, if we want to support affordable housing, if we want to really protect the surrounding rural environment by having more dense urban development rather than two acre lots all over the countryside, we need to have planned targeted development within the city.

The one concern I have on West Main is that the vision for West Main wasn't just to have a lot of student housing along West Main. It was really looking at more of a mixed-use businesses and mixed income housing, with more of a community feel to it and a business feel to it. So the two projects that have sprung up at the western end of West Main Street are

pretty much student housing....So as we look at developing the rest of West Main Street I want to make sure that we balance that, and don't have it just be an extension of dorms up towards downtown.

I think some of the neighborhoods on both sides of West Main Street, across the tracks behind the hospital, and over on the other side in the Tenth and Page neighborhood have had a lot of impact from lack of development there. A lot of the rents have been driven up because students are renting in those neighborhoods. People subdivide the houses into apartments which makes parking a problem, people from the surrounding University offices and the hospital are parking in those neighborhoods so people have a hard time parking in front of their houses. There have been noise issues for the neighborhoods there. So I want to make sure the development we have along West Main incorporates the needs of that surrounding community, and makes it part of the city and not just a tunnel of development.

### **Buddy Weber (R)**

I absolutely do and I can tell you that it probably dates back earlier than 2000. I have seen studies on West Main going back to the 70s. Everybody's been trying to figure out what to do with West Main Street, nobody seemed to know what to do. But about 10 years ago is when we rewrote the zoning ordinance and as I said West Main was one of the main corridors we talked about.... The West Main corridor is particularly important because it really links UVa to the downtown area. It's a natural link that should be there and should always be there. It's nice to see the development going up now. If there are students living there, they can turn left and go to UVa and turn right and go to the Downtown Mall. Everything's within walking distance as opposed to forcing a lot of students to live on the outskirts of the city that have to drive their cars in. I support that.

When I helped rewrite the zoning



ordinance one of my major concerns was the boundaries between higher density on the corridors and the adjacent neighborhoods. If you look at the way they do development in the county they've got lots of green space and they build in natural buffers between their residential neighborhoods and the business areas so that nobody bumps right up against the back of a restaurant that's dumping their garbage. We don't have that luxury here so we have to be very careful about how we deal with those kind of boundaries. I know that right now the people in Westhaven are feeling like the development on West Main is shutting them out.

That gets back to my issues on the public housing. We have isolated those communities and they are feeling like this development is going to further isolate them and they are not part of that community. There is not an easy path or an easy access for them to be a part of that Main Street development. I think that needs to be addressed. So, yes I support the development. I have always thought West Main was ripe for this kind of corridor between UVa and Charlottesville and I have never understood why we didn't get it sooner, and maybe it's just the time is right. But we need to take a look at the neighborhoods that are nearby there and make sure they are not shut out.

## **Describe a part of local government that would benefit from increased city and county cooperation and that you would make a priority**

### **Michael Farruggio (R)**

That's a great question....[C]oming from what we had in New York, I [asked], why do we have two police

departments, three departments actually, when there could be one police department saving a lot of money, and it would have given you more movement for those officers, it would have been a better department over all.

Being a police officer for years you've seen that modeled in other cities. And I've often wondered that. Now, in the City and the County and the University now I think there are ways we can save money. There are things such as the police department, the fire department and parks and rec. So we should look for every opportunity, and then engage in those discussions to see what we can join forces on. When you've got duplication of the exact roles taking place across jurisdictional boundaries you have that opportunity. And our jurisdictional boundaries, even though they are there and they are real, we are really more like one community, and it would actually tend to bring our whole community closer together had we shared more, and so I would support it.

### **Bob Fenwick (D)**

In this regard we have pretty good cooperation between the city and the county. The libraries, the transportation, bus number 11 particularly, coming down from Fashion Square into the city, the Jefferson area health clinic and many numbers of different things. But I would include my priority on the city staff and their community service effort to include the same kind of thing between the city and the county. I'm a contractor, I'm a builder, I get permits and I get inspections from the city and the county and it would be much easier on me if the city and the county inspections stacked up about the same. And at this point it is two different code books that they go by. It's the cooperation not just between departments but between governments, businesses, and the citizens they serve.

### **Kristin Szakos (D)**

A couple of years ago we had a series of meetings with the county

board of supervisors and staff about possible consolidation or collaboration in fire services, social services, and education. And those were things we really felt strongly we could do well if we were to at least cooperate on certain things. We found very little interest at that point from the County side, so there is not a whole lot we can do at this point. But I'm hoping as we get to work together better and know each other together better we might find some places that they would be interested in working together.

But the one programmatic thing that is a priority for me right now is transit. We have a wonderful example of cooperation collaboration between the city and the county on the number 11 bus, which is a brand new bus route; it goes from down town up Rio Road out to Fashion Square mall and the county is paying 60 percent, and we are paying 40 percent. We are about half and half. They have all these new housing developments up there along Rio Road that now have transit which is wonderful. We now have a way to get our residents to jobs and shopping at the mall, we have a way to get our students to [the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center], because it stops at CATEC. And that bus, which now runs once an hour is running with standing room only. So it is hugely popular, and I am advocating for a second bus every hour, especially during peak periods of the day, and we'd have to get the county to agree to that, to help fund that. But I think there are other places where we could really use that sort of collaboration, certainly the Pantops area, maybe even out to Crozet; maybe a bus rapid transit up 29, to the airport. There are a lot of potential ways that we could collaborate on transit that I think we are both eager to do but it's a matter of how we do it and who funds it, and how you do that on the ground.

### **Buddy Weber (R)**

In all fifty states we are the only state with completely independent cities. Because of that we had an annex-

ation regime and we ended up with an annexation agreement. We live under that agreement and it is my view that that agreement requires the city and county to cooperate on a lot of things. In fact actually part of the agreement was to continue negotiations on consolidating services and it went on for several years after that agreement came into effect. They looked at social services consolidation, they looked at consolidation of the police departments, they looked at consolidation of the fire services. None of it ever got consolidated. I am not going to point fingers, but the point is we do the best we can, if the two sides cannot agree on certain things then they just have to take care of their own.

The cooperation is required because we all live in the same community. But in fact by virtue of our form of government, whether we want to admit it or not, we are in competition with the county and the county is in competition with us. Is this a fair competition? Well they've got 730 square miles of real estate at about 200 people per square mile and we've got 10 square miles of real estate with about 4,300 people per square mile. It doesn't sound very fair, but it's what we've got....

I think what the city has to do in order to approach the county with efficiencies in government is to make sure that we are taking care of ourselves first and that we have a good, competitive business environment for what we've got so that when we do approach on things that are necessary for the good of the people that we are there in a position of strength. We are not just bargaining because we have to, we are doing it because it's the right thing for all the people. We have to have that environment that recognizes that we have to focus on ourselves....

... [M]y long experience with government operations gives me just a little bit of skepticism because government programs never get more efficient they always get less efficient the bigger they get.

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