

CHARLOTTESVILLE TOMORROW'S 2017 VOTER GUIDE

★CHARLOTTESVILLE ★VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 7★

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL



John Edward
Hall (I)



Heather
Hill (D)



Kenneth Wayne
Jackson (I)



Amy
Laufer (D)



Paul
Long (I)



Nikuyah
Walker (I)

CHARLOTTESVILLE SCHOOL BOARD



Lisa
Larson-Torres



Leah
Puryear



Juandiego
Wade

Make an informed vote!

This 2017 Charlottesville Voter Guide has been produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow. It is intended to help residents make an informed vote on key quality of life issues.

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. Charlottesville Tomorrow is a nonprofit organization that provides the community in-depth information on land use, transportation, community design and public education issues.

Informed citizens create better communities.



2017 CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

CANDIDATE PROFILES

*Six candidates for two
available seats*

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

- Race relations
- City-County-UVa relations
- Operations of the Council & City Manager
- Transportation
- Budget
- Jobs

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/cityvote) 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.



There are additional races on the Nov. 7 ballot. View your complete ballot information online at:

<http://vote.virginia.gov>

John Edward Hall (I)

I was born in Winchester Virginia on June 13, 1951. The first 4 years of my life was spent in Front Royal Virginia. Our family moved to Fairfax County Virginia in 1955. I graduated from Oakton High School in Vienna Virginia. While there, I was a member of the Oakton Club, varsity club (ran track and cross country and graduated a member of the National Honor Society - class of 1970. From there, I went to Texas A&M University in Commerce, Texas majoring in premed (Biology and Chemistry) and entered medical school after graduating in 1974 with honors in 1975.

Education: Bachelor of Science with Honors-Texas A&M University Commerce

Occupation: Design engineer, Self Employed

Previous political experience:

Vice President of BBB biology honor society while at Texas A&M University

Age on Election Day: 66

Neighborhood: Fry's Spring

Hometown: Fairfax

Family: Former spouse - Linda Lee Murphy Humphries. Divorced with 4 children: Lauren Marie Lee, Diana Lee Cosgrove, Daniel James Hall, John Lawrence Hall

Other interests and experiences:

Drawing, draftsman (Autocad experience), Inventing: 6 US Patents, 1 patent pending; 2 US Copyrights (1 copyright pending).

Telephone: (434) 978-4040

Email: john.hall57@gmail.com

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/john.e.hall.18>



Heather Hill (D)

I am a wife, mother, neighborhood leader, systems engineer, and business person. In each of these roles, I must listen carefully and take action based on what I hear. I want to combine this approach with my skills, energy, passion, and commitment to create an environment where everyone can thrive. Since my campaign launched, I have walked every City street, listening to community concerns and priorities. This has inspired and energized me. Our City needs strong and responsible leaders committed to listening, finding answers, and working collaboratively to address community priorities. I am ready to do that. Please join me.

Education: B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech; MBA, University of Virginia Darden School of Business Administration

Occupation: Independent Consultant, Self Employed

Previous political experience: President, North Downtown Residents Association (elected by membership, selected as officer by Board)

Belmont Bridge Steering Committee (appointed member)

Age on Election Day: 40

Neighborhood: North Downtown

Hometown: Watertown, NY

Family: My husband Jon and I are raising our three children here in Charlottesville. Aubrey (age 7 and 2nd grader at Burnley Moran Elementary), Warren (age 5), and Caroline (age 2).

Other interests and experiences:

I apply a systems view to complex problems and am action-oriented in solving them. My former employers include IBM and General Mills in capacities of engineering, process development, and brand management.

Engaging in our community energizes me. Beyond being a neighborhood leader, I'm active in my children's schools, served as Marketing Chair for Charlottesville Design House benefiting SHE, and last year on Charlottesville Tomorrow's board.

I have also trained for and completed two half-ironman triathlons.

Telephone: (434) 260-0055

Email: Heather@HillforCville.com

Website: www.HillforCville.com



Kenneth Wayne Jackson (I)

Kenny Jackson is a 50-year-old native of Charlottesville, Virginia who would be honored to serve on Charlottesville City Council. Kenny firmly believes that local government needs to govern for the people, be accessible and answerable to them. The role of government is to promote and foster an environment in which people can flourish and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Education:

Kenny attended Burnley Moran and Clark Elementary Schools; Buford Middle School; and graduated from Charlottesville High School in 1986. Kenny studied Business Management at Piedmont Virginia Community College and Criminal Justice at Southside Virginia Community College. He received a Certificate in Political Studies from the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

Occupation: Kenny has 30 years' experience in business management and has held supervisory roles.

Previous political experience:

Ran as a Republican for City Council in 2004

Age on Election Day: 50

Neighborhood: Johnson Village

Hometown: Charlottesville

Family:

He is the proud father of a 28-year-old daughter who attended and graduated from the Charlottesville Public School System.

Other interests and experiences:

Since the age of 18, Kenny has been involved in Community Service Boards and organizations in and around Charlottesville.

Telephone: (434) 390-7598

Email: kwj34@embarqmail.com

Website: www.kennyjacksoncville.com



Amy Laufer (D)

After the traumatic events of the summer, we need compassionate, inclusive and practical leadership. Many of the extremist groups have gone but we are left here to solve the decades' issues of racial inequalities, affordable housing, job creation, workforce development and strengthen our partnerships with UVA and the County. I hope to help our community heal and move forward. I am on the School Board and have served as chair and vice chair, I'm proud we have increased graduation rates to over 90%. I'm also proud to have founded Virginia's List, a group that helps Democratic women get elected in Virginia.

Education:

BSc. Geology, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; MA Secondary Science Education, Columbia University-Teachers College

Occupation: Former Middle School Math and Science Teacher, Currently Member of Charlottesville City School Board

Previous political experience:

Appointed Citizen Member Commission on Children and Families, Twice elected Charlottesville City School Board former Chair and Vice Chair

Age on Election Day: 45

Neighborhood: Greenbrier

Hometown: Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin

Family:

Married to, Aaron Laufer, three children, attend Buford MS, Walker UES and Greenbrier ES and have a dog.

Other interests and experiences:

Fun Facts: Returned Peace Corps and Americorps Volunteer. Worked in a fish cannery in Alaska for three summers to pay for college and met my husband in the Peace Corps. I am an avid Zumba attendee, I like to read, listen to podcasts and travel.

Telephone: (434) 825-6806

Email: lauferforcouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.amylaufer.com



Paul Long (I)

I was born and raised in Philadelphia and historic Tinicum Township. One of my earliest memories was my father allowing me to watch with him the 1960 Democratic Convention which nominated John Kennedy for president and Lyndon B. Johnson for Vice President. Two of my political heroes are Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson. Roosevelt led the United States through the Great Depression. Lyndon Johnson was the greatest civil rights president since Abraham Lincoln. The passage of the civil rights act of 1964, the voting rights act of 1965, his fair housing act, the war on poverty, his established community colleges throughout the country, mark him as the greatest president in my lifetime.

Education:

Attended Chestnut College, Philadelphia in 1985 and 1986.
Received certification as an addiction counselor in 1986 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Occupation: Retired, Worked for 17 years at the University of Virginia Medical Center as a Patient Transporter. Retired in June of 2015.

Previous political experience:

From October 1986 to October 1997 I served as Tinicum Township's Official Representative to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). SEPTA is the regional public transit authority for Philadelphia and four suburban counties. From 1987 to 1989, served a three year term on Tinicum Township's Board of Health.

Age on Election Day: 68

Neighborhood: Venable

Hometown: Philadelphia

Family: Marital status: single. All siblings are deceased.

Telephone: (434) 270-5198



Nikuyah Walker (I)

My name is Nikuyah Walker. I'm a native of Charlottesville. I graduated from Charlottesville High School in 1998 and then went on to Virginia Commonwealth University where I earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2004.

Education:

Virginia Commonwealth University BA- Political Science

Occupation:

City of Charlottesville - Parks and Recreation - Rec Aide

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 37

Neighborhood: Belmont

Hometown: Charlottesville

Family:

I have three children

Other interests and experiences:

Music, Theater and Reading.

Telephone: (434) 882-1805

Email: nwcvillecouncilrun17@gmail.com

Website: www.votenikuyahforcouncil.com



**Learn about the
Charlottesville School Board
candidates starting on page 12**



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

John Edward Hall (I)

I haven't been as well qualified as most, but I can say that I was vice president of the Beta Beta Beta biology honor society at Texas A&M University while I was in school there. I served as President, I think, of one of my classes, when I was growing up and put in school. I think it was either fifth or sixth grade, and from that background of information I knew that someday there might be another opportunity. So that's what I have to say about that.

Heather Hill (D)

I'd like to respond to that through multiple perspectives, as active community member, a professional, and most recently as a candidate....I have put personal stake into this community by working with groups like Shelter for Help in Emergency where I served as marketing chair for the Charlottesville design house from its inception through two annual events. Last year I served on this board, Charlottesville Tomorrow's board, and I strongly agree that informed citizens do create better communities.

I'm an engaged volunteer

parent in my children schools. I actively participate in the Burnley-Moran PTO and serve as the International School of Charlottesville's building committee chair while the school looks to meet the growing demand of immersion language in our community. I've also taken on personal projects including my ongoing pursuit of a rail to trail conversion that will connect the growing northern trails of our city and county to the center along West Main. In 2003, I joined the board of the North Downtown Residents Association and after multiple leadership positions I now serve as its president....I also represent our neighborhood on the Belmont Bridge Steering Committee.

These roles have engaged me not only with neighbors I represent but with citizen leaders throughout our community, as well as our city staff and leadership. It is this exposure that has provided me with many insights as to how our city operates and is managed. But next as a professional I would say I also have something to bring. I earned an undergraduate degree in industrial and systems engineering and a master's in business from the UVA's Darden school. This

education has trained me to look at issues as part of a system and not individual silos to solve the issues in collaboration with people who bring diverse points of view and represent a variety of stakeholders. In my work life I've led the development and implementation of systems across multiple industries. These have resulted in significant cost savings and efficiencies that then can be reinvested in those businesses and I really believe that if we can take those types of opportunities and apply them to Charlottesville as a city to enable more services and support to local residents....

That brings me to my most recent perspective and that is that of a candidate, this has been a very new process for me but in February when I launched my campaign I committed to listening. Since that time I have walked every street in our city myself. Every door knocked by my campaign leading up to the primary was done by me. To hear first-hand the concerns and priorities among those I hope to serve. But no one should forget that it's the priorities of our community that really matter not the elected officials or its leaders. The hours I have personally spent sitting in living rooms and on porches listening to personal stories taking notes

has inspired and energized me. And it's an approach I plan to continue throughout my time in office if I'm elected.

Kenneth Wayne Jackson (I)

I'm born and raised in Charlottesville. I have over twenty-eight years of restaurant management and hotel management experience, therefore I know about profit and loss, budgets and all that. I've also been involved in government since I was sixteen years old. It's something that's a passion to me, and when I say involved in government, I mean reading up on the laws that oversee our government especially our local government. And I think I have a unique insight because people talk about the changing Charlottesville and gentrification while I've witnessed it first-hand. And it's not just a racial thing, it's actually an economic thing black, white, Hispanic all are experiencing it. We just aren't talking about it with each other.

Amy Laufer (D)

I've been a resident for about 15 years. I met my husband in the Peace Corps, he's originally from here. We're raising a family and a business here. I've been on the school board for the past six years — two years as vice chair and two years as chair. I've learned much about governing and leading through this experience. Number one, it's important to listen to all stakeholders — and even ones that you don't agree with — they can deepen your understanding and broaden your perspective. And then you need to do your homework and understand what are the resources that the city has to come to bear on the solution, and then you have to set a goal and prioritize to make it happen. And you have to work as a team, and you know you just cannot solve problems alone. And

lastly and most importantly, that it's not about anyone that's elected — it's really about our community and making things better for the people around us. I would like to just also put in a plug about what are the duties of City Council because I think there's been some confusion in the past. So the duties of City Council are the same as a school board. We have an elected body that is the liaison between the community and the manager or the superintendent in the school board case. But the City Council, or the School Board, sets the priorities and then they look at budgetary and policy issues to help those priorities become a reality. And the city manager, or the superintendent, is actually in charge of the day-to-day operations in implementing the vision of the City Council or the School Board. So I think we need to make sure that we understand that role,

and fulfill that to the best of our ability.

Paul Long (I)

The number one qualification that I have the right to express is that for 11 years, when I was residing in Philadelphia and the immediate suburbs, I served as the official representative of Tinicum Township on the South-eastern Pennsylvania Transportation Board. I mention this because public transportation I think is a vital issue. I've been calling for eight years for the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle County to create a regional public transit authority and so I think I have the unique kind of experience that no other candidate [running for] city council has on that issue. I also served for three years as a member of the Tinicum Township Board of Health. For eight years I was a certified addiction counsellor in

Philadelphia, which explains my interest in public health issues....

Nikuyah Walker (I)

I think that the civic engagement that I participate in almost every day is the main thing that qualifies me. I'm an engaged citizen. I participate regularly in hopefully creating a better democracy locally. Because of that involvement, I am aware of a lot of issues and situations and how the government is run that maybe other people may not be. Hopefully more engagement with a higher number of people will occur because that's where true change happens. So, hopefully more people will get involved. Civic engagement and how I participate in my activism is what I think qualifies me best.

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

John Edward Hall (I)

Well it's to help with public works. Our streets need sidewalks and paving. Infrastructure and transportation is currently at eight to thirty-five percent of expenses in our budget.

Heather Hill (D)

A top priority of mine is building trust — among members of council but also among council staff in the community that we serve. Currently council is not viewed as a collaborative body that is addressing the needs of our community but more as a set of individuals pursuing their own agendas.

It's going to take us truly acting as one body to most effectively and efficiently communicate with and meet the needs of our community. And to act as a cohesive body we must build strong relationships based on trust and respect. As leaders we need to work together to foster a culture of city responsiveness and accountability. This, along with greater transparency

in government, has been a pillar of my campaign. People are looking for answers and actions not empty statements. We must also establish some expectations and formalize internal procedures for how we are going to work together to best serve Charlottesville. When we look more broadly among council and staff in the broader community, council

and our city management continue to fall short on providing clear consistent communications to our community. Everything that came from the city during and in the wake of August 12th was reactive and not proactive. As a neighborhood leader I know how many emails get sent to city leadership and end up in the abyss. When we moved from normal times to post August 12th this lack of responsiveness and connectedness gave the city leadership very little to stand on.

I believe it's imperative for those who want to serve our community to remain responsive and connected to the people that they serve. In reality, however, we do not have reliable and consistent conduits for input and communications among council, staff and the broader community. Council's managing a tremendous amount of information and inquiries while staff is getting direction from too many sources in my opinion. In return, there's little responsiveness or accountability which leaves little to get done. We need to invest in appropriate systems to establish efficient processes that will allow both council and staff to field a broader range of issues, even if they are at high volume. And we need to have them do those inquiries without having the burden administratively and right now I just don't feel like our

systems are in place that allow them to do that. But most importantly we need to be working [toward] more effective ways of engaging our community....Effective citizen engagement is about more than lining people up and listening to their complaints. It's about authentically engaging them in hands on activities demonstrating how their ideas and thoughts will be used and moreover includes a follow up with citizens....

Kenneth Wayne Jackson (I)

First, is to bring back decorum and respect to our council meetings, our planning commission meetings. No citizen should sit there and feel intimidated because a gang, regardless of what their purpose is, takes over meeting. For us as a city council to allow that to go on, we're actually breaking the law ourselves. We're allowing, an intimidating and violent atmosphere and no citizen should be allowed to experience that. We need to bring back decorum and respect, do away with the hand gestures, and learn how to sit there and listen to a person when they talk. And then if we have something to say, then we can speak ourselves. I also want to do away with this lottery [process for public comment signups]. When you come in it's first come first served, and we'll sign up as many as we

have to. If we have to sign up fifty people that wish to speak that's fine. If you are a group that has the same topic, each and every one of you don't need to get up and speak and say the exact same thing. It's a waste of time.

Amy Laufer (D)

I've been talking about this since February and I had my priorities in general, but I really think we're at a state where we have four kind of things happening around us. First, we have distrust between the City Council members themselves and the city staff and I think we have to work on that first. And then I think we have a group of individuals that are very vocal about issues that they are concerned about and those issues are important. And I think what we need to do is work with these individual groups and these people to meet with them outside of the City Council chambers and talk about how to come up with real solutions to the real problems that they're talking about. And then I think our third issue is the broader issues which are the things we kind of talked about during the primary, which is affordable housing, job creation, workforce development, transportation, infrastructure, transparency, environmental issues, and I have specific things in each of those areas that I'd like to

work on. But then I think our last category of issues are all the lawsuits that the city is facing with the parking garage, the statue, the bike lawsuit with the county and then all these lawsuits that are occurring since August 12, and so I think those are the issues that we're going to have to be facing....

Paul Long (I)

Removing Mike Signer as mayor of the city. I think he's incompetent, I think he's a disgrace, I think he's abused his authority and I believe City Council, up until a month ago, allowed him to abuse his authority as mayor.

Nikuyah Walker (I)

Transparency. Bringing transparency to our budget process, how all nonprofits and other agencies receive money from the city government and just making sure that citizens are more involved and how that process works. The participatory budgeting process, which I haven't had a ton of time to look at, but I definitely like the idea of citizens in neighborhoods being able to decide and determine where the funding goes. But we need a lot more transparency in the city, and hopefully through that transparency, increased involvement. And so getting third-party independent agency rating for nonprofits is my first priority to make sure

that they are outcome-rich, not top-heavy, and that they are producing according to their mission statement. And if not, they shouldn't continually receive funding.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Charlottesville Tomorrow is pleased to bring you the eighth installment of our Voter Guide. We pull this content together because we are committed to giving you the information you need to make informed choices about our community's future. Please help us continue to provide this service by making a donation to Charlottesville Tomorrow. You can do so by visiting www.cvilletomorrow.org/donate.

Do you support the redevelopment of Charlottesville's public housing sites and Friendship Court to create vibrant mixed-income and mixed-use neighborhoods without displacement of existing residents?

John Edward Hall (I)

Yes, because it will be a good way to expand the tax base. And also there are, if I am right about the location of this neighborhood, it would give good inroads to the Downtown Mall which would lead to further business growth for the different are business owners on the Downtown Mall.

Heather Hill (D)

I do support the redevelopment of our public housing. I think that a lot of our public housing is ripe for redevelopment and we're hearing that from the communities. I also recognize obviously with the Strategic Investment Area, that Friendship Court has got a lot of focus on that, but the biggest piece this question is around 'without

displacement.' I think that we need to be really process driven and how as we look to redevelop and provide better living conditions and invest in this heavily how are we going to do in a way that isn't going to disrupt those people that are living [there] and that we not only should be maintaining the number of housing that supports those most vulnerable populations but we need to be increasing the number of units that support those populations.

I do feel that mixed-income mixed-use neighborhoods provide a tremendous number of benefits to the broader community and we certainly are in a need for housing at many income levels but we must, must prioritize those at the lowest income levels and making sure that as we do this redevelopment that it

is of minimal impact to their quality of life in their transition because I believe at the end of it all we are going to...see a much more positive impact for all in our community, but how we go about it, in the timing in which is done, and the engagement that needs to happen to make people feel comfortable with the process, I think is going to be critical for its success.

Kenneth Wayne Jackson (I)

I don't. Because 'mixed-use,' they throw that out real quick. And mixed-use contains and really means a lot of things, but you also have to realize, you're putting low income people in there with rich people or well-to-do people -- because Charlottesville's idea of middle class is like \$200,000. You know it's just not a good

mix. I hate to tell you that but because I don't want to see rich people all the time and I'm poor. I may not be eating that night and they're out there cooking steaks. Then how long am I going to stay here?

When the community partnership bought Friendship Court they told us that it was always going to stay housing. They were going to keep it. They got all this federal money and renovated it. They made money off it and then they dumped it. You know, public housing is a joke. The feds have been on us for the longest time....All this money that came down to fix these places up and renovate them, there's nothing that's been done. They've been allowed to deteriorate over years.

The city would like to, just like this little voucher program they've got, it's a lie, I even round it up, I say [the program has] \$980,000. If you help 1,000 people that's only \$900. That doesn't go a lot for rent, especially when you're considering I've moved out and I've got 11 more months to go. If you help 500 people that's only \$1,800. And you are going to give him a voucher to go where? Fluvanna? Then they become Fluvanna's problem, and being a rural area they don't get as much federal or state funds as we do. We have to be about our business. ...We can renovate and update. There should be washers and dryers in these units. ...You know we need to get central air and heat. Crescent Halls is a perfect example where the elevator should have been renovated.

Amy Laufer (D)

So I have met with the Friendship Court management multiple times and I've seen the plans that they've come up with. I believe redevelopment to improve the quality of the current units is critical. I do believe we need to be doing that. In terms of mixed-income and mixed-use, I think that is a good use of that area. Of course it has to be done with the participation of the existing tenants and I also believe that, if possible, we should

increase the number of affordable units in that structure as it's being built.

Paul Long (I)

I do support that. I think we need more public housing in the city. I believe that the Daily Progress reported that there's over 600 people on the waiting list right now and a lot of those people have been waiting a very long time. We need more units. One of the things I am opposed to is the whole discussion with Friendship Court in the strategic [investment] area. What I've read in the papers is that they're going to maintain the existing subsidized units but allow private developers to develop market value units in that area. I'm opposed to that. I think all that area down there that's open, we have very little open land in the city, should be devoted to affordable housing for people at the low end of the economic scale.

Nikuyah Walker (I)

So I don't believe that the way that the current leaders who've been at the table could come up with master plans that would not displace current residents. So I've been in the room and I haven't been convinced that they have the current families' needs as primary. And when I have been in the rooms and what I have been convinced of is that

we have a land shortage in Charlottesville. There are public spaces that are land rich, resource poor, and they come in, the developers and leaders of Charlottesville, they see prime real estate, and they want to develop on them. And even if, for instance, the Friendship Court current plan, there's nothing about that plan that says that it would be vibrant. You're talking about putting 600 units where there are currently 150 spaces, and the 150 spaces include the community center. Expanding that to 600, primarily market-rate homes for single individuals, so efficiency-style, one-bedroom apartments, when you have a current setting that's more family oriented....

But the main issue when people talk about vibrant mixed income, mixed use neighborhoods is that traditionally it just doesn't work. They don't have the best interest of the community members at hand....

But because we do so well in the trickery of race relations in this country we paint assistance even in the need for affordable housing and it becomes a black versus white issue. And that's not the case either. But whether it's race or class, there are major racial issues in the city of Charlottesville. We don't do well. ... I used to live in Friendship Court, so very

familiar with the buildings. But the public housing sites, definitely rehab needs to be done. That rehab should not only happen if they are willing to have mixed income communities. That is something that we need to get the ball rolling on now because there are families living in those public housing sites who are dealing with mold issues, causing major respiratory disorders for children and the parents. And you know work quality going through those pipes, increased heating costs based on it's just not efficiently built. You have people living in concrete spaces. I don't know if you've ever been there but, their walls are made of cinder blocks, and it's something that needs to be a top priority for everyone in the city. No one in our world-class city should be living like that.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Relations: To what do you attribute the tension that currently exists between the city and county and what will you do to promote mutually beneficial relations?

John Edward Hall (I)

I think we have, the old saying goes, too many chiefs and not enough Indians. A lot of times things get done and people want to take credit for it and we don't really get around to working together constructively.

Heather Hill (D)

When I walk throughout our community, and there's been many times I'm going down a street and the next house beyond the one I stop at is in the county, and I really shake my head to be like, 'How is that person's interests any different than the person who can actually possibly vote for me?' And the bottom line is we are all one community and we have to be focused on really recognizing that our priorities are largely shared and I think that can start with just really leaving our egos at the door. For me I am not coming into this with any personal agendas in terms of what I want to accomplish but I think relationship building, not only what I mentioned within our council, but across with other elected stakeholders in our region is going to be important and that comes with trust. We need to recognize that if we can share some

of our resources and find those efficiencies that we can actually service this community broadly and [in a way that meets more of] the needs of our region....I just think we all need to get real about how much our goals are aligned and how much it's really going to take building those personal relationships, but also listening to our constituents because all of this friction that's happening right now is certainly not welcomed by the broader community. We need to pull up our bootstraps and recognize that if we work better together we're going to actually be able to leverage the resources that we collectively have been in a more meaningful way and make more progress on economic development, housing, in workforce development and I just think that for any one of us to think that we can do this on our own is certainly short sighted and we all have shared interests.

Kenneth Wayne Jackson (I)

First of all, I'd have to come in and see why we are at each other's throats. You know, if Albemarle moves the court system people don't seem to understand

that the sheriff's office and everything else. That's gonna affect every business downtown. They buy lunch here, they buy clothes here, they do a lot of stuff, they put their clothes in a cleaners here. They move it out to another area, it's going to economically impact Charlottesville. As far as a Ragged Mountain – that's Albemarle's property. We cannot force ourselves or what we think is right on someone. I mean we also have to look at what a majority of the citizens want. A majority of the citizens don't use Ragged Mountain. I've had people come up to me and asked me if I would guarantee to put money aside for bike lanes and stuff. I have no problem with bikers. Yesterday one kid went by on this big bike and he had it up in the air and he's in the wrong lane and stuff. Another gentleman he just went past a whole row of cars while we were stopping. Bikes have rules of the road, and I will let the police enforce those rules even on a biker. Because if you're going to share the road, then you have to have just as much respect as you expect that person in the car to have. Because that person in the car pays taxes, a lot of taxes, fees, decals and everything else. So, when it

comes to issues like this, we should never be in a lawsuit with the county. We should be able to sit down and come to some agreement, and it may not be what we want.

Amy Laufer (D)

City-county and city-UVA relations, all of them are fraught with tension, just in its very nature. We are really one region, but we have different needs. And that is what I think causes the tension. And I think it's really important that we understand what their needs are. I mean, in terms of the lawsuit for the bikes, I would absolutely try to dismiss that. I feel like that was extremely frivolous and that's not a way to work with our county. And, you know, in terms of the court facilities, I think we need to understand why they should be in the downtown. I think they should be. There are a lot of services that are shared with our sheriff's departments, the clerk's office — there's a lot of good reasons to have them together and I think we need to explore what the reasons are that they may want to leave, and try to eliminate those barriers for the county.

Paul Long (I)

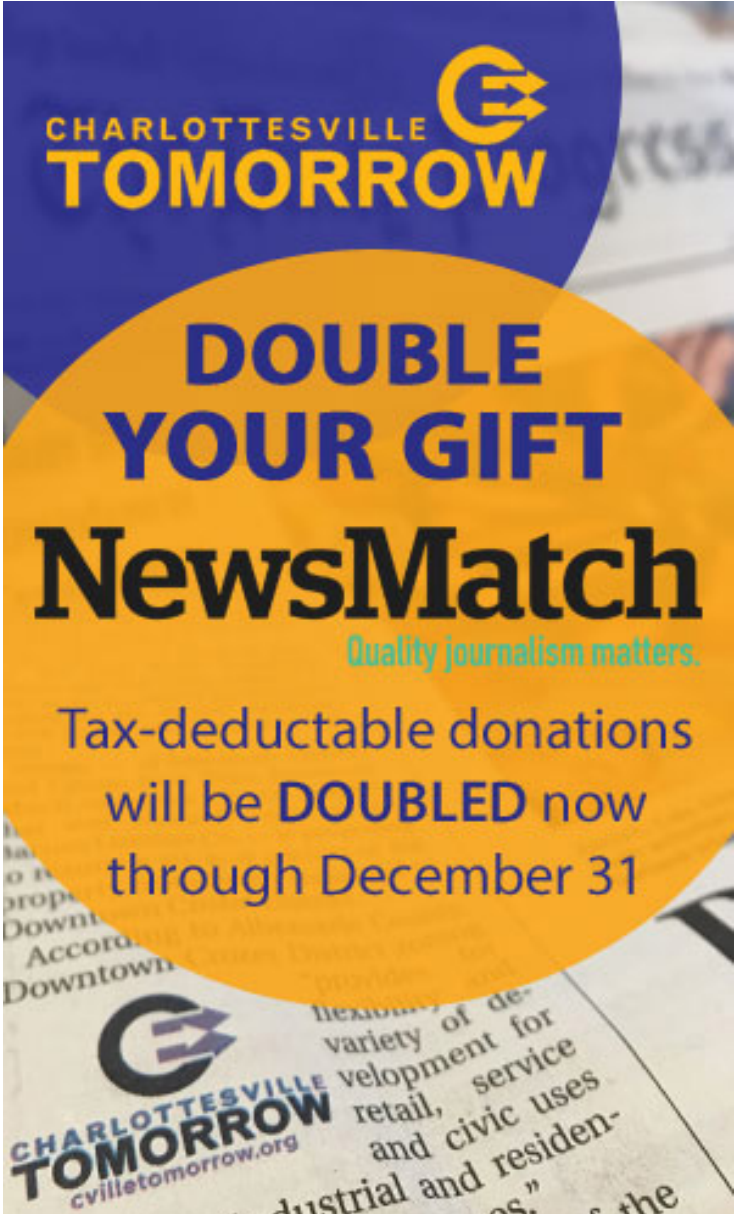
I think one of the major causes was the City Council determining what could be done on the Ragged Mountain Natural area. Now that facility is located entirely within the boundaries of Albemarle County. I believe that Albemarle County has the right to say what can and cannot be done in that land mass and I think the City Council was out of line going against that. You know, it was a 3-2 vote. I would try to change that and go along with the way Albemarle County wants that land... to be used. In terms of the Albemarle County Courthouse, if they want to leave, I say let them leave. You know, that's their prerogative. I think in terms of cooperation there has to be mutual respect on both sides and I'm certainly prepared to give that to the officials of Albemarle county.

Nikuyah Walker (I)

So without being in the room and having all the information, I'm really interested in learning the different personalities and all the players and what you know kind of goes on behind the scenes that are not captured by the media. I think the main thing that I've seen with the Ragged Mountain issue, which is about whether people can bike, or even in town with the parking garage issue, which is a local and a local

business owner, a lot of ego is in the wrong, which is typical of how things are decided here.

But I think in terms of our current council, there's one councilor in particular whose ego has been you know out of control and I'm sure that in these conversations he's dictated a lot of the outcomes and a lot of other councilors have probably sat aside and allowed him to be the most intellectual that he's claimed to be and determine the outcome for a lot of these cases. So, I think for me personally being in the room, I would not just allow that if that's the case. And again I don't know that for sure at this point because I haven't been in the room. I typically listen to all points of view and make decisions from there... and if there is a way to get people to calm down and listen, and understand that I'm truly hearing them then I can usually do that too. And I'm not saying that I would have been able to prevent a lawsuit, but I definitely would have been able to talk to our Charlottesville councilors and let the Board of Supervisors know that they were being respected and that they were being heard. I can't say outside of that without knowing everything, every piece of the equation what would have happened after that.



The advertisement features a blue header with the 'CHARLOTTESVILLE TOMORROW' logo, which includes a stylized 'G' with an arrow. Below this, a large yellow circle contains the text 'DOUBLE YOUR GIFT' in blue, followed by 'NewsMatch' in large black letters, and 'Quality journalism matters.' in green. Underneath the circle, it says 'Tax-deductable donations will be DOUBLED now through December 31'. The background of the ad shows a newspaper clipping with the same 'CHARLOTTESVILLE TOMORROW' logo and some text about downtown development.

We're excited to announce a matching gift opportunity from News Match, a national campaign to encourage grassroots support for nonprofit news organizations. News Match will match any donation we receive, up to \$1,000 per donation. With News Match, we could receive as much as \$28,000 in additional funding. This is an incredible opportunity for us and for you, as one of our loyal readers.

www.cvilletomorrow.org/donate

2017 CHARLOTTESVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

CANDIDATE PROFILES

*Three candidates for
three available seats*

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


- CATEC
- Student success
- Achievement
- Budget
- Teacher compensation
- Operations of the school board & superintendent
- Race relations
- Technology

WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DO?

School Board members hire and supervise the school division's Superintendent, set the budget, and make school policy. In Virginia, school boards do not have taxing authority and elections are nonpartisan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/cityvote) 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.



 There are additional races on the Nov. 7 ballot. View your complete ballot information online at:

<http://vote.virginia.gov>

Lisa Larson-Torres



I have been a Charlottesville City resident since October 1999 and have worked in Charlottesville and our surrounding counties as a home care physical therapist. I am a single parent and my daughter has attended Burnley-Moran Elementary, Walker Upper Elementary, Buford Middle School and is currently a sophomore at CHS. I have been a strong and present advocate for my daughter and I have worked hard to forge relationships with school personnel throughout the years on her behalf.

Education: B.S. California State University Long Beach, Physical Therapy

Occupation: Physical Therapist, Sentara Home Care Services in Charlottesville

Previous political experience:

Board member on Independent School

Age on Election Day: 52

Neighborhood: Locust Grove area

Hometown: Born in Anaheim, Ca. Graduated HS in Inver Grove Hts, Minnesota

Family: One daughter, Esther, who attends CHS

Other interests and experiences:

I love the outdoors, music and spending time with my daughter. I volunteered as her soccer coach for many years. I trained for 10 years at the International Black Belt Center of Virginia. I love this community and have many wonderful friends. I volunteer and am involved with International Neighbors and am currently taking part in the Dialogue on Race.

Telephone: (434) 825-3019

Email: 4Ldtorres@gmail.com

Website: www.LisaLarsonTorres.com

Leah Puryear



Education: I attended Hampton Institute, which is currently Hampton University and graduated in 1975, with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Marketing and Management. I received my M.A. degree from the University of the District of Columbia in 1978, with a concentration in Adult Education/Administration and Supervision

Occupation: Director of Upward Bound at UVA since 1982 and prior to, I was the Upward Bound Counselor.

Previous political experience: First elected to the Charlottesville City School Board in 2006

Age on Election Day: 64

Neighborhood: Greenbrier neighborhood

Hometown: Hampton

Telephone: (434) 964-1275

Juandiego Wade

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from Norfolk State University

Master of Arts in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia

Occupation: Career Counselor with Albemarle County Department of Social Services

Previous political experience: First elected to the Charlottesville City School Board in 2006

Age on Election Day: 51

Neighborhood: Locust Grove

Hometown: Richmond

Family: Married to Claudette Grant for nearly 25 years. We have a 15 years daughter, Gabriella a 10th grader at Charlottesville High School. My mother-in-law has lived with us for the past four years. I grew up in a family with five brothers and sisters (think Brady Bunch). My father was a teacher in Richmond Public Schools for nearly 40 years.

Other interests and experiences:

I am a Christian and love my church- Olivet Presbyterian Church. I love to mentor and volunteer. I have mentees through several organizations including Computer 4 kids, 100 Black Men of Central Virginia, Olivet Presbyterian Church, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. I cherish the City of Charlottesville and all that it stands for.

Telephone: (434) 293-7432

Email: juanschoolboard@yahoo.com



Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Charlottesville School Board.

Lisa Larson-Torres

I have lived and worked in Charlottesville for the last eighteen years. I have raised my daughter here and she's attended the city schools Burnley Moran, Walker Upper Elementary and Buford and now she is a sophomore at Charlottesville high school. While she was in elementary school I began my close relationship and involvement with the schools as we worked to identify and create accommodations for her based on her [Individualized Education Program]. I feel like my unique perspective and journey through the years as a parent and a collaborator are my strengths and that's what I can bring to the school board. I've also participated on the special education advisory committee for the last six years. And I've attended most if not all of the school board meetings and their work sessions over the last couple years as well.

I was involved in Virginia's Decoding Dyslexia which is a grassroots parent group that worked to increase family supports and educational interventions for dyslexia, working to increase awareness and supports, and then also working and meeting with legislators to address dyslexia and the kids in Virginia....

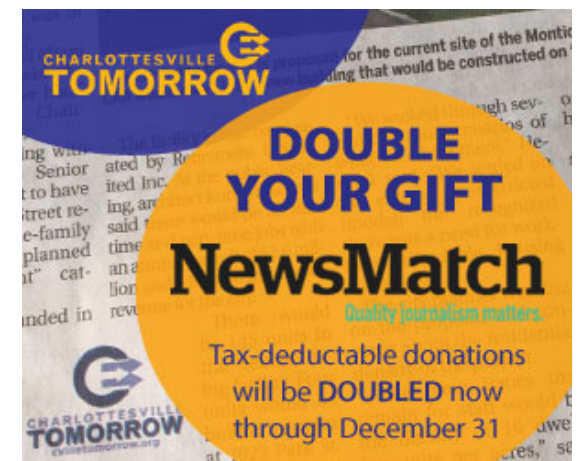
Leah Puryear

I feel my most important experience, in addition to currently being an incumbent, is the work that I do on a daily basis with the Upward Bound Program at the University of Virginia. Our students are 150 percent of poverty and we work with high school students to give them all of the opportunities, exposures, and experiences needed for a true college experience. They must graduate from high school on time, they must maintain a 2.8 or better GPA, and they must apply to colleges and universities in the United States or other locations. If they choose not to go to college, we want them to have an additional educational experience so that could be in graphic art design, culinary arts, or things such as heating and air conditioning repair, computer technologies, and things of the like. All of the things that I

do, in my mind, accent my experiences on the on the school board. We are working for the same things for all of our children, from pre-K to high school graduation.

Juandiego Wade

I'm currently in my third term as the School Board, on the Charlottesville City School Board. I'm in my second time as chair of the City of Charlottesville School Board. Additionally, I've served on the Virginia State School Boards Association Executive Board, served as president of the Virginia State School Board Association in 2015 where I had the opportunity to travel around not only the state, but the country and talk about public education, learn about public education, but also bring that knowledge to, back home and also use it here in the City of Charlottesville. Additionally, I feel like I'm qualified because I love public education, I'm passionate about the City of Charlottesville, where I live and where I've raised my daughter who is a sophomore at Charlottesville High School. I think that qualifies me to serve a fourth term on the City of Charlottesville School Board.



What is your top priority for action by the School Board during the next four years?

Lisa Larson-Torres

Well there's so many things that are important to me but I think probably my top priority would again fall back to literacy as my daughter is a struggling reader as dyslexic. So a lot of my work has been focused around that in collaborating with educators and administrators and working closely with special education.

I have often sat down and had conversations about the optimal strategies that would work best for a child who was a struggling reader specifically a child that has dyslexia. You know looking and talking about whole language verses a type of educational strategy focused more on decoding or phonics type of things --Wilson, Orton-Gillingham -- those types of strategies as opposed to what was provided when she was in early elementary school. So I think throughout the years, what they have offered and now if we look at the extended bridges literacy program that they have available in the elementary schools K-4 and up through fifth grade, you'll see that a lot of the strategies that they're incorporating for these kids who are struggling readers do incorporate Wilson and programs like that, so I'm hopeful and will

continue to probably spend a lot of my time focused on that because it is near and dear to my heart and it is a little bit personal. I also feel that equal access and educational opportunities for all kids are crucial and then that leads into the funding for that and what that might look like that that's something that I will definitely focus on. And then definitely looking at compensation for educators, how they're supported in the school system, and allowing them to bring the best that they have to our students.

Leah Puryear

My priority is equity. I think most people presume that equality is equity, but it is not. And I see our division working toward equity and equity is ensuring that every student that graduates from the Charlottesville City School Division is prepared to go out into the world to do something beyond high school. Whether it's formalized training, whether it's a two-year institution, a four-year institution or the real world of work. We want to ensure that all of our students are prepared. So equity is a top priority for me.

Juandiego Wade

I've been thinking about this and I have really three priorities that I have for the next four years.... One is student achievement — not just a certain segment of students, but all student achievement. Teacher compensation — and that is something that not only I but the school board is focusing on this year. And also facilities improvements. So those are my top three — student achievement, teacher compensation, and facilities improvement. Those are my top priorities for the next four years and I believe that if those areas can be addressed — and we're really going to take our school system to the next level.

Student achievement, it's why we are here, we want all of our students to achieve. We come from a very diverse city and district where students come in at different levels and we don't want to just focus on those students that may need the extra help and those students that may, are already at a high level. We need to raise the student achievement of every student, and that is something I would continue to focus on.

Teacher compensation. We are losing qualified teachers

each and every year because we're competing against other professions, and when we go to a teachers' job fair — we're not only competing against different school districts, we're now competing against IT firms, engineering firms for those math and science and STEM teachers. So we need to increase the pay. We know that teachers don't necessarily get into this profession because of pay, and I know this. My father was a teacher in the Richmond public school system for nearly 40 years, and he raised — I don't know how he did it, but he raised my five brothers and sisters and I and his whole family, and his wife, on that salary — but we think that we can do more to compensate our teachers for the work that they do, for everything that they do above and beyond the call of duty.

Secondly, the facilities. We have a good problem with the City of Charlottesville — we are growing. And we know that the facilities that we have, with the projections of the growth and things that we have, that our facilities are woefully inadequate. And so we are going to be working to come up with a plan to address that. So those are my top three priorities.

What are your priorities for the school division's future facility needs?

Lisa Larson-Torres

The school board just had a recent work session meeting with [architecture firm] VMDO and some people from the university looking at capacity issues. I know—and it really wasn't on my radar as much as it is now—that they

looked at [grade] reconfiguration years ago and had a plan and I think the community or the economy crashed so the money just wasn't there to move forward with whatever they had focused on at that point. So I think the big issues now are the questions that the board, and that are important

to me, are looking at what is appropriate as far as the middle school grades should be. I think a big concern that has been voiced, not only by parents and I had this as a concern personally, but I know even principals have voiced concerns about the number of transitions that are currently within our school system. I definitely feel very strongly about that, that that needs to change. Again personally and related to my daughter, who does have an IEP and has different team members that are involved with her changing every couple of

years was just really really hard for her, but I think it's hard on all the kids especially as they're getting into their teen years, pre-teen years and having relationships. And allowing families to feel connected to a school or to a certain setting, I mean it's just too short a time.

So I think, again, looking at and probably changing the configuration of the middle school and how much time is being spent there. That's a big budget item. There's lots of options that were presented at this work session, I think they're up to nine different

possibilities that were presented and the board wanted to narrow that down to about three or four options. Then the plan is to go forward, from what I understand, to I think probably meet again to talk about it but then roll that out to the community again. Again now I think the issue is the capacity and probably looking at centralizing the pre-K program which would then free up space to roll fifth graders possibly back into the elementary schools.

Leah Puryear

It's time for an update — our schools need updating, our schools need renovating. When you walk in and you see the Sigma Lab at Charlottesville High School and the new science labs, and you go to Buford and you look at all the updated science spaces and then you look at the spaces that haven't been done, they need doing. And they need more than a fresh coat of paint. We need infrastructure, we need infrastructure built out. Whether that's adding on, whether that's reconfiguring the building, whether it's knocking out a wall, putting in something new, but if you look around us, in the counties, they're building new buildings or they're repurposing buildings and these are counties that are a lot smaller when you're looking at budgets than we

have.

And we're in a school division that prides itself with its performing arts and with its academics. When I look at the things that we offer academically at the high school and in our middle schools and in our elementary schools, we're right up there. We are right up there. We are performing with some of the best and brightest — not only in the Commonwealth, but in the country. And we cannot expect to do more with less. Education is valued. And now we need to show our students that we value what they do every day. They get up every day and they come to work, and they work and they produce. That's why we are credited. Our teachers get up every day and come to work and they work. And that's why we are accredited. And now we need to give back. We need to show them that the creative and innovative things that they are doing in those buildings are and will be rewarded, and we're going to fix those buildings. And it's not going to happen overnight. This may be a three to five-year build out, but it's going to happen.

Juandiego Wade

That is something that we are actively working on. And speaking of long meetings — we just had a long meeting a few days ago of four hours just dealing

with this. We know that over the next two years — the next two years — we are going to have an influx of over 300 elementary school students. That is, for the City of Charlottesville, that is one school. That is one school. Our largest school has about 374 people, students, in it. That is one school. We know because there is a demand and the houses will be done, and so we have to figure out pretty soon what are we going to do with that. There's a lot of options out there — Are we going to build a new elementary school? Are we going to add on to each of our five existing elementary schools? Are we going to add on to one or two elementary schools that might have some capacity or some room to grow? But those 200 students they just don't start there. They go through the system, so we're going to have to improve Walker, we're going to have to improve Buford. We do have some capacity in the high school, but you've seen it around Charlottesville, they're building on sites now that five years ago they would not have built on. They're flattening it out and putting apartments and things like that on those properties and homes and other places.

So we have a capacity problem, we have the study, we have some consultants that we are looking at. And the School Board, we are reviewing this information,

we want to be able to make a decision on this with public input through the month of probably October and November, so that we can have this information so that we can present it as part of our budget to the City Council in February of 2018 because we need to start building. We have a three and four-year-old program, which is unique around the state to have, you know, 20 classrooms of three and four year olds. So we need to decide right now, they are in our elementary schools. Are we going to have [pre-K] in one building? Are we going to continue to have them at our various elementary schools? If we do that, will we be able to bring our fifth grades back to those elementary schools? We're already using every single space that we have now. So those are some decisions and questions that we have to make. Personally, I think I would like to see Buford Middle School to be a traditional middle school, sixth through eighth grade, to reduce some of the transitions that we have. But we need to see what the consultants come back with the numbers — we are working with the Weldon Cooper Center, VMDO [architects], and the City of Charlottesville, who maintains our buildings — so we're looking into all of that information.

Thanks for reading!