

QUESTIONS	CANDIDATES FOR CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL					MAYOR
	Camille Berry	Louie Rivers	Erik Valera	Wes McMahon	Paris Miller-Foushee	Jess Anderson
Do you support zoning changes to allow taller buildings and higher density development in Downtown Chapel Hill and along major transit routes?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that creating more diverse housing types and increasing the overall housing supply are essential to making Chapel Hill more affordable?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support making Chapel Hill's development approval process faster and more predictable for applicants?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If elected, will you make updating the Town's Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) a top priority and push for completion in 2026?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the North-South Bus Rapid Transit project, and will you work to secure the funding necessary to complete the project?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Would you support setting transparent deadlines for permit reviews and inspections AND allocate funding for adequate staffing levels to consistently meet those deadlines?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chapel Hill increased property taxes by 14% above the revenue neutral rate for the current fiscal year budget. Would you be willing to make significant program cuts if needed to avoid a similar tax increase next year?	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Yes
I believe Chapel Hill's approach to economic development should:	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.	Balance efforts and resources roughly equally among new business attraction, existing business retention, and startup support.
I believe Orange County's rural buffer:	Served important conservation goals, but after 40+ years, is worth a thoughtful reevaluation alongside other priorities.	Served important conservation goals, but after 40+ years, is worth a thoughtful reevaluation alongside other priorities.	Is essential to our community and its boundaries should never be altered.	Served important conservation goals, but after 40+ years, is worth a thoughtful reevaluation alongside other priorities.	Is essential to our community and its boundaries should never be altered.	Served important conservation goals, but after 40+ years, is worth a thoughtful reevaluation alongside other priorities.
OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS						
What are the key characteristics of a constructive working relationship between the Town of Chapel Hill and UNC-Chapel Hill? How would you work to ensure a positive relationship with the University?	Open dialogue is important. Clear, forthright communication about vision, intentions, and concerns. As Chair of the Chapel Hill Transit Partners, I have enjoyed a very constructive working relationship with representatives from the University, as well as others from Chapel Hill and Carrboro. This is just one example of constructive engagement I have had with the University to address community concerns, and I am confident there will be others.	Collaborative, transparent, a focus on shared goals and values. The town's relationship with UNC should focus on shared goals and a culture of transparency in decision making especially when town and university goals conflict. The town needs a unified voice when working with the university.	A strong Town-UNC relationship requires transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility for housing, transit, and the environment. I'll push for stronger executive-level communication, coordination, and collaboration with regular report-backs.	Good faith partnership and regular communication are the key characteristics of a strong relationship. We'll build on our success in partnership with transit, the housing/innovation district, and the new homeless day center, and extend this relationship to achieve goals with the joint housing study, implementing the Midway Complete Community pilot, and ensuring careful Carolina North development.	1. UNC and the Town need to work together to identify and retain key emerging startups in Chapel Hill to bolster our economic development and limit brain drain. 2. Re: land-use, we need to work together on Carolina North development to ensure connectivity, commercial development to balance our tax base, and green infrastructure to bolster our climate resilience.	As mayor, I maintain open communications and a constructive working relationship with UNC. It's vital that the town clearly articulate our interests and engage the University directly—even on difficult issues—to find shared solutions that meet the needs of the campus and broader Chapel Hill communities.
Do you believe downtown Chapel Hill consistently meets resident and visitor expectations for safety, accessibility, engagement, and overall experience? If not, what steps would you advocate for to strengthen the downtown environment?	I do not believe that downtown Chapel Hill consistently meets resident and visitor expectations. I think we all need to help our residents and visitors adjust their expectations. We all must work together to address the issues at their root causes.	No, but it has the potential to meet these goals. -A focus on creating a development environment that is streamlined and accessible to smaller, local businesses. -A focus on holistic public safety that considers visitors, students, employees and the unhoused based on the understanding that each of these groups have the potential to be aggressors and/or victims.	Downtown is falling short on safety and accessibility—not from lawlessness, but from unmet housing and health care needs. By collaborating with the County, UNC, and neighboring towns, we can address root causes and invest in lasting solutions.	Downtown's accessibility is up with the new parking garage, bike lanes, and frequent GoTriangle buses. We can boost engagement via pop-ups and filling vacant store fronts. We can improve safety with the new Police substation, support for unhoused services via the Partnership to End Homelessness and new day center coming on Homestead Road, and implementing a Community Safety Plan.	No. We need to create more white collar jobs downtown through projects wet-lab development downtown. Jobs downtown will stimulate our downtown's restaurants, and create demand for businesses that don't just cater to college students (and their 9 month economy). We also need to establish pockets of green space and recreational areas downtown so families can travel downtown and spend time there.	Creating a welcoming, safe, and vibrant downtown is a top priority. We're investing in infrastructure and cleanliness, a diversion center and downtown substation, working to open a Day Center for unhoused neighbors, and expanding family-friendly events to strengthen community life.