1. Briefly describe why you are seeking public office:

To serve the citizens whether an individual, a family, or the whole community. The ideal of service was engrained in me since graduating from Presbyterian College - motto: “While we live, we serve,” and throughout my military career where Selfless Service is a cardinal value.

2. Briefly describe a significant accomplishment that would reflect your ability to lead our community.

Accomplishments are achieved by the County Council as a body. Having been elected by my Council colleagues six times, 12 of the 16 years, is a distinct honor for which I am very grateful.

3. If elected, after your first 12 months on Council, what do you hope is your most significant accomplishment?

The first thing we did a month after I was elected in 2005, was to approve and adopt a Martin Luther King Holiday for Greenville County.

4. Tell us about one of Greenville County’s non-profits that you think is doing important work in your community, and what you have done to support this organization’s mission?

District 27 encompasses parts of Simpsonville, Fountain Inn, and the Five Forks area. It is among Greenville County’s most affluent communities. Yet, we continue to strive to lift people out of remaining pockets of social dysfunction. Valuable non-profit work is going on here. An example is the Center for Community Services, an organization that I have long supported. Notably, the “Strong Communities” program was centered here through a partnership with the Duke Endowment and Clemson University. In 2006, I wrote an op-ed about the importance of that program. I will be glad to furnish a copy to anyone who wants it.

5. How could County Council and the Greenville non-profit community better support one another in our shared goal of improving the lives of people in Greenville County?

County Council works well with non-profits. Despite public sector legal and fiscal constraints, County Council finds ways to complement the private sector non-profits. The County is prohibited by law from simply giving money to private non-profits. However, County Council sometimes contracts with non-profits for specific services, for example, Upstate Fatherhood – Detention
Center. Routinely, the County endorses grant applications and allows the use of facilities for specific non-profit events and activities.

6. **What would you do to encourage the production of more affordable homes for (families making under 80% of area median income, spending over 30% of their income on housing)? What would you do to support local Affordable Housing developers, including community organizations and private developers (e.g., incentive such as density/parking bonuses, reduced fees)?**

The Greenville County Comprehensive Plan recognizes the need and encourages the production of more affordable housing by: Identifying and reducing barriers to the production of workforce housing and developing incentives to encourage it - such as density bonuses and discounted/waived building fees to projects designed for workforce housing; Promoting the perseveration and creation of high quality, affordable, housing to attract and retain businesses – by continuing to support the Greenville Housing Fund, and by upgrading zoning to allow for a wider variety of housing types and densities. The next step is for County Council to implement these strategies by ordinance.

7. **Describe the role you believe transit plays in our community’s future growth and success and what role should County Council play in supporting public transit demands?**

I am an advocate for public transportation both as a Council member and as GPATS chairman. Public transit is a bridge to the future – an essential element for our growing metropolitan area. The County is a joint partner with the City in the Greenville Transit Authority (GTA) which contracts with the City of Greenville to operate Greenlink. County funding for GTA/Greenlink was more than doubled, from $451,000 to $2.0 million, in the FY-20 County budget, and that amount was increase again to $2.5 million in the current FY-21 County budget. Greenlink has a great leadership team.

8. **How will you balance the interests of private property owners with the community’s broader vision for how to manage growth across the county (i.e, the future land use map)?**

Fundamental to American liberty is private property, along with the Biblical principle of not harming your neighbors. The new Comprehensive Plan, developed and approved after an open year-long process, lays out the land use policy for Greenville County. Currently, there growth is governed by a separate Zoning Ordinance and a Land Development Ordinance. Combining them into a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) will implement the policies and strategies contained in the Comp Plan. The UDO will provide clarity and predictability and it will streamline the development approval process to save money and reduce housing costs.
9. How do you believe the County can further support the Arts?

The County directly supports the Greenville Art Museum which was organized as a Special Purpose District many years ago. County Council approved a bond ordinance last year to make some badly needed repairs and improvements to that facility. The County also partnered with the City of Greenville in financing the last major enhancements to the public areas around the Peace Center. I have been able to secure smaller amounts for several arts projects in Simpsonville and Fountain Inn – and, I have made personal contributions to arts organizations.

10. What steps will you take to ensure open communications between these diverse entities (municipalities), any of whom are independent of Greenville Council governance authority.

I have always been on a first name basis with all of the mayors, many city council members, and administrators of all six municipalities. In SC, cities are independent entities, not under county authority. However, there are things the County can do for municipalities including financing public improvements. At the beginning of my current term as chairman, I arranged a joint meeting of County Council and the School Board. Some of the special purpose tax districts are totally independent and others were created by County Council. We all understand the importance of maintaining open communications and mutual support.

11. Greenville County represents more than 10% of the population of South Carolina. With that comes incredible diversity of thought and experiences shared by our citizens. Do you seek input from people with different perspectives? In what way and to who do you turn for input? One of the priorities of the Greenville Nonprofit Alliance is an increased involvement on non-profit leaders and board members in shaping policy and the local level. If elected, how will you ensure local non-profit leaders have the opportunity to provide a voice in the decisions being made throughout the County?

We have 12 single-member Council Districts, each with over 43,000 residents (that's more people that many entire counties in SC). Each Council District is distinct in its demographics, geography, and other characteristics (urban, suburban, rural, etc.). My first priority is responding to constituents in my District. My Simpsonville office is open daily. I have also held a number of community meetings and Town Halls and helped with area planning committees. I know personally many people across the County who have unique perspectives – including many non-profit leaders. I often turn to them for insight and perspective.