Briefly describe why you are seeking public office.

Mine and my family’s extensive roots in Greenville and my professional experience are why I want to run for County Council. I understand the issues facing our county because I have spent my whole life here. My experience in commercial real estate gives me the knowledge to help solve the key issues Greenville is facing.

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

I’ve been in real estate development for over 30 years which has provided me the experience to plan for the growth that we currently are experiencing and will continue to experience over the coming years, as well as helping solve traffic issues we are facing. I also have spent significant time in small business and understand the issues our small businesses in Greenville are facing.

If elected, after your first 12 months on Council, what do you hope is your most significant achievement? *

I would like to have a clearly identified and explained growth plan that is made available to our citizens so they can have an active part in setting the direction for the county to follow.

Greenville County is home to nearly 500 nonprofits, ranging from small community centers to large institutions that provide health care, housing, food support, education, arts programming, and so much more. Most recently available data show that nearly 90,000 people in our state are employed in the nonprofit sector and one in three South Carolinians volunteer in a nonprofit organization. Nonprofits and the foundations, companies, and individuals that support them are vital to Greenville County.

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? *

Specifically, I currently serve on the board for the Christian Learning Center of Greenville as well as serving as the Chair of that board. I support the ministry by attending the classes and supporting the students. I also work closely with the Executive Director Janice Butler in strategizing a clear path for the organization.

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

I think a clear goal from the nonprofits as to how we best can serve then but we certainly can look at how we could potentially provide some funding to the nonprofits maybe an annual line item if the budget allows.
Housing

Over 40% of homeowners and renters in the county are cost burdened, spending over 30% of their income on housing. And this percentage only includes those under 80% Area Median Income. The lack of supply—especially for those with the lowest incomes—has only made this problem worse.

What would you do to encourage the production of more affordable homes for these families? What would you do to support to local Affordable Housing developers, including community organizations and private developers (e.g., incentives such as density/parking bonuses, reduced fees)? *

I would look at the current opportunity zones or tax credits for housing and when developers develop consider providing a bigger tax incentive for those homes. If we want more affordable housing in Greenville, you must find a way to incentivize developers building those homes.

Transit

Greenville’s public transit system – Green link – has made great strides in recent years, adding a mobile payment system and new signage, reworking routes, and refurbishing vehicles and adding electric Proterra buses manufactured right here in Greenville County.

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? *

Maybe consider a private public partner and maybe we need a less expensive smaller bus that will afford opportunity for more routes. It needs to be reliable on time, safe and if not county council will hold them accountable.

Growth

Greenville County is projected to grow by more than 200,000 residents in the next 20 years. Greenville County’s comprehensive plan -- adopted unanimously by Council earlier this year -- outlines the vision for how to manage that growth, including a future land use map. The county is in the process of developing ordinances to replace current zoning and land development regulations.

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)? *

Being strategic on growth by infill development to maximum and when we to grow away from our cities we need to have a plan where those new homes are going to shop for grocery, pharmacy and gas.

Arts

Many of our County’s downtowns are anchored in arts and culture activity - from Trailblazer Park in Traveler’s Rest to the Younts Center in Fountain Inn. Greenville County has always been a leader in
the arts for our state and region. Also, many of our Arts partners in the County are suffering financially from Covid-19 related closings.

How do you believe the County can further support the arts now – during our economic crisis – and in the future? *

In the short term send the money that Greenville county has through the CARES ACT too fund non-profits/Arts in current need.

Help with the convention Center get funded and open and get one of the largest religious Art displays out in our community/world which will put a huge light on all of our Arts programs in Greenville and bring needed tourist dollars to our community.

Municipalities

Within Greenville County there are a number of other municipalities, including the incorporated cities (like Greenville, Greer, Travelers Rest, Fountain Inn), special purpose districts (like Fire and Sewer services), and Greenville County Schools, all with their own locally elected leaders, while we are all representing many of the same constituents. The conflicts between these entities can often manifest itself through poor coordination (like conflicting comprehensive plans) or outright disputes (like the redevelopment of County Square).

What steps will you take to ensure open communication between these diverse entities, many of whom are independent of Greenville County Council governance authority? *

Organize a quarterly meeting between these municipalities to see if we can take step 1 for citizen engagement. I am open to having council meet in various districts to see the issues up close and personal.

Citizen Engagement

Greenville County Council represents more than 10% of the population of South Carolina. With that comes an incredible diversity of thought and experiences shared by our citizens. Do you seek input from people with different perspectives? In what way and to whom do you turn for input? One of the priorities of the Greenville Nonprofit Alliance is an increased involvement of non-profit leaders and board members in shaping policy at 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 count

I am an advocate for non-profits, I will be a council member that non-profits will have a listening ear and on council will seek the council and wisdom of this group and others.

I begin volunteering for the Greek Festival when only church members supported the event and still volunteer at the event to this day.

The company I currently work for was a Meals on Wheels supporter for which I assisted in delivering meals to.

I was President of AHEPA when we secured a 5m+-/ grant for AHEPA Housing apartments which was income and age required and is still open on Woods Lake Road.