

		CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF CARRBORO	CANDIDATES FOR CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL				
QUESTIONS		Barbara Foushee	April Mills	Stephanie Wade	Eliazar Posada	Catherine Fray	Jason Merrill
Q1. What are 3 things you will do to make Carrboro a better place to grow and start a business?		1) Promote Carrboro as a great town to start and grow a business. 2) Provide the necessary resources and roadmap to those interested in starting a business. 3) Continue to provide support to businesses as needed through the CBA and other key partners.	1) Supporting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the region is critical. 2) Access to funding: angel or VC network, but creating access for entrepreneurs and capital to connect and partner with organizations like CED <a href="https://cednc.org/">https://cednc.org/</a> 3) Parking access	1) Create an electrified public transport system that will run on a regular basis for all Carrboro citizens 2) Work with the Planning Department to help local businesses with zoning. 3) Help ensure local businesses come before national or regional chains.	1) Work to increase affordable housing. 2) Work to expand equitable public transit to provide more and better routes for our community. 3) Work to increase diversity of voices heard when making decisions in town.	1) Update LUO to allow greater residential density; more residents support more businesses. 2) Streamline commercial review; enhance responsiveness of planning department. 3) Remove excess parking minimums; allow businesses to plan for their own needs.	1) Improve customer access to businesses through parking reform. 2) Aid local business owners in navigating regulations. 3) Expand the pool of money in the small business revolving loan program.
Q2. More specifically, what will you do to support the creation and growth of Black, Latinx, and refugee-owned businesses in Carrboro?		I would work to identify funding and other needed resources. Oftentimes, Black, Latinx and refugee-owned business models and financial templates may be different and require more creative ways to be sustainable and successful.	Partner with lenders and VCs that will make investments in businesses. I will also look to increase MWBE goals when it comes to building and development within projects. I would also survey business owners and ask what they need help.	It's essential to involve the communities and businesses themselves in the planning and implementation process to ensure the initiatives meet their actual needs. Initiatives; Education&Training, Community Support&Awareness, Public/Private Mentorship	I want the town ensure when we contract or provide assistance for businesses, we center BIPOC and refugee owned business and ensure we have their voice at the table when discussing and deciding on changes that will impact our business community.	Streamline our commercial permits, policies, and review processes to remove hurdles to business startup and expansion by folks with limited time, money, or English skills to navigate our current bureaucracy.	The availability of financial and logistical support should be prioritized to benefit members of historically marginalized communities.
Q3. How would you make it easier for out-of-town visitors to access Carrboro?		Way-finding signage and maps would be ideal to assist out-of-town visitors with navigating our community.	BRT, increase access to parking lots and provide a dedicated transportation to park and ride lot for hospitality employees.	Transportation infrastructure improvements, collaborate with local stakeholders, tourism promotion.	I want to look at traffic mitigation coming in and out of downtown, ensure we implement a parking plan to benefit businesses, increase ways folks can interact with the town through greenways, the Visit Carrboro initiative and public transpiration.	I would support establishing paid parking and parking enforcement with consideration for employees so that spaces are not taken up for hours on end. We should also prioritize finishing the wayfinding project.	Better management of our parking inventory.
Q4. How would you change the downtown environment to improve visitor, shopper, and customer experience?		The downtown experience could be improved in any number of ways including but not limited to the addition of decorative items like planters, a bike share program, and the creation of a slow zone.	If a space has not been leased for some time, I would like to understand why & how to support the broker. I would host & market more events in the community. I would like to see more Carrboro restaurants join Triangle Restaurant Week. Splash Pad!	Carrboro needs a more pedestrian friendly infrastructure with crosswalks&flashing lights from downtown all the way out to 54. More events & activities with street closures. Also enhance the aesthetic appeal of downtown with landscaping & greenspaces.	Some easy fixes that I have already supported are increase trees/vegetation, update bus stops, provide more benches or trash containers and more consistent maintenance of our downtown. And explore options to improve or redevelop our downtown.	1) Improve pedestrian and bike facilities so that people feel safe traveling downtown 2) Provide shade to make the environment more pleasant during the summer, especially given the changing climate.	Greater density, slower vehicle speeds, more structured parking.
Q5. When you go to downtown Carrboro to shop, what is your most frequent way of getting there?		Walking, car, and bike.	Vehicle or Walking	Car or bike depending on the weather.	Walk or drive, depending on my days agenda or if I have work commitments.	50/50 walk or drive and park in town lot	I ride my bike for 98% of all trips to Carrboro and Chapel Hill.
Q6. Please write a Carrboro-centric, pro-business haiku (without the help of AI).		We can create change. Use your inner moral compass. Hope stands tall. Be courageous It is a muscle. Watch for success and growth.	Carrboro's thriving grace, Business ventures find their start. Prosperity & economic embrace.	Biking streets alive, People all shapes side by side, Carrboro free bus ride	Come to Carrboro Enjoy, eat, and shop local And always feel free	Densify downtown Inviting our new neighbors To shop locally	At Back Alley Bikes What I can do was proven Vote for me or don't
Q7. Would you support a collaboration between Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Orange County, and The Chamber to fund a director of minority business success to connect Black, Latinx, and refugee-owned businesses to the resources to need to grow and/or start in Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro?	<b>CBA Position</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes						
Q8. Will you allocate additional resources and prioritize improving the efficiency, speed, responsiveness, and ease of use of business-facing municipal services such as permitting and inspections?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Q9. Is achieving the comprehensive plan goal of increased housing density and commercial density in the downtown a top priority for you?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Q10. Do you think that adding additional housing supply is a key strategy for improving housing affordability in Carrboro?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Q11. The south side of Carrboro's Main Street is 3-5 stories tall (Fleet Feet and Hampton Inn). Do you support similar building heights on the north side of Main Street?	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Q12. Will you support modifying the Water and Sewer Management, Planning, and Boundary Agreement to allow the extension of water and sewer down 15-501 to the Chatham County border to enable the development of housing along that transit corridor?	Yes	No response	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	Unsure
Q13. Do you agree that expanding the paved greenway system is an important connectivity and mobility strategy?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes