

2019 Candidate Survey

Candidate Name: **Christopher A. Barfield**

Address: **224 Hudson Drive Harrisburg, NC 28075**

Office Sought: **Harrisburg Town Council (Incumbent seeking re-election)**

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Please Reply Briefly in the space below.

1. Will you accept Political Action Committee contributions?

Yes. Checks can be made payable to Committee to Elect Barfield.

2. Please Provide your background and why you're running for office.

I am an incumbent councilman with 4 years' experience in this role. I have served for municipal governments or in the Charlotte regional community service agencies for the last 22 years. I am a licensed NC Real Estate Broker and a member of the Charlotte Regional REALTOR Association.

Four years ago, when I was elected Harrisburg was behind in infrastructure planning and resources needed to be sustainable. We lacked a long-term financial plan and did not have an adequate Land Use Plan in place. We now have a 10-year financial plan in place. We have an adequate Land Use Plan in place, our Uniformed Development Ordinance is nearing final stages. Infrastructure has improved greatly with the opening of two NC DOT Bridges, the opening of two new Fire Stations, the approval for funding a new elevated water storage tower, a new Public Works Facility, we are beginning construction on a Train Station that we were able to leverage NC Rail to pay for and construct a Law Enforcement Center as well. We purchased the building housing Town Hall; we are constructing a new Veteran's Park to honor those that have served and are beginning the construction on the redesigned Harrisburg Park that will become a regional attraction. The Morehead West plan that sets a plan in place for 800 acres of mixed-use development has been approved. We have approved about \$350m in private commercial development over the last 4 years and have just started the Roadway Bonds projects that voters approved two years ago.

With this type of infrastructure and commercial development happening in Harrisburg it is important to keep continuity on Town Council and have someone with 22 years of community service leading the way.

3. What are the top three challenges your community is facing? If elected, how would you address those challenges?

* Affordable Housing- This is a growing concern in the Charlotte Metro-Region. One it will take many partners to solve. There is not a clear-cut answer, but we can look for community grants, so we can continue to get high-quality homes that may be more affordable to all citizens.

* Communication with citizens- This is an area we must improve upon. We have made progress with being active on social media, hosting community forums, and now placing our Council Meeting videos online. We have created additional committees and I will continue to engage citizens where they will allow us.

* Continuing to work with high-quality residential developers to maximize land for best and highest use products. We cannot lower the standard of which we use when a developer approaches Harrisburg with residential development. It is part of our role to protect neighbors from falling home values. We do this by utilizing smart growth policies and keeping our fee structure in place to help support future needs without harming existing citizens.

4. Give an example of how the city could play an active role in economic development and land use/ smart growth including job creation and worksite development.

* Partnering with Commercial Developers to generate jobs and additional day-time hours population. With the high-quality homes in Harrisburg, it would stand to reason that we would have a multitude of shopping and dining choices. This, unfortunately, is not the case as many of our citizens travel to Charlotte daily for work. We must continue to engage private commercial developers to bring in daytime jobs that can support the wanted establishments. We have done this with the Morehead West Project by taking the lead in planning and seeking development, with bringing a developer to the table for Town Center that sat stagnant for 15+ years and with the tax rebate incentive in the Farmington development on Rocky River Road. I am personally working in my Councilman role to bring a \$500m private commercial investment to Harrisburg.

5. What plans or policies should be in place to grow affordable housing at all levels of income? Are there any plans or policies that you would change or remove? If so, why? Please give a brief explanation.

As I stated above Affordable Housing is a growing problem for the Charlotte Metro-Region. I think certain policies could be looked at on a case by case basis to improve the current problem and create opportunities for all people. In no particular order: System Fees could be lowered or waived completely; this alone could eliminate \$6-7,000 per home. Waiving the fee or land for park requirements and looking for public land that may be used. There is no perfect solution but if town officials, private developers, and other professions work together we can solve this issue before it becomes a crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to seek your endorsement and I welcome further questions or comments!

**Christopher A. Barfield
Harrisburg Town Councilman
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