



## **2011 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **MICHAEL BARNES** **Charlotte City Council District 4 Candidate**

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- 1. What are the top three issues our community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?**

School quality and equality (these issues have a tremendous impact on the attractiveness of our community for future employers/employees). Public safety (we have to maintain a safe community in order to continue to grow).  
Transportation funding (we must be willing to fund local needs locally).

- 2. What do you believe the City should do to spur economic development and job growth?**

Fix the quality/equality issues we have with our public schools and continue our partnership with Gov. Perdue and provide incentives where feasible to attract businesses.

- 3. What do you consider to be the greatest challenges in maintaining Charlotte's continued quality of life?**

The quality/equality of our public schools. People will choose not to live where they do not believe their children can receive a good education. Bridging the gap between the haves/have-nots. The wealth gap we currently see in our community has the potential to destabilize our growth and progress.

- 4. What do you believe are the top obstacles to housing affordability in Charlotte? How would you address these obstacles?**

There continue to be concerns about concentrations of affordable housing in certain parts of the city. An Inclusionary housing policy would help us to disperse affordable housing and improve affordable housing opportunities.

- 5. Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations to ensure that the potential benefits outweigh any negative impacts on economic development and housing affordability?**

It depends. It may be necessary to act despite the results of a cost/benefit analysis.

- 6. How much of a role do you believe the City should play in dictating the appearance and design of residential and commercial properties? How would you balance this role against the increased cost it would pass on to homeowners and business tenants?**

Poorly designed and unattractive developments add no value to our community. How people treat their communities is often impacted by how they feel about their communities from a number of perspectives and aesthetics is one of those.

- 7. What policies would you advocate to promote redevelopment and reinvestment in economically depressed and blighted areas of our community?**

I'd be willing to consider appropriate financial incentives.

- 8. What would you consider to be the most pressing infrastructure needs in our community? How would you propose to pay for them?**

Transportation infrastructure. I'd consider a VMT tax or a payroll tax or a pennies for progress-type tax.