

Election 2013 Candidates – Charlotte City Council At-Large

Office	Candidates	# seats in election
City Council At-Large	Michael D. Barnes Eric Cable Claire Green Fallon Vanessa Faura Mark Frietch Ken Harris David Howard Vi Alexander Lyles Dennis Peterson	4 candidates will be elected

*High school students surveyed all candidates for office in Election 2013. Candidates who completed the questionnaire are included in this guide. * = The candidate did not provide the requested information.*

Return to the Student Candidate Guide for other Election 2013 candidates, information about local government, how to participate in GenerationNation's Kids Voting election, Youth Leadership Alliance, educational tools and more. www.generationnation.org/index.php/election/candidateguide2013

Charlotte City Council <i>At-Large</i>	Michael D. Barnes
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Occupation	Attorney
Education	Law degree
Political viewpoint	Moderate progressive
Favorite news source	Newspapers, CNN, personal experience and knowledge
Community involvement and leadership experience	Charlotte City Council -8 years

First issue I will tackle	Economic development and job creation
How I will impact...	
Young people	I will continue to do what I have done; e.g., maintaining a strong police force to keep communities safer; implementing the Capital Improvement Plan, which contains a number of projects exciting to young people such as the Cross Charlotte Trail and improvements along the Blue Line Ext.
Economy	I will continue to work to bring companies like Areva, Electrolux, Husquvarna, MetLife and others to Charlotte.
Community growth and/or transportation	Implementation of the CIP will provide the infrastructure we will need to grow Charlotte for the next decade.
Community safety	I have put over 200 police officers into our community and will continue to add officers and police divisions as necessary.
Housing and neighborhoods	During my time on the City Council, I have led efforts, like the creation of the Neighborhood Liaison program to work with neighborhoods to improve code enforcement.
Budget	As chair of the Council's budget committee, I have responsibly managed several \$1.6-\$1.8 billion budgets.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	Public safety
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	The city council has no direct authority over CMS. One of our most important efforts, however, has been to maintain school resource officers within CMS.
Biggest accomplishment will be	I don't know yet.

Charlotte City Council <i>At-Large</i>	Eric A. Cable
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Occupation	Business Process Analyst
Education	Associate's Degree
Political viewpoint	Libertarian: I believe in fiscal conservatism, and the protection of individual freedoms
Favorite news source	I look at a number of online news sources every day.
Community involvement and leadership experience	I was in the U.S. Navy for over ten years. During the latter part of my Navy career I was an instructor. When I lived in Illinois I was a board member of a local community theater and American Legion post. Since moving to Charlotte I was a member of the Candlewyck Homes Association board for four years. I was one of the founders of the Charlotte Curling Association in 2010. I am a member of the Opera Carolina Chorus and an active Freemason.

First issue I will tackle	Traffic. Charlotte must do something about surface street traffic. I believe a technology called Adaptive Signal Control could be implemented here and would help alleviate traffic congestion.
How I will impact...	
Young people	By ensuring school is a place students and teachers want to be. A strong community needs strong schools. Strong schools need money. The people of Charlotte need to step up and take care of our schools.
Economy	I would recommend shifting local taxation towards increased sales tax and reduced property tax.
Community growth and/or transportation	Allowing an increase of density of commercial and residential areas when the market demands it as well as shifting the cost of projects such as light rail and street car to the areas that will benefit most from them.
Community safety	Public safety is one of the primary responsibilities of local government. The police and fire departments need the funds and support required to answer all 911 calls quickly. Additionally, I would like to see increased street lighting in higher-crime areas.
Housing and	Allowing an increase of density of commercial and residential

neighborhoods	areas when the market demands it.
Budget	By eliminating waste in the city budget. There is too much waste at all levels of government.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	Infrastructure, public safety, public sanitation, and public schools.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	Make school a place where students and kids want to be.
Biggest accomplishment will be	Breaking the monopoly the Republicans and Democrats have had on the City Council for too long.

Charlotte City Council At-Large	Claire Green Fallon
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Occupation	city councilwoman
Education	college
Political viewpoint	Democrat
Favorite news source	Wall Street Journal
Community involvement and leadership experience	Founded NorthEast Coalition , Planning Commissioner, Housing Trust C,ommission, Mayors Mentoring, Committee of- 21- State, City , County Commission on infastuture. Vice - Chair, City Council Goverment Relations and Enviornmental Committies Pres, member Budget and Public Safety committies H.O.A for 9 years.Member NACCP, Hispanic Democrats, Democrat Womens ORG. Trustee Blumenthal .

First issue I will tackle	Did not complete
How I will impact...	
Young people	
Economy	
Community growth and/or transportation	
Community safety	
Housing and neighborhoods	
Budget	
Most important ...	
Role of local government	
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	
Biggest accomplishment will be	

Charlotte City Council <i>At-Large</i>	Vanessa Faura
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Occupation	Business owner
Education	MA in Strategic Communication & MS in Organization Development
Political viewpoint	Common sense
Favorite news source	The Economist
Community involvement and leadership experience	<p>Give Yourself the Opportunity (GYTO) Foundation: I founded this organization to provide local Latino students with in-depth academic orientation to motivate them to pursue a college degree. GYTO is unique because its focus is based on utilizing young peer/mentors to persuade, inspire and motivate students to reach their academic achievements. Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs: It was an honor to be appointed to this council by North Carolina Governor McCrory. We promote cooperation and communication with the Hispanic/Latino community in order to ensure Hispanic/Latino North Carolinians have access to important state services and programs. Republican National Hispanic Assembly (RNHA): As vice chair of this organization, I help bridge the gap between the Republican Party and the Hispanic-American community. Our goal is to engage Hispanic citizens to become involved in the Republican Party as well as local, state, and national politics. The Guardian Ad Litem Program: I was appointed by a district judge to serve for the Guardian Ad Litem Program a program to protect abused and neglected children. In addition, I'm also a small business owner.</p>

First issue I will tackle	It all depends on what's on the table for review and for follow up. City Council is a team of 11 people plus our Mayor. We will have to collaborate with one another to make sure we are prioritizing on the top issues first.
How I will impact...	
Young people	I have a passion for education, because it has changed my life. I

	discovered about who I was as a person and who I wanted to be. Understanding how the world works led me to take advantage of many opportunities. I will impact young people by engaging them in the civic process, leading by example and support opportunities for them to serve and to give back to their community.
Economy	I believe that Charlotte can focus on economic development and growth with a balanced budget and lower taxes. As the largest metropolis in North Carolina, I will focus on improving our infrastructure with strategic investment projects and capital improvements without placing the pain of this growth on the taxpayers. Tax revenues will naturally increase when we create an environment where people want to live, work, and do business.
Community growth and/or transportation	1) We can start by balancing the budget and look at lowering taxes. 2) Get rid of any and all red tape and unnecessary regulation to create an environment that is pro growth and that makes us highly competitive with our surrounding counties 3) We must engage in strategic partnerships with small business, private enterprise, educational institutions and pro economic development organizations to identify and maximize opportunity for growth in our city, then develop and implement plans that are measured for success.
Community safety	Safety should always remain a top priority and I will support that it remains within the five areas of focus in city council. A safe community creates a healthy society.
Housing and neighborhoods	Housing and the cost of living should be accessible and affordable to all of our citizens, but public housing has been a very problematic and has failed in many major cities. I will lead the charge with our council members to look at where affordable housing has been done right and will adopt of best practices so that our housing and neighborhoods are sound and our communities thrive.
Budget	Charlotte can focus on economic development and growth with a balanced budget and lower taxes. I will not favor compromising the components of our budget which a large portion of it is fixed and cannot be touched. Surplus budget for ancillary projects can be created by eliminating red tape, creating a pro business environment and by ensuring our cost of living is kept low and jobs are strong.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	The role of government as enumerated in the constitution of the United States is to limit itself and to represent the people. What is good for the people: fiscal responsibility, transparency and compassion - governing for the greater good. It can be done, and

	Charlotte will be a better place to live and work when our leadership gets back to governing with the same vision our founding fathers had.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	Every year city council picks five areas of focus. It is my intention to bring education and the opportunity into a key area of focus, with community and business partnerships to maximize opportunity. I don't agree with the notion that education stays in the classrooms and within the school board and county commission. We all can (and should) play a role in strengthening the role of education in Charlotte.
Biggest accomplishment will be	I do not see an end to my public service term. I will always serve this city as long as I am a resident, which I hope is for as long as I live! At the end of my life as a public servant, though, my biggest hope is that we can inspire a new generation of young people, through education and the opportunity it provides to serve their community and their country. We live in the most amazing country on earth, and it is in our hands to lead with grace and goodness and with positivity and enthusiasm.

Charlotte City Council <i>At-Large</i>	Mark Frietch
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Occupation	Social Media Consultant
Education	BA from UNCC
Political viewpoint	Fiscal Conservative
Favorite news source	Twitter
Community involvement and leadership experience	Elevation Church Uptown Campus- Member of the VIP Team Charlotte Junior Chamber The Great Gatsby Gala Organizing Committee Tim Tebow Foundation Mecklenburg County Young Republicans

First issue I will tackle	The first issue is getting people to believe in our government again. There is a negative sentiment that government is restrictive and not here to help businesses and people.
How I will impact...	
Young people	I want to show young people that local government is an area where engagement is important. I want to help them understand the importance of getting involved in the election and how it's important to keep elected officials accountable.
Economy	One of the main areas I want to focus on is to partner with the Charlotte Chamber to help recruit new businesses here that will hire Charlotte citizens. We have to show that Charlotte isn't just a banking town.
Community growth and/or transportation	I want to look at the transportation plan and find out where we can cut cost yet still help connect citizens to the services they need. That means rather than a street car, we look to expand the Gold Rush that has lower operating cost, infrastructure cost, and less impact on roads.
Community safety	Two areas that I would like to see CMPD focus on are human trafficking and the black tar heroin issue. I also want to work with CMS to keep CMPD in the schools. This will help with them staying involved in the community which I think is important to trusting them.
Housing and	I want to focus on smart growth in the city of Charlotte. Recently

neighborhoods	there was a group that presented a reevaluation of the land development codes for the city.. I want to examine those to see how we can put in place a growth plan that gets people to move to all of Charlotte, not just one area. I also want to look at the affordable housing issue in Charlotte. Many people associate low income with affordable housing and that isn't the case. Most of the people that would use affordable housing are public safety and education professionals.
Budget	I want to have more focus on prioritizing the spending Charlotte is doing. It's no good to build an amateur sports complex if we don't have sidewalks to keep our citizens safe.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	to serve it's citizens by staying engaged and accountable for the things they do.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	We need to keep CMPD active in the schools and community. Fostering a partnership there will go a long way with helping prevent crime in my opinion. I would also like to see how the City can get more involved in the CMS budget process to help with showing that CMS is a great place for kids to go to school.
Biggest accomplishment will be	Hearing people say that they have seen a more transparent city council and strong partnerships formed will be a big win for me as an elected member of the city council.

Charlotte City Council <i>At-Large</i>	Ken Harris
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Occupation	Juvenile Defense Attorney
Education	Duke University (B.A. 1994, J.D. 2002)
Political viewpoint	Moderate
Favorite news source	Twitter
Community involvement and leadership experience	As both an attorney and member of the community, I have been involved with several organizations and had leadership roles. I participated in the Man of the Year event for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, raising over \$13,000, as well as becoming a co-Chair of the event and a member of their Executive Committee. I am a graduate of the Foundation for the Carolinas' Impact Fund, was my law firm's liaison for Junior Achievement, and was a Hearing Officer for the Charlotte Housing Authority for a number of years. I have also had numerous leadership roles in my profession through the NC Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (YLD), including Chairing the President's Task Force for the Hmong People, which earned a American Bar Association (ABA) Award of Achievement for our efforts, and being selected to serve as the NC YLD Delegate for the ABA House of Delegates. Last, but not least, my daily job is representing any child charged with a criminal offense in Mecklenburg County. While this is a legal defense role, I often have to work with low-income or poverty-stricken clients and their families on any number of daily struggles, including finding appropriate mental health or substance abuse providers, school settings or specialized assistance, or affordable housing.

First issue I will tackle	Creating and re-establishing professional, working relationships between and with Council members and staff. We have sorely lacked this and it shows with our lack of cooperation and communication on the City Council to date.
How I will impact...	
Young people	As one of a "younger" generation of leaders and a juvenile

	defense attorney, I deal with issues affecting kids everyday. My focus is ALWAYS on young people and their needs in all I do.
Economy	I will help bring a more fiscally sound approach to our government. I believe we need to be intelligent stewards with taxpayer money and make economic decisions accordingly. I will also focus on making Charlotte a more business-friendly environment, attracting jobs and families.
Community growth and/or transportation	I will continue to support sustainable and forward-looking visions of our community and transportation plans, including building/maintaining roads as well as public transportation options.
Community safety	Community safety is a major focus area for any large, urban environment and should always be a concern for our citizens, who should have a larger voice in affecting change in this area, if needed.
Housing and neighborhoods	Affordable housing is a major concern of many of my current clients and should be a focus of our City Council. I will work to attract developers who are willing to invest in affordable, sustainable housing that can benefit our entire city.
Budget	I will work towards creating sustainable and fiscally-sound budgetary practices. We cannot continue to spend irresponsibly and create undue burdens on future generations and our current taxpayers.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	To be community stewards. In other words, local government should be made up of citizens, who share the same values and concerns as the rest of the community, who responsibly manage the community's affairs for today and make sustainable provisions for its future.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	Creating a positive change in the "school-to-prison pipeline." Education leaders at all levels in NC need to come together to reexamine how we can better keep ALL children in an educational environment without sacrificing public safety or learning opportunities.
Biggest accomplishment will be	That I made Charlotte a BETTER place to live and more sustainable environment for families to thrive through policies of growth, fiscal responsibility, and professional cooperation and communication.

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Occupation	Vice President of Special Projects - Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership
Education	West Charlotte High School, UNC Charlotte (Bachelor's in Sociology)
Political viewpoint	Democrat
Favorite news source	Charlotte Observer
Community involvement and leadership experience	Serving second term as at-large Charlotte City Councilman, member of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission for six years and chair from 2007 – 2009, current co-chair of the Transit Finance Working Group of the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), chair of the City of Charlotte Transportation & Planning Committee and member of the Economic Development, Environment and Council-Manager Relations committees. Council representative for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Development Corporation and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO). Appointed an Urban Community Advisor for the National Urban Land Institute in Washington and was selected as a 2009 American Memorial Fellow by The German Marshall Fund, which annually selects only 55 emerging leaders from across the U.S. I have been blessed with local, state and national responsibilities and the relationships that have resulted.

First issue I will tackle	I will continue my work on figuring out how to finance our mass transit system. Since January, I have co-chaired a committee of citizens that were charged with finding solutions to this issue.
How I will impact...	
Young people	I've led the establishment of a City Youth Involvement Advisory Council to our Charlotte City Council. With assistance from interns researching best practices we crafted a recommended approach to creating such a program. After the help of staff, city council successfully funded this effort.

Economy	By 1) Promoting Charlotte's global presence. 2) Expanding the research capacity/activities at UNCC, JCSU, Davidson, CPCC, JWU and others by making this a key component of our economic development strategy, and 3) through the expansion and investment in transportation/transit infrastructure to provide transportation options, assist in congestion management and spark economic development.
Community growth and/or transportation	I support finishing construction of the entire system as outlined in the 2030 Transit Plan as it's critical to the region's transportation network. We need transit options to mitigate future congestion issues. This may mean developing different parts of the system with a mixture of funding sources and financing options.
Community safety	I will continue my long and well-documented support of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Police Chief Rodney Monroe.
Housing and neighborhoods	We have to focus on rebuilding our tax base in areas of town that contribute more through infill development and redevelopment. To spur such development, the city's role is to invest in basic infrastructure improvements such a transit, roads and sidewalks.
Budget	I will always work to make sure City of Charlotte operations are run as effectively and efficiently as possible. I also will work to get as many state and federal dollars as we can for local benefits.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	To provide a stable, safe and livable environment for its citizens.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	The City of Charlotte has no direct role in the education system, but we do play a role in making sure students have a stable and safe community in which to live, which directly correlates to their performance in school.
Biggest accomplishment will be	Having completed a full funding strategy for the 2030 Transit Plan so we can be on our way to build it to completion, thereby improving Charlotte by creating jobs, improving our environment and attracting more people to come here to live, work and play.

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Occupation	Consultant
Education	BA Queens College; MPA UNC Chapel Hill
Political viewpoint	Democrat
Favorite news source	NPR
Community involvement and leadership experience	Novant Healthcare; Former Assistant City Manager and Budget Director; 2003 Charlotte Woman of the Year; American Leadership Forum; Leadership Charlotte; SC Black Hall of Fame; Former Board Member of Communities in Schools; United Way, Foundation For the Carolinas and Charlotte Chamber

First issue I will tackle	Jobs: We must find ways to attract more jobs and reduce the city's unemployment rate. Charlotte Intermodal Facility is expected to create more than 7,000 jobs in the surrounding region by 2030. If elected, I will find ways to build a stronger collaboration between the City, CMS and CPCC. This collaboration will increase access to educational programs that will provide our young people with training for today's new jobs such as one created by the facility.
How I will impact...	
Young people	I will find ways to build a stronger collaboration between the City, CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools) and CPCC (Central Piedmont Community College). Enabling collaboration between these entities will increase access to educational programs. This will provide young people with training for the jobs of today and the future – such as the ones created by the Intermodal Facility at the Airport. I support the expansion of the Mayor's Youth Employment program with a focus on developing opportunities for exposure to the various interests for career and personal interests.
Economy	The investment in the City's economic development efforts are key to keeping our local economy strong. We must continue to recruit new businesses with good jobs. We must also focus on

	business retention to grow existing jobs in our community. The City must continue to invest in infrastructure - transit, roads, sidewalks - to attract businesses and their employees to Charlotte.
Community growth and/or transportation	The blueprint for improving public transportation is already in place with the 2030 transit plan. The challenge is to preserve all modes of transit specified in that plan (bus, commuter rail, light rail, street car, rapid bus, neighborhood circulator, etc.) and to dedicate additional funding to accomplish the plan, as the current ½ cent sales tax is proving to be inadequate. Public transit is transformative for people, for neighborhoods and for cities. We must find a way to implement the 2030 plan more quickly throughout Mecklenburg County. We must also be more collaborative with the State and federal governments, as they plan a key role in the public transportation infrastructure in North Carolina and around the nation.
Community safety	The community safety plan is a blueprint for engaging the police department and every other city service with the goal to make Charlotte a safe city. This effort includes many programs from neighborhood lighting, targeted enforcement, citizen education to victim advocacy. I support comprehensive planning and action engaging every segment of our community for community safety.
Housing and neighborhoods	I support the preservation of existing housing stock. Charlotte has a number of neighborhoods such as McCrory and Wesley Heights, built from the 1950s to the 1970s, that have easy access to public transportation and should be maintained as affordable housing. I supported and facilitated the new public-private local rent subsidy program to get individuals and families into private-sector rental housing while building their incomes to move into permanent private-sector housing. I also support efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing units. I support the City's current housing policy to increase the supply of affordable housing through the housing trust fund. This will provide housing for the homeless and align supportive services with affordable housing programs. I support the neighborhood improvement programs, code enforcement and neighborhood planning and implementation.
Budget	I support the investment in the city's infrastructure through the City capital investment plan. Infrastructure is an important component of business retention and recruitment. Studies indicate business location choices are based upon a number of factors including workforce, efficiencies, utilities and quality of life. More than 75% of the general capital program is invested in transportation and local service facilities. I support the general

	fund support of the departments providing quality services to our citizens - the majority of property tax funding appropriately supports police, fire and garbage services. I will work with the Mayor and City Council to improve relationships with the Governor, state legislature, neighboring municipalities and adjoining counties to look for areas that will impact the City's budget. I will seek input from business and civic leaders to help chart the financial future of Charlotte.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	The most important role of local government is that which is charges by the State to cities - to provide municipal services to citizens. These services should support the quality of life requested and supported by the community.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	I believe the implementation of the 2030 transit plan. Public transit is transformative for people, for neighborhoods and for cities. We must find a way to implement the 2030 plan more quickly throughout Mecklenburg County. We must also be more collaborative with the State and federal governments, as they plan a key role in the public transportation infrastructure in North Carolina and around the nation.
Biggest accomplishment will be	Job growth that will allow individuals the ability to rent or buy housing and raise their family. We can impact that goal with the recruitment of companies with skilled jobs and working to train and maintain a workforce for these skilled jobs. We can impact that goal with strong education partnerships. We can impact that goal working with the State and the region.

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Occupation	Senior Business Analyst at Wells Fargo
Education	BS in Business Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Political viewpoint	Conservative-Libertarian
Favorite news source	Online blogs & Twitter
Community involvement and leadership experience	Retired US Navy Commander (22 years), Volunteer with NC Heroes Fund, Volunteer with Charlotte Bridge Home, Member of the North Carolina Committee for the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve

First issue I will tackle	The first issue I would like to see addressed is the rising cost of living and how the City of Charlotte is adding to that cost - we need to be mindful of families struggling to save money to send their children to college.
How I will impact...	
Young people	I will be an advocate for young people to have the opportunity to pursue their dreams to the fullest - using their unique talents and capabilities and limiting the obtrusiveness of our government.
Economy	I will advocate policies that reduce the negative impact that our local government has had - the effect of which has caused many employers to locate in surrounding counties and raised the costs of purchasing a home by up to \$17,000.
Community growth and/or transportation	If my policies are adopted, it would have a positive impact on private investment. Thereby, it would increase growth in population, in the economy, and in individual wealth. With a positive growth in the economy, there would be more money available to address transportation challenges.
Community safety	Community safety is priority one. Overall, the police and fire departments have done a great job in managing safety and security but I believe we need to have greater public transparency in their efforts to maximize trust in our neighborhoods.

Housing and neighborhoods	I would work to reduce needless regulatory burdens which has raised the costs of housing and therefore increased family homelessness by 21% and 36% in recent years.
Budget	I will work to trim the local budget. It's important to remember that our city cannot spend one dollar without first taking it away from someone has worked to earn it. My experience as a Business Analyst in developing process improvement efforts uniquely qualifies me to assist in making government more efficient.
Most important ...	
Role of local government	The most important role is maintaining our community safety and security.
Collaboration between CMS, local and state government	The most important thing that can happen is to begin to collaborate and communicate. Policies taken by one group shouldn't impose a negative impact on the other without proper consideration and planning.
Biggest accomplishment will be	The biggest impact I want to have is to reduce (and hopefully) eliminate the needless and destructive racial division, distrust, and animosity that exists. As Martin Luther King stated in his speech 50 years ago this year, the freedom of white people is inextricably bound to the freedom of black people.