

## **Question 1: Why are you running for Clemson City Council?**

**John Ducworth:** Clemson is a very special place to me and my family, and I want to use my experience and talents to serve this community where I can most effectively. During my time as a student from 1990-96 and a resident since 2006, our community has seen significant growth. From the streetscaping downtown to the growth in student and residential housing and supporting businesses, it continues to evolve. I am running for City Council again because I want to see the community flourish in a responsible manner during this dynamic time.

In a vibrant city like ours, there is an opportunity for everyone to give back/plug in. I believe the leadership positions I've held in various civic organizations here, the training I've received through the Municipal Associations of SC's Institute of Government, and what I've learned the past four years on Council have prepared me well to give back in this capacity. As an elected member, I work hard to listen to citizens, research options and ultimately make decisions I believe will benefit our community and are strategic for our future. This is a responsibility I take very seriously and a service I hope to continue to provide for our community.

**Mark Cato:** I want to help Clemson grow without sacrificing our community's quality of life. I have consistently attended Council meetings for over two years to learn about local politics and to determine how I should get involved.

**Eunice Lehmacher:** My family and I have lived in Clemson 14 years and I love the city, my neighbors, and how the city and university work together. Years ago Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy told me about his early years on the City Council. His servant leadership and love of Clemson inspired me to run for City Council at that time. Recently I've been concerned about many people's feelings of being unable to influence government, especially in our state and country.

I am someone who likes to listen to people's concerns, both sides of issues, and help groups find solutions. I thought that serving our city by listening to voters would be a way to help citizens have more impact on the government.

Clemson is in a time of growth and change. The voices of many need to be heard to keep our small town growing while still enjoyable for both long time and new residents. Sustainable development and planned growth interest me as possible solutions to keeping our city small but thriving.

**Drake McNeary:** A few years ago I had the benefit of engaging in a multi-family discussion group centered around the benefits and challenges of being a parent and resident in the City of Clemson. Consistently, members of this group (myself included) found that we were gravitating to other local cities for recreation and opportunities for connection. This motivated me to become more involved in cultivating more recognition for and connection to the resources, people, and businesses right here in our own backyard. What began with local volunteering and steering committees has evolved into a desire to affect change at the city council level. I bring a family oriented, solution focused lens and have a strength for considering all options. Those who are close to me

know that when I approach a problem or interest I dive in, learning as much as possible to navigate the possible solutions and competing interests. It is critically important that residents, the City Council, the Pickens County Council, business owners, and the university work together to promote connections, understanding, and responsible growth.

**Crossie Cox:** After spending six years on City Council and attending training seminars, conferences, meetings, planning sessions, board meetings, and MANY city/county-wide events -- all representing Clemson City Council -- I now have a good feeling of how the city operates and how best to assist those who have asked for my help. Learning to be a city council representative takes unlimited personal time and research and I believe I am properly trained to represent Clemson residents. The City has invested a lot of money on my training and I feel I should continue to return to the City my time and commitment to representing our citizens and the City as best I can.

**Christine Minor:** I have been a resident of the City of Clemson since May of 1998. I have been an employee of Clemson University since August of 1998. I have raised a daughter in Clemson schools and enjoyed much that Clemson has to offer. I have been active in a variety of community and professional advocacy positions such as FIRST LEGO League, Carolina Basset Hound Rescue, PTA, JROTC Boosters, Faculty Senate, and Phi Kappa Phi over those years. Though active within the community, I have not given service to the community itself. I thought it was time to give back to the town that has meant so much and given so many opportunities to my family.

In the years since moving here I've seen significant changes, many deemed fantastic and some that have made me seriously scratch my head. Currently, we are moving in directions that are simply unsustainable. I'd like to be a voice for long term residents while recognizing the importance of the university and its students, a proponent of responsible growth and someone whose only stake is the love of this town.

**Jim Oswald:** I have been very fortunate and humbled to be a Clemson Councilman for the past eight years. I was also fortunate enough to not have to "run" for Council as we have been uncontested in both of my previous elections. This one is different and it's time you get to meet me formally. Clemson is the best place I can imagine to live. I love this City, This University, These People, and This standard of living. I wish to continue to help to preserve and enhance this town for the benefit of ALL stakeholders. Your Council is aware and concerned. Me especially. But this Council is up to speed, eyes and ears wide open, minds wide open, and we wish the standard of living to full time residents to remain the same or get better. Now is the time to get to know your Council Members and the powers (and lack thereof) afforded to us. It might surprise you, as it has every one of us, that we have far less power than you might think. So it requires knowledge, communication of ideas, and clear understanding of the laws, codes, and zones restricting what can and can't be done. I believe that the Council, as is, is an excellent team and represents you well.