



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

2020 Voter Guide  
***Tuesday, November 3***

## ***Voting is one of the most important ways to participate in our democracy. Your voice and your vote matters in elections and beyond.***

Here's important information on how to register and vote in upcoming elections:

- 1. Register to vote** and check voter registration. To register to vote in Virginia, visit [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) or request a form from your local registrar. If you are a resident of Harrisonburg City, the registrar's office is at City Hall at 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. If you are a resident of Rockingham County, the registrar's office is in the county administration building at 20 E. Gay Street. For a list of other offices in Virginia localities, visit: [vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup).
- 2. You must be 18** by Election Day (November 3, 2020) and a legal citizen to register to vote. If you are not eligible to vote in the U.S., you can share this information and educate friends and family about the importance of being a voter. For more information, visit: [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq)
- 3. You can vote early in-person** at the local voter registration office where you are registered. In Virginia, in-person early voting begins on September 18. If you are registered to vote in Harrisonburg City, vote early in person at 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. If you are registered in Rockingham County, vote early in person at 20 E. Gay Street.
- 4. Request an absentee ballot** before the deadline from the local registrar where you are registered. In Virginia, the deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is October 23. You can request an absentee ballot online [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) or by printing a form from the Department of Elections Voter Forms page. Mail your absentee ballot request to your local registrar or drop it off by visiting your local registrar. If you are registered to vote in Harrisonburg City, visit the registrar's office at 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. If you are registered in Rockingham County, visit the registrar's office at 20 E. Gay Street. Track your Virginia absentee ballot at: [tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA](https://tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA).
- 5. If you are displaced** due to the COVID pandemic or for any other reason, you may update your voter registration if it is before the registration deadline (10/13 in Virginia) to reflect your change in living address and then vote in person or by mail at that address. You may also vote early or request an absentee ballot for the address at which you were registered prior to displacement.
- 6. In-person voters and first-time absentee voters must show an acceptable type of ID.** Voters may show any one of a number of documents, including:
  - Voter registration confirmation documents.
  - Valid VA Driver's License
  - Valid US Passport
  - Any identification issued by the Commonwealth of VA, one of its political subdivisions, or the US government
  - Student ID Card issued by any institution of higher education in VA
  - Employee ID card with a photograph
  - Copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government documents with a voter's name and address

If a voter cannot produce one of these documents, the voter will be required to sign a statement that they are the registered voter that they claim to be in order to cast a ballot. The statement is subject to felony penalties. If unwilling to sign the statement, a voter may cast a provisional ballot.

**If you have questions or need assistance, contact us at [civic@jmu.edu](mailto:civic@jmu.edu).**

## ***Votar es una de las maneras más importantes de como participar en nuestra democracia. Tu voz y tu voto importan en las elecciones y más allá.***

**Esta es información importante en cómo registrarse para votar en las próximas elecciones:**

- 1. Registrarse para votar** y revisar el registro de votantes. Para registrarse para votar en Virginia, visite [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) o solicite una forma de su registradora local. Si es residente de la ciudad de Harrisonburg, la registradora local está en la siguiente dirección: City Hall at 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Si es un residente del condado de Rockingham, la registradora local se encuentra en el edificio de administración del condado en 20 E. Gay Street. Para una lista de otras oficinas en las localidades de Virginia, visite: [vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup).
- 2. Debe tener 18 años de edad** en el día de elecciones (Noviembre 3 del 2020) y ser un ciudadano legal para registrarse para votar. Si no es elegible para votar en los Estados Unidos (EE.UU), puede compartir esta información y educar a familiares y amigos sobre la importancia de ser un votante. Para más información, visite: [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq).
- 3. Usted puede votar temprano en persona** en la oficina de registración de votante local en donde está registrado como votante. En Virginia, los votos tempranos en persona comienzan el 18 de Septiembre, Si usted está registrado/a para votar en la ciudad de Harrisonburg, vote temprano en persona en 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Si usted está registrado/a en el condado de Rockingham, vote temprano en persona en 20 E. Gay Street.
- 4. Solicite un voto por ausencia** antes de la fecha límite de la registradora local de donde usted está registrado como votante. En Virginia, la fecha límite para solicitar un voto por ausencia por correo es el 23 de Octubre. Usted puede solicitar un voto por ausencia en línea [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) o imprimiendo una forma del Departamento de Elecciones Voter Forms page. Envíe su solicitud de voto por ausencia por correo a su registradora local o dejarla en su registradora local al visitarla. Si está registrado/a para votar en la ciudad de Harrisonburg, visite la oficina de Registro en 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Si está usted registrado/a en el condado de Rockingham, visite la oficina de registro en 20 E. Gay Street. Rastree su voto por ausencia de Virginia a: [tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA](http://tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA).
- 5. Si usted está desplazado/a** debido a la pandemia de COVID o por cualquier otra razón, usted puede actualizar su registración de votante si es antes de la fecha límite de registración (10/13 en Virginia) para probar su cambio de dirección de hogar y luego vote en persona o por correo en esa dirección. Usted también puede votar temprano o solicitar un voto por ausencia para la dirección a la cual usted está registrado/a antes de su desplazo.
- 6. Votantes en persona y votantes ausentes por primera vez deben mostrar una identificación (ID) aceptable.** Los Votantes pueden mostrar cualquier uno de un nombre de documentos, los cuales incluyen:
  - Documentos de confirmación de registración de votantes.
  - Una Licencia de conducir válida del estado de Virginia
  - Pasaporte estadounidense válido
  - Cualquier identificación emitida por cualquier institución de Commonwealth de Virginia, una de sus subdivisiones políticas, o el gobierno de EE.UU
  - Identificación de estudiante emitida por cualquier institución de educación superior en Virginia.

Si el votante no puede producir uno de estos documentos, el votante va a ser requerido a firmar una declaración de que son el votante registrado que dice ser en orden para emitir un voto.

**Si tiene preguntas o necesita asistencia, contactenos por [civic@jmu.edu](mailto:civic@jmu.edu).**

# التصويت من أهم الطرق للمشاركة في ديمقراطيتنا. صوتك وتصويتك مهمان في الانتخابات وما بعدها

إليك هذه المعلومات المهمة حول كيفية التسجيل والتصويت في الانتخابات القادمة:

١) التسجيل للتصويت والتحقق من تسجيل الناخبين. للتسجيل للتصويت ف فرجينيا ، قم بزيارة الموقع التالي  
[vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote)

أو اطلب استمارة من المسجل المحلي الخاص بك. إذا كنت مقيما في مدينة هاريسون بيرغ، يكون مكتب المسجل ف المبنى البلدي في

409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

اما إذا كنت مقيما في مقاطعة روكنجهام، فإن مكتب المسجل يقع في مبنى إدارة المقاطعة في:

20 East Gay Street.

للحصول على قائمة بالمكاتب الأخرى في مناطق فرجينيا ، تفضل بزيارة الموقع:

[vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup).

٢) يجب أن تبلغ من العمر ١٨ عامًا بحلول يوم الانتخابات (٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٢٠) وأن تكون

، مواطنًا قانونيًا للتسجيل للتصويت. إذا لم تكن مؤهلاً للتصويت في الولايات المتحدة

فيمكنك مشاركة هذه المعلومات وتثقيف الأصدقاء والعائلة حول أهمية أن تكون ناخبًا

لمزيد من المعلومات ، قم بزيارة:

[www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq).

٣) يمكنك التصويت شخصيًا مبكرًا في مكتب تسجيل الناخبين المحلي الذي تم تسجيلك فيه. في فرجينيا ، يبدأ التصويت الشخصي في 18 سبتمبر. إذا كنت مسجلاً للتصويت في مدينة هاريسون بيرغ، فقم بالتصويت شخصيًا مبكرًا في

409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

أو

20 East Gay Street.

٤) اطلب الاقتراع الغيابي قبل الموعد النهائي من المسجل المحلي الذي تم تسجيلك فيه. في فرجينيا، الموعد النهائي لطلب الاقتراع الغيابي بالبريد هو ٢٣ أكتوبر. يمكنك طلب الاقتراع الغيابي عبر الإنترنت

[vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote)

أو عن طريق طباعة نموذج من قسم نماذج الناخبين للانتخابات الصفحة. أرسل طلب الاقتراع الغيابي بالبريد إلى أمين السجل المحلي أو قم بتسليمه من خلال زيارة المسجل المحلي. إذا كنت مسجلاً للتصويت في مدينة هاريسون بيرغ، فتفضل بزيارة مكتب المسجل في

409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

ذا كنت مسجلاً في مقاطعة روكنجهام، فتفضل بزيارة مكتب المسجل ف

20 East Gay Street.

تتبع الاقتراع الغيابي في فرجينيا [tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA](http://tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA)

٥) إذا نزلت بسبب جائحة كورونا أو لأي سبب آخر، فيمكنك تحديث تسجيل الناخب الخاص بك إذا كان قبل الموعد النهائي للتسجيل (10 / 13 في فرجينيا) لتعكس التغيير في عنوان المعيشة ثم التصويت شخصيًا أو عن طريق البريد على هذا العنوان. يمكنك أيضًا التصويت مبكرًا أو طلب الاقتراع الغيابي للعنوان الذي س جلت فيه قبل الزواج.

٦) يجب على الناخبين الشخصيين والناخبين الغائبين لأول مرة إظهار نوع مقبول من بطاقات الهوية. يجوز للناخبين إظهار أي مستند من عدد من الوثائق، بما في ذلك:

\* وثائق تأكيد تسجيل الناخب

\* رخصة قيادة فرجينيا صالحة

\* جواز سفر ساري المفعول في الولايات المتحدة

\* أي هوية صادرة عن كومولث فرجينيا، أحد أقسامها السياسية الفرعية، أو حكومة الولايات المتحدة

\* بطاقة هوية الطالب صادرة عن أي مؤسسة للتعليم العالي في فرجينيا

\* بطاقة هوية الموظف مع صورة فوتوغرافية

نسخة من فاتورة المرافق الحالية أو كشف حساب مصرفي أو شيك حكومي أو شيك راتب أو مستندات حكومية أخرى تحمل اسم الناخب وعنوانه إذا لم يتمكن الناخب من تقديم إحدى هذه الوثائق، فسيطلب من الناخب التوقيع على إقرار بأنه الناخب المسجل الذي يدعي أنه هو من أجل الإدلاء بصوته. والاقرار خاضع لعقوبات جنائية. في حالة عدم الرغبة في التوقيع على الاقرار، يجوز للناخب الإدلاء بصوته المؤقت.

إذا كانت لديك أسئلة أو تحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فاتصل بنا على [civic@jmu.edu](mailto:civic@jmu.edu).

## Голосование - один из важнейших способов участия в нашей демократии. Ваш голос и имеют важное значение на выборах и дальше.

**Здесь вы найдете важную информацию о том, как зарегистрироваться и проголосовать на предстоящих выборах:**

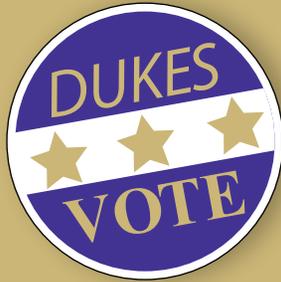
- 1. Зарегистрироваться для голосования** и проверьте регистрацию. Чтобы зарегистрироваться для голосования в Вирджинии, посетите [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) или запросите форму у местного регистратора. Если вы проживаете в городе Харрисонбург, регистратор находится в здании муниципалитета по адресу: 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Если вы проживаете в округе Рокингем, офис регистратора находится в здании администрации округа по адресу: 20 E. Gay Street. Чтобы узнать о других офисах в Вирджинии, посетите: [vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup).
- 2.** Чтобы зарегистрироваться для голосования, вам должно исполниться 18 лет ко дню выборов (3 ноября 2020 г.) и иметь законное гражданство. Если вам нельзя голосовать в США, вы можете поделиться этой информацией с друзьями и и семье о важности голосования. Для получения дополнительной информации посетите: [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/election-voter-faq).
- 3.** Вы можете **проголосовать досрочно лично** в местном отделении регистрации избирателей, где вы зарегистрированы. В Вирджинии досрочное голосование начинается 18 сентября. Если вы проживаете в городе Харрисонбург, регистратор находится в здании муниципалитета по адресу: 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Если вы проживаете в округе Рокингем, офис регистратора находится в здании администрации округа по адресу: 20 E. Gay Street.
- 4. Запросите открепительный бюллетень** до указанного срока у местного регистратора, где вы зарегистрированы. В Вирджинии крайний срок для запроса бюллетеня для заочного голосования по почте - 23 октября. Вы можете запросить открепительный бюллетень онлайн [vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov/thirdparty/DukesVote) или распечатайте форму здесь. Отправьте запрос местному регистратору или оставьте его посетив местного регистратора.

Если вы проживаете в городе Харрисонбург, регистратор находится в здании муниципалитета по адресу: 409 S Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Если вы проживаете в округе Рокингем, офис регистратора находится в здании администрации округа по адресу: 20 E. Gay Street. Вы можете проследить ваш бюллетень: [tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA](http://tinyurl.com/BallotScoutVA).

- 5.** Если вы были перемещены из-за пандемии COVID-19 или по любой другой причине, вы можете обновить свою регистрацию избирателя, до 13 октября в Вирджинии, чтобы отразить изменение вашего адреса проживания, и затем проголосовать лично или по почте по текущему адресу. Вы также можете проголосовать досрочно или запросить открепительный бюллетень по адресу, по которому вы были зарегистрированы до перемещения.
- 6. Избиратели которые голосует лично и избиратели которые голосуют в первые раз должны предъявить удостоверение личности.** Избиратели могут предъявить любой из этих документов:
  - Документы, подтверждающие регистрацию избирателя.
  - Действующие водительские права штата Вирджиния
  - Действующий паспорт США
  - Любое удостоверение личности, выданное штатом Вирджиния или правительством США
  - Студенческий билет, выданный любым высшим учебным заведением штата Вирджиния
  - Удостоверение работника с фотографией
  - Копия текущего счета за коммунальные услуги, выписки из банка, государственного чека, зарплаты или других государственных документов с именем и адресом избирателя

Если избиратель не может предъявить один из этих документов, избиратель будет должен подписать заявление, что он является зарегистрированным избирателем, за которого он себя представляет, чтобы принять бюллетень. Заявление подлежит уголовной ответственности. Если избиратель не желает подписывать заявление, он может отдать предварительное голосование.

**Если у вас есть вопросы или вам нужна помощь, свяжитесь с нами по [civic@jmu.edu](mailto:civic@jmu.edu).**



# Harrisonburg City Council Candidates

Five Candidates for Three Available Seats

The City Council is the elected governing body of the City of Harrisonburg and is made up of five members elected at-large. This means that the city has no wards or districts and that all members represent all citizens equally. You may contact any city council member about any issue regardless of where in the city you live. Harrisonburg City Council hires and supervises a full-time City Manager who oversees day-to-day city operations. City Council also approves a city budget, as well as zoning, land use and a Comprehensive Plan. It oversees city revenues, and creates and passes city laws.

The Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Harrisonburg are not elected officials. All elected Harrisonburg City Council members nominate and vote on a mayor and vice-mayor to serve for a two-year term.

[www.harrisonburgva.gov/city-council-meeting](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/city-council-meeting)

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

2020 Voter Guide  
***Tuesday, November 3***

## Laura Dent

[lauraforcycouncil.com](http://lauraforcycouncil.com)

[laura@lauraforcycouncil.com](mailto:laura@lauraforcycouncil.com)

 Laura-Dent-for-Harrisonburg-City-Council

**I grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and was one of the two Presidential Scholars from Alabama in 1976. I graduated from Harvard in Russian Literature, with study in Leningrad. I began my work life as a paralegal, and shifted to technical writing in the software industry. In 2006, I settled in Harrisonburg, working at Rosetta Stone. My freelance business serves clients all over the world. I've taught technical writing at James Madison University. Advocating for progressive causes, I'm running for City Council on the values of sustainability, equity, and compassion. I'll apply these values for the community's benefit.**



*Political Party Affiliation:* Democrat

*Education:* BA Cum Laude in Slavic Languages and Literatures (Harvard University, 1981)

*Employment:* Freelance Technical Writer / Adjunct Professor, Computer Science, James Madison University

*Previous Political Experience:* Volunteer on various federal, state, and local campaigns; Keister Precinct Captain; Harrisonburg Democratic Committee Team Leader for Elizabeth Warren for President, 2019-20

*Birth date:* May 24, 1958 (age 62)

*Residence:* Maryland Avenue, Keister Precinct

*Hometown:* Montgomery, Alabama

*Other Interests:* Languages, travel, music, writing, meditation

*1. What economic and health policies and measures do you support to help Harrisonburg residents and companies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?*

**I support measures that create a sustainable and equitable community in Harrisonburg, with the highest priority on sustaining our health and well-being, and next-highest on helping our local businesses recover and thrive.**

**I'll actively pursue ongoing health measures as needed, such as encouraging masks and social distancing, until the COVID-19 pandemic has completely passed and vaccinations are available and reliable.**

**Ongoing support from federal, state, and local grants and loans can help businesses survive, and I'll continue to promote local businesses, encouraging our community to "shop local."**

*2. According to United Way, 61% of residents in Harrisonburg are living below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold. What actions and measures will you take to support the ALICE population?*

**I'll work with local leaders to encourage employers to pay a living wage. Affordable housing and utilities will help with the cost of living. As the housing and zoning ordinances are being redefined, I'll be sure that the affected populations are represented in the discussions.**

*3. What do you see as major challenges facing our immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg? What actions and measures will you take to support immigrant and refugee populations in our community?*

**Harrisonburg is a highly diverse and welcoming community. I believe the local police should build trust with our immigrant and refugee populations. I'll support local nonprofits who work with these people to help them establish their lives in their new home.**

*4. What are your economic priorities in 2021? What policies and measures do you support to stimulate the local economy and promote sustainable and equitable development, especially in the wake of the pandemic?*

**I've been working for nearly a decade with the Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Valley. I will lead the effort on City Council to create a high-tech hub in Harrisonburg – by sustaining existing businesses, supporting startups, and championing our local workforce. We can help our students stay here in the community they've come to love. Now that we know we can work anywhere, why not live in the Shenandoah Valley, even if you have an employer in Northern Virginia?**

*5. Education makes up the largest chunk of the budget for Harrisonburg. How will you strengthen education? What will be your educational priorities? What is your position on a second high school and how will that factor into your educational priorities?*

**I support completing the second high school as soon as possible to open the following school year. Education is our best investment in the future, so we create a skilled and informed populace and workforce. Elementary and middle schools merit our attention to update classrooms and facilities. Teachers should be paid well for the importance of their profession.**

6. *What can Harrisonburg do to be more inclusive, not just diverse? How would you increase access and public participation in decision and policymaking?*

**I'll actively seek representatives from our diverse community to participate in committees, advisory boards, and community dialogues. All voices need to be heard at the table.**

7. *Why is affordable housing so scarce in Harrisonburg and what should City Council do to promote or create conditions to encourage more development of affordable housing?*

**With many students living off-campus, housing becomes scarce for local working families. With the housing and zoning studies underway, City Council will work to increase the affordable housing available in the city by allowing greater density such as duplexes and multifamily units.**

**To assist the most disadvantaged, we need a permanent indoor thermal shelter for the unhoused, limits on evictions, rental assistance, a clear path to low-barrier housing, and reasonable access to home ownership.**

8. *How can JMU better collaborate, coordinate and work with Harrisonburg, both during crises like COVID-19 pandemic, and on other issues of importance like transportation and affordable housing? How would you bridge the gap between JMU students and the Harrisonburg community?*

**City Council will continue to collaborate with JMU in issues that affect our shared community. The city should prioritize the assistance to local working families for affordable housing and transportation, while JMU should assume the greater share of the burden of housing and transporting its students.**

**In my work as an adjunct professor, I've experienced the "bubble" of JMU as a permeable membrane – members of the community go to work there, and students live in the community. JMU's efforts to step up and solve the housing crisis at the beginning of the pandemic were commendable.**

9. *Last year, the council endorsed an Environmental Action Plan that makes broad recommendations about energy, sustainability and other environmental policies: What should the council prioritize in order to ensure those recommendations are accomplished?*

**The key word is "broad," and the recommendations should be made much more specific, with ambitious goals and timelines. I support the 50x25 initiative (50% renewable energy by 2025), to include 1) utility-scale renewable energy, 2) distributed solar panels on municipal buildings and schools, and 3) weatherization for lower-income housing. The city should hire a Sustainability Coordinator to monitor and pursue clean energy and environmental stewardship.**

10. *What's your vision for the relationship between Harrisonburg's police and all of its residents and what changes would you like to see to Harrisonburg's investment in criminal justice?*

**I appreciate the work that our former Police Chief, Eric English, did to increase transparency and responsiveness to the concerns of the community, such as publishing data on use of force, implementing the "Eight can't wait" guidelines including intervention (the obligation to report inappropriate behavior by fellow**

**police officers). I'll work with Chief English's successor to make sure these efforts are continued and expanded upon. Additional support from social workers and other mental health professions would help police to de-escalate tense situations.**

**I also appreciate the newly-hired Criminal Justice Planner, Frank Sottacetti, and his initiatives in "transformational justice" practices to help formerly incarcerated people re-integrate into the community.**

## Charles Hendricks

Hendricksforharrisonburg.com

hburgarchitect@gmail.com

 HendricksforHarrisonburg

**As a father, small business owner, and member of the community, I am deeply invested in maintaining the health, economic growth, and unity of Harrisonburg. If I earn a seat on Harrisonburg City Council, I will focus on three main areas: Sustainability, Business, and Community. I believe we can build a more resilient city by focusing on clean energy, air, and water; healthy and vibrant business policies including worker safety; and addressing affordable housing, houselessness, inclusivity, and equality.**



*Political Party Affiliation:* Democrat

*Education:* General Studies (Virginia Western Community College, 1994)  
BS Architecture (University of Virginia, 1997)  
Master of Architecture (University of Tennessee, 2003)

*Employment:* Architect and owner of Gaines Group Architects

*Previous Political Experience:* I have not run for political office previously.

*Birth date:* June 1973 (age 47)

*Residence:* Holiday Hills in Harrisonburg

*Hometown:* Bluefield, West Virginia

*Other Interests:* I am a Citizen Architect with a passion for building better community through design. I serve on a variety of boards including the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, Rotary Club of Rockingham, Massanutten Technical Center Foundation, Harrisonburg Public Schools Business Advisory Council, Park View Mennonite Church Creation Care Committee, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance Design Committee, and was a founding member of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce Aging-in-Place Round table.

1. *What economic and health policies and measures do you support to help Harrisonburg residents and companies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?*

We need to follow CDC guidelines, treat each other with respect, and support local business. The policies needed continue to evolve as we work through this attack on our community by a virus. I am supportive of the worker safety resolution, use of CARES ACT funding to support housing initiatives and business support, and the city's restrictions on large groups and wearing masks. As we emerge from the pandemic, our community will continue to have needs that should be addressed where possible through further access to Federal funds as they are made available.

2. *According to United Way, 61% of residents in Harrisonburg are living below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold. What actions and measures will you take to support the ALICE population?*

A basic human right is shelter and we have two areas of challenge in our community: affordable housing and a houseless population. To solve this problem, we have to work on the current zoning ordinance, encourage innovative development including appropriate infill development, and more density in strategic locations. We also need a year-round thermal shelter with supportive resources surrounding our houseless population. These are not problems to be solved, these are valued community members that need our support. We need to come together as a community and make decisions that are inclusive and equitable to all.

3. *What do you see as major challenges facing our immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg? What actions and measures will you take to support immigrant and refugee populations in our community?*

What makes Harrisonburg a special and unique city is our diverse population. Harrisonburg is a culturally rich city which is reflected in our schools, communities, and restaurants. We need to continue to support organizations that are a resource for immigrants and refugees in our community like New Bridges. We also need to continue to provide business training for all entrepreneurs in our community. We need to ensure our boards and commissions reflect our community. Finally, we need to ensure that we are hearing all the voices in our community by offering translation services so all voices can literally be heard. These voices need to feel welcomed and empowered through invitation and outreach.

4. *What are your economic priorities in 2021? What policies and measures do you support to stimulate the local economy and promote sustainable and equitable development, especially in the wake of the pandemic?*

The biggest economic challenge we face as a city is climate change. To build a resilient city and a sustainable economy, we must take on this challenge. This means we need affordable clean energy sources in our city available for all residents, not just the wealthy. We need to make our municipal buildings energy-efficient and we need to support a weatherization program for our ALICE population to allow them to live more comfortably and affordably. Along with climate change, affordable housing is a direct challenge to our local economy. We need to make sure our community has affordable housing available to those working in Harrisonburg. This workforce housing challenge is the biggest obstacle we hear about at any economic development meeting. The more affordable housing options we can offer in our community the healthier our economic future will be in Harrisonburg.

5. *Education makes up the largest chunk of the budget for Harrisonburg. How will you strengthen education? What will be your educational priorities? What is your position on a second high school and how will that factor into your educational priorities?*

As an architect I understand the need for effective facilities for education. Our current high school is over capacity to be a safe and productive facility and there is a need for building the new facility as soon as possible. This evaluation came from a task force of community leaders that looked at all the possible options and we need to trust their recommendation and ensure this High School is built as soon as possible. The longer we delay the process the more expensive it will be to complete.

6. *What can Harrisonburg do to be more inclusive, not just diverse? How would you increase access and public participation in decision and policymaking?*

Harrisonburg has multiple efforts already in place to allow for public participation. I believe an expansion to the translation efforts that Sal has spearheaded will further involvement. As an architect I am trained to listen to all viewpoints before making decisions. I hope to implement this skill if elected to City Council as I make decisions representing all of Harrisonburg. We also need to make sure our City Staff, Boards, and Commissions reflect and represent all of the Harrisonburg community. There is work to do to correct mistakes we have made in the past and we are just starting that work. Simply recognizing the truths of our past is the first step and we have started doing that with the new Historical Marker on Court Square. We need to continue to tell the story of Harrisonburg and understand how and why decisions were made that have impacted people and places of our city.

7. *Why is affordable housing so scarce in Harrisonburg and what should City Council do to promote or create conditions to encourage more development of affordable housing?*

Affordable housing is limited in Harrisonburg due to high demand (61% of residents in Harrisonburg are ALICE threshold) and our local Universities continue to grow. The economic collapse in 2008 changed the way building and construction happens and new residential development in the city has slowed tremendously. Costs increased for materials due to Federal trade negotiations and demand has made new construction much more expensive. Working with developers to allow for higher density development with the inclusion of affordable and work-force housing options could provide a working solution to overcome these obstacles.

On a more systemic note, our zoning ordinance has not been updated since the early 90's. Once it is updated it can allow for more innovative development options which have been limited up to this point. As we move forward to rework our zoning ordinance, we can create more opportunities for affordable housing to happen in the city. This balancing act of providing more options for affordable housing, working with JMU to reduce demand for student housing in private developments, and empowering income growth can turn around the trend of affordable housing shortages that we have been experiencing for more than 10 years.

8. *How can JMU better collaborate, coordinate and work with Harrisonburg, both during crises like COVID-19 pandemic, and on other issues of importance like transportation*

*and affordable housing? How would you bridge the gap between JMU students and the Harrisonburg community?*

I believe that both JMU and City Council want the best for our community. JMU is a vital part of our overall community. We need to talk about the challenges created with having a State University in our City limits occupying large areas of land. We need to celebrate the economic impact of having students and faculty in our community. We need to balance the continued growth and encourage on campus student housing options and try to reduce further development of parking garages on campus – which push students further out of the University area. The affordable housing and COVID-19 challenges that our city is facing is also impacting JMU. We need to work together as equal partners to address these issues and come up with comprehensive solutions that benefit our entire city. I know it can be done and I have seen great partnerships in other University towns. I want JMU and EMU students to invest their time and talents into our city as this is also their city and home. I don't want them to see Harrisonburg as just a 4 year stop, but a long-term home, a place to start a business, a place to raise a family. So I invite students to attend City Council meetings and public hearings. I encourage them to be involved in our local community through volunteering and service to others. This is not an us-versus-them conversation. We together can build a stronger and more resilient city.

9. *Last year, the council endorsed an Environmental Action Plan that makes broad recommendations about energy, sustainability and other environmental policies: What should the council prioritize in order to ensure those recommendations are accomplished?*

Harrisonburg City Council should empower Harrisonburg Electric Commission to provide 50% of their power from renewable sources by the year 2025. They should also install solar photovoltaic technology on municipal rooftops, provide funding for a weatherization program for income challenged residents in the city, and reduce energy use in all public buildings by at least 30%. I think the first step to achieve these goals is to hire a Sustainability Manager and I plan to work on this immediately if elected.

10. *What's your vision for the relationship between Harrisonburg's police and all of its residents and what changes would you like to see to Harrisonburg's investment in criminal justice?*

Chief English laid the groundwork in his time as Harrisonburg City Police Chief to build a Community Police Force. This work of our police force knowing neighbors is the first step in creating positive change in our criminal justice system. We are a community and we need to know each other. To be neighbors, we need workforce housing that is affordable to our first responders. Chief Camacho has gone through the process of rebuilding a police force and understands the concept of community. I am looking forward to working with him and the newly accredited police department. I also believe we need to fund a mental health crisis task force to work directly with our police on response calls. This requires funding and training which I support.

## George Hirschmann

hirschmann4harrisonburg.com

votegeorgehirschmann@gmail.com

   hirschmann4hburg

**Councilman George Hirschmann has called Harrisonburg home for the past 20 years. After retiring from WHSV as the weatherman in 2016, George remained in Harrisonburg with his two cats, Bert and Ernie. Over the past four years, George has served the community in a variety of ways including as your city councilman for the past four years. During these four years, George has fought to get partisan politics out of local government. If re-elected George will continue to fight to ensure that the city government works better for all members of the Harrisonburg community.**



*Political Party Affiliation:* Independent

*Education:* LaSalle University, Philadelphia

*Employment:* Currently Retired; Former WHSV Chief Meteorologist

*Previous Political Experience:* I have been a member of the Harrisonburg City Council for the past four years.

*Birth date:* July 19, 1945 (age 75)

*Residence:* South East Harrisonburg

*Hometown:* Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

*Other Interests:* Over the course of my life I was in the Navy and lived in a variety of places across the country. For sometime, I lived in Los Angeles where I was a stand up comedian as well as actor before finally coming to Harrisonburg where I served as the Chief Meteorologist for 20 years.

1. *What economic and health policies and measures do you support to help Harrisonburg residents and companies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?*

As we begin to move away from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that City Council focuses on establishing and sustaining a business friendly environment. That means not raising business, property or sales taxes in Harrisonburg. We already have one of the highest food sales taxes in Virginia, and perhaps it's time to re-evaluate it. This tax makes it more expensive for students and Harrisonburg residents to go out and eat in the community. City Council should study a Food Sales Tax reduction to determine if a decrease would increase the amount of money spent at businesses, keeping Harrisonburg the thriving place we all call home.

2. *According to United Way, 61% of residents in Harrisonburg are living below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold. What actions and measures will you take to support the ALICE population?*

The ALICE population in the city is a huge problem and is not one that the city can fix by ourselves. It will require the assistance of all levels of government as well as the private sector. To do this the city needs to ensure that we have a business environment in which new businesses invest in the city and current businesses raise wages. This in addition to funding from the state and federal governments will positively impact those currently living in the ALICE population.

3. *What do you see as major challenges facing our immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg? What actions and measures will you take to support immigrant and refugee populations in our community?*

Our community is made better by immigrants and refugees. They bring an incredible amount of diversity and culture to our city. However, this community like others face very real economic challenges. Like with other problems facing Harrisonburg, City Council needs to focus on creating a thriving economy. We can do this by reigning in spending and empowering the community to invest in itself. Another issue facing this community is a need for more language training. City Council in collaboration with the Harrisonburg School Board and private retirement communities should create a program which puts English language learners in contact with some of the older folks in the community who are also in need for socialization during this time. How this program would look and is put in place is still up for conversation but something of its kind would help the city solve two significant problems at the same time.

4. *What are your economic priorities in 2021? What policies and measures do you support to stimulate the local economy and promote sustainable and equitable development, especially in the wake of the pandemic?*

The city government is pretty limited on the amounts of stimulus it can provide to residents and businesses of Harrisonburg. Funding such a stimulus will require funding from Washington and Richmond. However, the city has two main obligations in getting Harrisonburg back to work. The first will be to create and keep a pro business climate, by cutting or at the very least vowing to not increase any taxes. This will ensure that businesses are able to reinvest money back into the community. Second, the city has a ton of flexibility in allocating funding from the CARES Act. On

**City Council, I voted for the creation of a committee which is currently distributing stimulus money to businesses in need.**

*5. Education makes up the largest chunk of the budget for Harrisonburg. How will you strengthen education? What will be your educational priorities? What is your position on a second high school and how will that factor into your educational priorities?*

Education is a fundamental part of local government. In Harrisonburg we have seen our teachers too often neglected, and it's beyond time we change that. Our teachers are heroes and it's time we paid them as such, it's time to give our teachers a RAISE. The second high school is something the next City Council will need to re-address. The city budget has been harmed by COVID-19 and the new high school is simply not feasible. However, there is adequate land and funding to instead build an annex on to the current high school. This means that we can solve the overcrowding problem in Harrisonburg High School without bankrupting the city in the process. This plan buys the city time to build a second high school down the road at a more suitable time.

*6. What can Harrisonburg do to be more inclusive, not just diverse? How would you increase access and public participation in decision and policymaking?*

Harrisonburg is known as the "Friendly City" for a reason. We truly are a welcoming and accepting community and most definitely have a leg up on other cities in the Commonwealth when it comes to substantive community engagement and input. One way to increase public input in the decision making process is actually through changing City Council procedure. Currently, public input at City Council meetings is limited to items not on the agenda; I think this should be opposite. As a member of City Council, I want to hear from the community about what they think on an issue, even if it does make City Council meetings longer.

*7. Why is affordable housing so scarce in Harrisonburg and what should City Council do to promote or create conditions to encourage more development of affordable housing?*

Anyone who has followed local issues facing the Harrisonburg community knows that one of the biggest issues facing the city is the lack of affordable housing. While there are several causes for this, one of the largest is developers catering new developments to JMU students and not low income residents of the city. City Council needs to create and sustain a thriving business environment in the city to grow the wages of hourly workers so that they are able to afford housing. I have been honored to work with Faith in Action over the past years, who have been developing private solutions to this important issue. It is important for this, and for all issues to avoid spending money that we simply don't have. Partnerships such as the one between City Council and community organizations such as Faith in Action are essential in solving the biggest problems facing our city.

*8. How can JMU better collaborate, coordinate and work with Harrisonburg, both during crises like COVID-19 pandemic, and on other issues of importance like transportation*

*and affordable housing? How would you bridge the gap between JMU students and the Harrisonburg community?*

**One of the ways in which JMU and Harrisonburg can improve the way in which we deal with crises like COVID-19 is through better communication from both the university and the city government. For the most part the city and the JMU communities have a very good and rewarding relationship, however there is always room for more interaction.**

*9. Last year, the council endorsed an Environmental Action Plan that makes broad recommendations about energy, sustainability and other environmental policies: What should the council prioritize in order to ensure those recommendations are accomplished?*

Having voted for this proposal while on City Council, I believe that this plan when fully implemented will help the Harrisonburg environment. Moving forward, City Council should continue to build solar power as we have recently begun to do. We should also continue to work with the Harrisonburg Electrical Co-op to develop cleaner energy production within the city moving forward.

*10. What's your vision for the relationship between Harrisonburg's police and all of its residents and what changes would you like to see to Harrisonburg's investment in criminal justice?*

Harrisonburg has incredible first responders, and the Harrisonburg Police Department is no exception. Our police department is among the very best in our area; and having talked with many of our officers, I know that dedication and collaboration with our community is their top priority. I had the pleasure of having a good working relationship with former HPD Chief English and under his leadership, the police force and the community improved relations. Moving forward we need to keep this conversation and progress going.

## ***Kathleen Kelley***

kelley4council.com

kelley4council@gmail.com

 Kelley4council



**Mom, physician, friend, raised in a center of innovation, possibilities, freedom and fairness, in a multi-ethnic fringe neighborhood where we worked together to support and help each other. I left the cold winters of upstate NY to raise a family in the friendly city – here 23 years and never looked back. Moving to Harrisonburg was one of the best decisions in my life. It is a great town with terrific, talented people. I would like everyone who lives here to have a good experience in calling Harrisonburg home. I want to be your voice for a better ‘Burg.**

*Political Party Affiliation:* Republican

*Education:* Chemical / Environmental Engineer, Physician, Personal Trainer, Lover of life and animals (University of Buffalo for BS, MD, Hydraulic Fitness Association of America)

*Employment:* Self Employed Medical Consultant with a focus on nutrition, wellness and integrative and functional medicine. I also provide general medical services for urgent cares, industry and drug and alcohol recovery centers.

*Previous Political Experience:* This is my first foray into the political world. Politics was not on my radar. I was minding my own business, but people kept calling the “powers that be” to suggest they ask me to run, they did, and when no one else would be a voice for the working man/woman, I agreed. I want to use my campaign to do something positive for the city and neighborhoods, to promote goodwill and a sense of community. I created the #showbigloveinsmallways — love your neighbor, love your town challenge in an effort to bring people together. Win or lose, I want to do something good for our town

*Birth date:* Classified – a woman never divulges her age

*Residence:* Harrisonburg City, a stone’s throw from JMU

*Hometown:* Rochester New York, home of Frederick Douglass, Susan B Anthony, George Eastman, Danny Wegman (yes THAT Wegman), Louise Brooks, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Garth Fagan, Lou Gramm, Chuck Mangione, Wendell Castle, Albert Paley and my friend, musician Joe Dady

*Other Interests:* BK (b4kids) I explored as much as I could from working on a glider ground crew to scuba diving, languages to classical music – so much to discover, AK (after kids) it was anything they were interested in.

1. *What economic and health policies and measures do you support to help Harrisonburg residents and companies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?*

New numbers from the CDC indicate that the recovery rate is >99% for people under 70 and > 94% for those over 70 without complicating conditions. Outside of Wuhan, China was closed for only 14 days (Wuhan was 72), some countries never shut down and are currently doing well. The CDC also recently indicated that there is no asymptomatic spread, that children are not adversely affected and that they rarely spread the illness. This is encouraging news. It means we can open up with little fear if the right measures are taken – if you are ill, stay home, if you are at risk, take measures to protect yourself. Everyone should take steps to be healthy with a good diet, rest, adequate Vitamin D and exercise to stay strong. Practice good hygiene. If you are more comfortable using a mask do so, if you are sick and have to venture out use a mask. Florida and South Dakota are completely open – so far, so good. We can do the same. All buildings should have good ventilation and air circulation. Schools and businesses could do temperature checks for fevers (again stay home if you are ill – this goes for any illness). Offer people the opportunity to learn or work from home if they are not comfortable returning to what was once normal. I totally support the CARES act to underwrite businesses and employees until we are fully operational. Consider a one time reduction in the yearly personal property tax (vehicles, business property) or a delayed payment plan to allow people to get on their feet during the recovery period

2. *According to United Way, 61% of residents in Harrisonburg are living below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold. What actions and measures will you take to support the ALICE population?*

Harrisonburg’s poverty rate is more than 2 times the national average. This includes the 28% that live below the poverty level and the 39% that are marginal. There are 2 issues here – 1) what is driving the high poverty level? 2) How to help those in need while we are fixing the problem. We need to identify the cause of the poverty – who is disabled either physically, mentally or emotionally and plug them into a system that supports them (maybe they need supervision or group home living, maybe they do not know what help is available... ) Is there a communication gap that prevents people from using their full potential? If so get them connected with ESL classes. Do they lack transportation? Some employers provide transportation to work – we could help people match needs and jobs. Are they lacking skills that employers need? Job training would be beneficial here. The ALICE report

outlines some of the causes of the high poverty rates as lack of skills and poor communication skills. Education and trades are key to lifting people up. Job availability is also important. We need to support businesses, education and trades so that people have an opportunity to thrive. Mentorship programs would help and would also increase connectiveness and a sense of community. They would also help to reduce the sense of isolation and discouragement that comes with the struggle. We could also have a “foster family” program where several families could “adopt” a struggling family to help lift them up.

*3. What do you see as major challenges facing our immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg? What actions and measures will you take to support immigrant and refugee populations in our community?*

Much of this group falls into the ALICE population (per the United Way report) language is a key issue. The other issue is an unfamiliarity with the system and a feeling of being lost. I have met several young refugees who were literally dumped here – made me cry. They were in their late teens and alone and did not know what to do, where to go... abandoned. This is unacceptable. Fortunately nice neighbors took them in and helped them through – if not for that, these kids could have ended up in a bad situation. I feel the resettlement programs need to do more than just relocate individuals. When my family brought other family members over we had to sign papers with the government stating that we would be responsible for who we were bringing over for 5 years. We were the support system. I think the resettlement programs should be accountable for doing something similar – match families with volunteer families to show them the ropes and help them when they need help, teach people English even before they arrive to give them a better start, have them in locations where jobs are available so the newcomers have a sense of hope and independence, The same suggestions I made in question 2 apply here as well.

*4. What are your economic priorities in 2021? What policies and measures do you support to stimulate the local economy and promote sustainable and equitable development, especially in the wake of the pandemic?*

My goal is to make Harrisonburg “crisis proof”. We need to expand our business and manufacturing base, bring business to Harrisonburg and keep it here. Did you know that for every manufacturing job brought to an area 5 service jobs are created? That is a great payback. Bringing jobs here will benefit everyone, it will reduce the poverty rate and give people a sense of hope and optimism. I would like to support and promote the trades and education. This makes our town attractive to business. All kids should have a marketable skillset when they get out of high school so they can be independent regardless if they go to college or not. The added advantage is that it gives them something to fall back on

*5. Education makes up the largest chunk of the budget for Harrisonburg. How will you strengthen education? What will be your educational priorities? What is your position on a second high school and how will that factor into your educational priorities?*

We need to promote the basics (math, reading, critical thinking) in education and show the students how to apply it in day to day life. We need to continue to encourage the use of technology and science and need to support the trades. We need to give students the opportunity to be independent when they graduate.

Students should also be exposed to music and the arts as well, to give them an appreciation for the talents that people share. One of the best ways to strengthen education is to inspire students to learn and give them a thirst for knowledge – make it “cool” to want to learn, set high standards, show them how to use what they learn. They will meet the challenge when it is presented to them.

I think we should reassess the need for the new high school, wait until the 2020 Census results come in and wait until the COVID situation resolves. The projected number of students is not as high as the predictions, there may be better, more affordable alternatives using existing resources and different ways to solve the overcrowding issue. Right now the city does not have the financial base to support the new school (Re: question 2 above – if > 61% are living in marginal conditions it suggests that roughly 40% are supporting the city – you can only tax that base so much before they decide to leave, and losing businesses on top of that because of increasing taxes will cause further losses). We would go bankrupt with the new school. Building costs and yearly operational costs would limit what we could do for the elementary and middle schools, it would limit teacher salaries and limit other projects in the city. I would be in favor of an alternative, more affordable solution (please see my website for more detailed ideas)

*More information can be found at Dr. Kelley's website:*

[kelley4council.com](http://kelley4council.com)

## Deanna Reed

deannareedforcouncil.com

 deannareedforcouncil

 deanna4council

**Four years ago, I came into office with a commitment to Harrisonburg. I wanted to represent a voice that was missing at the table and make sure our community was one where people feel included. I am proud of our progress, but I will not walk away without ensuring that everyone has affordable housing, that our children are productive, and that we continue to build healthy relationships in our community for everyone that calls Harrisonburg their home.**



*Political Party Affiliation:* Democrat

*Education:* Currently working on Bachelors in Education at Liberty University

*Employment:* Director of Community and School Partnerships for On the Road Collaborative

*Previous Political Experience:* Mayor City of Harrisonburg, 2017-present; Council Representative for: Downtown Parking Committee, Metropolitan Planning Organization (Policy), Social Services Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Harrisonburg/Rockingham Liaison; President-Elect of the Harrisonburg Women's Service League; Past Vice-President, Service Harrisonburg Women's Service League; Past commissioner, Parks and Recreation Commission

*Birth date:* May 11, 1966 (age 54)

*Residence:* Northeast Neighborhood in Harrisonburg

*Hometown:* Harrisonburg, Virginia

*Other Interests:* Mayor Reed is a member of Word Ministries Christian Outreach Church. She has served as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. for over 32 years and serves on the advisory team for Iota Alpha Chapter of James Madison University, and she is currently serving as Vice President of the Charlottesville Alumnae Chapter.

1. *What economic and health policies and measures do you support to help Harrisonburg residents and companies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?*

I particularly value the communication efforts undertaken by the City, and the many creative ways that Harrisonburg is working to amplify our public health response. I want everyone to remember that this is the Friendly City, and we need to take care of one another by following public health protocols to slow the spread and to protect our essential workers. It is imperative that we continue to support our local businesses – on this front, the City's response has been broad and collaborative. I see the hard work of Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance, and I am proud that the Harrisonburg Disaster Impact Loan Program was one of the first in the state. I am dedicated to doing whatever I can to support our local business community. I also recognize that there are a large number of essential workers keeping our day-to-day operations afloat, whether in the poultry plants, our health care centers, or in our local businesses. I thank each of you. Above all, however, I am committed to following public health guidance and pushing those messages out.

2. *According to United Way, 61% of residents in Harrisonburg are living below the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold. What actions and measures will you take to support the ALICE population?*

One of my biggest priorities as mayor has been tackling affordable housing. Virginia's ALICE data indicates that housing expenses make up the largest percentage of monthly costs for low-income families. As Mayor, I have addressed housing needs from multiple angles. Developing and maintaining relationships with community organizations, zoning administrators, and developers – I see these as all key components to come up with lasting solution. I know that many of our neighbors are struggling. Because Harrisonburg is a great place, we must focus on how to make it affordable to live here. We need balanced neighborhoods that incorporate affordable housing. That's why I've been working with City Council to develop and get a comprehensive affordable housing plan in place as soon as possible.

3. *What do you see as major challenges facing our immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg? What actions and measures will you take to support immigrant and refugee populations in our community?*

Many of our immigrant and refugee neighbors struggle with the same issues facing the ALICE population, such as affordable housing, but these issues are compounded by issues of equality and inclusion. My goal is to ensure that all Harrisonburg residents feel that their voices are heard by city government. Inclusion is achieved when we make ourselves available to the community for interaction and communication. Inclusion is achieved when your elected officials are willing to immerse themselves in the needs of diverse residents, and to prioritize being responsive. That is my goal, every day.

4. *What are your economic priorities in 2021? What policies and measures do you support to stimulate the local economy and promote sustainable and equitable development, especially in the wake of the pandemic?*

**The City will continue to make tough decisions concerning our budget. We cannot put more of a financial burden on our citizens in the wake of the pandemic. I will continue to support the City's COVID recovery initiatives. For example, Harrisonburg's Economic Development Department is also a member of the a regional Business Support Taskforce that is looking for innovative ways to address local business and economic development concerns. I support efforts to bolster our local business community.**

5. *Education makes up the largest chunk of the budget for Harrisonburg. How will you strengthen education? What will be your educational priorities? What is your position on a second high school and how will that factor into your educational priorities?*

**I was the deciding vote to build a second high school, but I recognize the many uncertainties created by the pandemic. I support the School Board's vote to delay construction given the realities of our current economic situation. What has not wavered, however, is my commitment to education. I am driven by opportunities to empower young people, and to pave the paths that Harrisonburg youth need to succeed academically, to develop as leaders, and to fulfill their promise.**

6. *What can Harrisonburg do to be more inclusive, not just diverse? How would you increase access and public participation in decision and policymaking?*

**I mentioned earlier my commitment to inclusion. I have built my career around my core values of diversity, inclusion, and equitable access. These issues propelled me to pursue public office in the first place – I looked at local leadership, and I didn't see anyone that looked like me. The City is always open to resident input and feedback. I am particularly interested in encouraging diverse residents to become more involved, and I am glad to have been part of recent City Council conversations about developing a consistent, transparent process for selected volunteer applicants for board and commission appointments. I try to lead by example. I want to remove barriers for diverse residents to claim their spot at the table.**

7. *Why is affordable housing so scarce in Harrisonburg and what should City Council do to promote or create conditions to encourage more development of affordable housing?*

**Affordable housing is one of my major initiatives, and at the core of the problem is Harrisonburg's lack of diverse neighborhoods. I live in the Northeast Neighborhood, and I want to see more diverse housing available within our community so that every neighborhood is more balanced. There should be no poor area or elite area.**

8. *How can JMU better collaborate, coordinate and work with Harrisonburg, both during crises like COVID-19 pandemic, and on other issues of importance like transportation and affordable housing? How would you bridge the gap between JMU students and the Harrisonburg community?*

**I want students to know you are part of our community. We need you, and the more we collaborate and work together, the better. I have worked as mayor to develop a better working relationship with our local universities. One initiative has been to include students in the City's liaison committee with JMU. Communication is the key, both among city and university leaders, but also with students, whenever we discuss strategic issues.**

9. *Last year, the council endorsed an Environmental Action Plan that makes broad recommendations about energy, sustainability and other environmental policies: What should the council prioritize in order to ensure those recommendations are accomplished?*

**I value sustainability as a municipal and personal goal, and I look to the Environmental Performance Standards Advisory Committee (EPSAC) to provide guidance and recommendations to City Council. Phase 1 of the Environmental Action Plan was adopted by City Council in January, and it is providing guidance as the City considers implementing sustainability visions and principles. Of course, it is important to remember that initiatives are being impacted by pandemic-induced constraints unforeseen as the time of EAP adoption.**

10. *What's your vision for the relationship between Harrisonburg's police and all of its residents and what changes would you like to see to Harrisonburg's investment in criminal justice?*

**I appreciate HPD's commitment to community policing, community engagement, and restorative justice. As former Chief English noted at the "Silent March" in June, I applaud HPD's due diligence to ensure that their policies and training are solid. There are a lot of different emotions that people carry regarding law enforcement, but for me I keep coming back to the ways that people of all races and ages in Harrisonburg support justice and each other. Our unique community benefits from HPD's commitment to collaboration, legitimacy and transparency.**



## ***Credits and Gratitude***

**Thank you to all the candidates and their campaigns for taking the time to respond to questions and provide information so that our communities can make informed decisions during the 2020 Elections.**

The content in this guide was produced by students in the Fall JMU X-labs Hacking for Democracy Elections 2020 class.

*Professors:* Dr. Carah Ong Whaley, associate director of JMU Civic, Professor Cathy Copeland and Professor Adrienne Hooker

*Students:* Emily Baker, Katelyn Crume, Arrieanna Curtis, Maeve Davis, Kevin Golden, Will Grimm, Haley McAllister, Brenden McRay, Elliot Mullen, Caitlin Nelson, Alexander Nunez, Jamie Panko, Matt Rutherford, Andy Thomas, Madelyn Ward, Thomas Weber

*Design and layout by Adrienne Hooker*



**Civic**

Burruss Hall, Room 243  
MSC 7808, 820 Madison Drive  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807  
540-568-3979  
dukesvote@jmu.edu  
j.mu/civic