



Irmo Town Council

Question	Kelly Busch	Christian Brent Chitwood	Kathryn D. Condon	Barry Walker Sr.
What is your primary reason for running for this office?	To protect our freedoms under the Constitution of The United States and serve the community to the best of my ability.	To bring respectful and professional leadership to Irmo.	<b>My primary reason for running for re-election</b> is to maintain a balance on council; I am the only woman serving at present, and the only woman running. It is unfair, in this day and time, to have council with only men. I also wish to maintain a balanced budget and listen effectively to the needs of our citizens.	I have served on the Irmo Town Council for nearly 14 years. During that time we accomplished many things. We built a new police facility, constructed 2 new parks, replaced all police cars twice, and annexed numerous new acres in town limits. We accomplished all of this without a town tax. We have always ended our fiscal operating years with a surplus. I am not finished, we need to work on bringing our community together and Blurring the lines that separate the town, school district and Irmo Chamber of commerce.
What are the top three challenges that your town faces?	1. Struggle with diversity 2. Accepting change 3. Dealing with growth	(1) The aging and natural decline of the homes, businesses and citizens. (2) The perception that Irmo is no longer a great place to live and raise a family. (3) The citizens are apathetic and uninformed.	Our population is changing, growing older while our physical boundaries are stagnant. At this point, <b>our challenges are as follows:</b> (1) Maintaining our parks (with exercise stations and walking paths), our sidewalks and infrastructure; (2) Keeping the budget balanced so we remain "tax free" (3) Finding ways to properly maintain and improve SC's largest neighborhood, Friarsgate; included in this, keeping home values up and keeping a sense of pride in our town.	1) sensible growth 2) meaningful zoning laws 3) effective communication between Town Hall and the citizens
What are your recommended solutions for these challenges?	Encourage more community involvement. Solicit community recommendations. Work with other municipalities to address growth. Try to set an example of respectful leadership.	(1) Continued emphasis on home, yard and street maintenance with greater town involvement in finding solutions to help the residents. (2) Marketing, Marketing & Marketing. Emphasize the Great Schools, Convenience, Diversity, Medical Facilities, Recreation Opportunities and the Actual Low Crime Rate of Irmo. (3) Implement a Professionally Managed Communication System to provide citizens with timely and accurate information on Services and Issues.	As always, listening to our citizens and working with our citizens (committees, homeowner groups) <b>would be the main way to remain effective and aware of needs.</b> Without citizen support, the projects fail so listening and responding is critical. Keeping our police force up-to-date and community oriented would help with attitudes and feelings of safety and security. Having listening sessions" with different neighborhoods to learn of their concerns. And, keeping good communication with Lexington/Richland District 5, the Irmo Fire Department and Irmo/Chapin Recreation Commission.	1) Working with citizens to implement the Town master plan. 2) Replacing the zoning appeals commissions with an citizens panel. 3) Create a job description and hire a Social media manager

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Describe how you will make your town a better place to live, work and play?	Create a citizen forum by which the people of the town can informally discuss ideas and solutions to address issues and betterment of the town and integrate that into council decisions.	<p>I will show leadership and foster compromise by conducting myself in a civil and respectful manner. I will bring Professional Management Techniques to the Council and Irmo. My 40 years of experience as a Financial Analyst, Manager and Entrepreneur will assist me in leading the town through the proper analysis and understanding of the impact of each issue. I will propose and advocate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased emphasis on Police Funding and Training.</li> <li>• Expansion of Park and Playground Facilities where affordable.</li> <li>• Extension of the Hospitality Tax to all of Irmo to allow for the forwarding of</li> <li>• already collected taxes to Irmo instead of Richland County (to assist in the</li> <li>• funding of new Parks and Playgrounds).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Keeping our community as an excellent place to live</b> would include working with residents and businesses to ascertain their goals and find commonality. Then, acting on the shared goals toward effective completion. Recognizing the asset of medical facilities within our town and appreciating their presence; perhaps, asking what we could do to help them be more effective. We should continue with beautification projects which everyone notices and appreciates. Listening to our citizens and respecting their opinions!</p> <p>I am a 35 year resident of Irmo, married, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren. I am also a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile and have a employment history varied in real estate, marketing and office management. Retired at present, I consider this an asset since I have time to devote to Irmo and its people.</p>	I have already began the process by allowing the citizens to vote on referendums that the Town Council couldn't solve on its own. Eliminating second hand smoke in restaurants and public places. I will make sure Council doesn't infringe your constitutional rights.

Harold Edward Wadelington Sr. and Robert Wessinger did not respond