



Charlottesville Democratic Party

Primary Voter Guide

Candidates for Nomination for Charlottesville City Council (Vote for up to two (2) Candidates)



BRIAN R. PINKSTON

I am married with three children, attendees of CHS and PVCC. We've lived in Central Virginia for nearly 17 years. I have 30 years' experience as a project manager. Project managers put people, resources, and ideas together to get things done. I'm running because I can provide compassionate, thoughtful, and effective leadership on City Council. The City is facing many challenges, not least of which is having a City Council that functions as a unified team. If elected, I will work hard to build good relationships with my colleagues. Other priorities are: Following through on the Affordable Housing Plan. Helping our Business community thrive. Supporting the School Board's vision for a consolidated Middle School. Managing the post-COVID financial crunch. Supporting the City Manager and Staff. And strengthening ties with the County and the University. In all of this, I pledge to work for equity and to elevate all voices. Please connect with me at www.pinkstonforcouncil.org.



JUANDIEGO WADE

Juandiego Wade is a resident of Locust Grove neighborhood, and is deeply involved in the Charlottesville community as a civic leader. At the heart of his involvement is his commitment to helping the city's youth. In addition to serving four terms on Charlottesville's School Board, Juandiego acts as a mentor and tutor to young people through various community organizations.

Last year, Juandiego looked for a new opportunity to serve the community he loves so deeply. After speaking to residents and listening to their hopes for, and concerns about, the city, Juandiego decided that the next step in his journey would be to run for City Council. As a city councilor, he hopes to apply his tested leadership to the issues facing Charlottesville, particularly those of criminal justice, affordable housing, public education, economic development, and climate justice. He hopes to earn your support for his vision for a more equitable Charlottesville. Connect at www.juandiegowade.com.



CARL E. BROWN

Carl E. Brown was born and raised in the Charlottesville community. He is a product of Charlottesville City Schools and has lived in Charlottesville his entire adult life. He is currently the Sr. Consultant of C.E. Brown & Associates, LLC and his background includes 25 years of youth development and leadership. He is a former Intensive Probation and Senior Parole Officer with the 16th District Court Services Unit (10 years).

Carl's connectivity and relationship building skills have been instrumental in helping individuals from all walks of life to create a vision of their own success in the Charlottesville community, utilizing his trademark, B.E. R.E.A.L. for Success. Carl believes the balance of community, relationship and connectivity of its people will be an essential element in helping Charlottesville to move forward as a viable community again. And that is what he will bring to the Council. Connect with Carl at www.carlbrownforcouncil.com.

Candidates are listed in the order and by the names as they appear on the primary election ballot.



Charlottesville Democratic Party Primary Voter Guide

Candidates for Nomination for Commonwealth's Attorney (Vote for only one (1) Candidate)



**JOSEPH D.
PLATANIA**

Charlottesville Commonwealth's Attorney Joe Platania has over twenty years of experience trying serious and hi-profile criminal cases as both a public defender and a prosecutor. He started his legal career at the Virginia Resource Center defending death row inmates. In 1999, he moved to Charlottesville and was one of the original attorneys at the newly opened Public Defender's Office. He joined the Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney's Office in 2003 and was elected Commonwealth's Attorney in 2017.

Joe believes strongly that our local justice system must always seek to balance community safety with the fair treatment of those charged with a crime. Violent individuals who target and victimize the vulnerable have no place in a safe and stable community. But in all other cases, Joe champions rehabilitation and community reintegration. This mindset leads to more productive outcomes for both the offender and society at large. Learn more about Joe's philosophy at www.joeplatania.com.



**RAY S.
SZWABOWSKI, III**

I'm a husband, a father, and a lawyer, and I'm running as a progressive to reform Charlottesville's criminal-justice system as the new Commonwealth's Attorney. I've spent the last five years working as a public defender in our local courts, and I've seen the countless ways we're getting it wrong. The status quo in Charlottesville: we're still over-prosecuting and over-jailing instead of investing in solutions. We're failing to confront the root problems: addiction, mental illness, and homelessness. This failure is particularly stark in drug-possession cases, which are being unnecessarily prosecuted as felonies. That's overly harsh, it's expensive, and it's wrong. Charlottesville spends \$93.96/day to lock up just one person at the jail. If elected, I will aggressively reduce the number of felony prosecutions, and then divert those cost savings into real progressive solutions to the problems this community is facing. Connect with Ray at www.rayforca.com.

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VOTE ON



JUNE 8TH